

WM Matthew Gerbrandt -
503-508-5893
SW Johnny J. Edwards -
971-241-5355
JW John Porter -
360-589-8692
Secretary Pro-Temp - Tom Gardner
503-864-8010
Lodge Office (Leave Message) -
503-472-2341
Email Address -
unionlodge@onlinenw.com
Website -
http://www.unionlodge3.com



THE BEACON

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

November 2017

Table of Contents

[Tidings From the East](#)
[Tidings From the West](#)
[Tidings From the South](#)
[From the Secretary](#)
[From a Mason Abroad](#)
[Masonic History](#)
[Lodge Calendar](#)



Tidings From the East

Hello, Craftsmen and welcome to November!

I'm quite pleased to report that our busy summer has rolled on in to a busy autumn at Union Lodge. At our October meeting, I gave a short talk on the meaning of the Masonic Square and Compasses. This lecture touched base on the topics of Hermeticism, duality, and other more specifically Masonic tenets. For a variety of reasons, this lecture had to be given on the Master Mason Degree and it's a good thing that we did the presentation in October because it may be a while before we can open on the Master Mason Degree again.

On October 24th we held an Entered Apprentice Degree for Chris Noble – congratulations, Brother Chris! We're excited to have you as a member of the Lodge and look forward to being a part of your Masonic journey!

At our stated communication on November 7th, we also received and approved another petition for membership. Many thanks to all of those who have stepped up to put these degrees on and interview candidates!

On the charity front, I've been in touch with the McMinnville Downtown Association to see if there's anything we can do to raise awareness of our pancake fundraiser during the UFO Festival. They have promised to help us with advertising the event using their social media outlets and will also make an announcement at the start of the Fun Run on the morning of our event. This fundraiser directly benefits local school children who are unable to afford

clothing and school supplies and we're really excited to partner with the McMinnville Downtown Association to make next year an even bigger success.

As you may know, we are trying to find replacements for the old veteran identification stickers that are on the headstones up at the Masonic Cemetery. In late October, I met with Juan Palacios from the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) up at the cemetery. He did not recognize the headstone stickers as being from the VFW but said that he was going to try to find out how to order a lot of them and will let me know when he gets them. I will also contact the Graves Division of the Veteran's Administration to see if they have any information on this topic.

Many thanks to WB Johnny Edwards, Bro. Matt Coady, and everyone for helping to clean up and clear out one of the storage rooms on the third floor of our building. Rumor has it that this room will be converted into a lounge area for the Brothers and visitors. This effort has been no small undertaking and I'm looking forward to seeing the end results!

I would also like to say congratulations again to WB Johnny Edwards for receiving the Hiram Award at our October stated communication. This award was well earned and long overdue, my Brother. I look forward to voting on next years' recipient, as there are several Brothers who are deserving on recognition for their tireless efforts on behalf of the Lodge.

Fraternally,
WB Matt Gerbrandt
Worshipful Master, Union Lodge #3



Tidings from the West

On October 21, 2017 I traveled to Seattle Washington for the 1st Esotericism of Freemasonry Conference. This is a Northwest Conference for Brothers who are seeking further Light.

The conference description:

“A consortium of Masonic leaders in the Pacific Northwest have laid the foundations for the first Esotericism in Freemasonry Conference, to be held on October 21st, 2017, in Seattle Washington. This single day event will be focused on Freemasonry’s impact on the philosophical and spiritual lives of its practitioners.”

The conference was held at the University Lodge #141 in Seattle Washington. The conference started at 9:45 Am and lasted until 5:30 PM. There were 44 Brothers in attendance by my count.

The speakers were outstanding.

[Holy Smoke – Incense Burning](#)

[The Art of Memory](#)

[Masonic Print Culture](#)

[Masonic meditation, contemplation and prayer](#)

An esoteric analysis of the symbolism of the first degree – Esoteric Geometry (Contact me privately MM Only)

[Masonic Architecture](#)

[Panel Board – How will academia see Freemasonry and esotericism?](#)

I have linked to each program above the recording of the speakers giving their programs. These links will not be up longer than a month out of respect to the speakers. I don’t want to give away their information for free to anyone outside of our Lodge. Next year the Esotericism of Freemasonry Conference is tentatively scheduled for Seattle Washington at the same venue of University Lodge #141. I would highly recommend and encourage all Brothers of Union # 3 to travel for this event. There is so much more to learn outside of your local Lodge experience.

I can guarantee that you will be enlightened if you participate next year and every year that follows. There was a free book mentioned that you can download called ————— Masonry. This free book delves into all three degrees and should not be shared to the Brothers who have not been raised.

If you would like this link please contact me privately.

Fraternally,
Johnny J. Edwards
Senior Warden
Union # 3



Tidings from the South

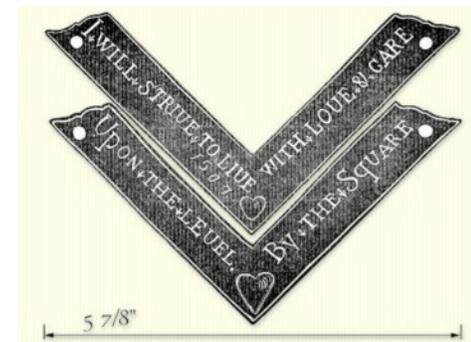
“To enlarge the sphere of social happiness is worthy of the benevolent design of a Masonic institution; and it is most fervently to be wished, that the conduct of every member of the fraternity ... may tend to convince mankind that the grand object of Masonry is to promote the happiness of the human race.”

– Bro. George Washington

One of the neat things about being a Mason is that you become part of a history and a tradition that extends back so far that its origins are shrouded in mystery. With a wink and a nod we refer to some traditions as existing “from time immemorial” because we all know that frequently in Masonic Lodges “time immemorial” means “that’s the way we’ve done it for the last couple of decades.” And yet, the basic Speculative lessons of the Craft may well be able to lay claim to that ancient title.

As we end our meetings the officers of the Lodge admonish us to meet on the level, act by the plumb and part on the square. As Speculative Masons, we know the meaning of the moral lessons taught by these workman’s tools. And while we have practiced these moral lessons unchanged since the founding of our Grand Lodge, nobody really knows how far back these traditions really extend. But history does give us a few fascinating glimpses of our ancient heritage.

In November of 1830, Bro. James Pain was working as a contractor in the removal of the ancient Baal’s bridge in Limrick, Ireland. The earliest reference to the original four-arch bridge dates from



1558. Even then it was known as an older structure, named on various maps as the Tide Bridge, Tyce Bridge or Baal’s Bridge. As Bro. Pain excavated the NE corner of one of the supporting piers, he came across a small bronze square which had been laid with the foundation. Badly pitted with

age, the square was inscribed with the words "I will strive to live with Love and Care. Upon the Level, by the Square." The square is the exact shape of the Master's Jewel, and includes hearts at each corner and a date – 1507.

B. Pain presented the artifact to Provincial Grand Master Michael Furnell, who made a tracing and wrote about the square. Upon his passing, his widow presented the square to Antient Union Lodge No. 13 in Limrick, where it resides to this day. If the date on the square is accurate, that means that the lessons of Speculative Masonry were being practiced in Ireland five centuries ago. Time immemorial, indeed.

As Masons, we are the current embodiment of our Ancient Craft. The living tools by which the concepts of Freemasonry will be passed on. But we are only the latest chapter in a long and storied history, the most recent generation in many generations of men who have applied the teachings of Masonry to improve themselves, their families and their communities. It is both humbling, and a source of great pride, to realize that we are part of that ancient tradition.

Walk in light, my Brothers.

From the Secretary's Desk

Those of you who are not Life Members have received your dues notice. Several Brothers have also received Past Due letters indicating that the Lodge has not received your 2017 dues payment.

The time is NOW to write a check to the Lodge and get those dues paid up to date. Your Lodge depends on your annual payment.

Tom Gardner
Acting Secretary



The Adventures of a Country Master Mason Abroad

Lodge in Bristol.

Tonight was my first visit to a Lodge in the Province of Bristol, the jurisdiction of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Bristol, Cabot Lodge #3884.

First, let me say that the Brethren were just as Fraternally welcoming and friendly and open as one could possibly expect from a Fraternal gathering. I

was helped and coached and welcomed into the Lodge as naturally as if I had been initiated, passed, and raised there.

We met for a drink in the bar before Lodge and then decked out and went into the Lodge room.

Tonight (Friday, October 13th) was a Stated Communication and an EA proficiency leading into a FC degree conferral. It was different - very different. It was recognizable in all aspects, especially if one is familiar with the early English Constitution ritual (let's say circa 1740-1760), but still very, very different. I was afforded all of the honors of a Past Master - including a Past Masters apron and collar and a place in the procession in and out of Lodge. I didn't get a picture, but I will try to next time just for reference.

In terms of ritual, I'll note a few things:

- There is a LOT of music. They use instrumental music for many of the goings on and floor work (organ.) They also have a song that they sing after the Lodge is open (the "Opening Song") and one that they sing when it's closed (the appropriately named "Closing Song.") At the "after-meeting" (i.e. dinner) they sing a song together after the toast for absent Brethren. They opened the table Lodge with the first verse of the British National Anthem ("God Save the Queen".) In Lodge, in any case where "So mote it be" is the response, it's actually sung with organ accompaniment like an antiphonal chant. This was heartening as I've lectured a few times on the use of music in Lodge and they exemplified both the history and continued good use of it.
- The candidate proficiency was SHORT. Maybe 1/4 of ours. The questions were not asked by the mentor or coach, but by a designated individual as a "role."
- The Deacons and Stewards were very active – there was a lot of escorting and conducting, both in the body of the Lodge meeting and the degree conferral.
- But, in the degree, most of the talking was done by the Master – in fact, in Bristol it's called the "Master's Degree" because he does 90% of the talking. Big sections that are in our lecture, are given by the Master as part of the conferral, for example.

- The Master takes off his hat for the main body of Lodge.
- There are some other interesting ritual differences that I'm sure Brethren would love to discuss, but I'll save those for more intimate conversations.

A Wor. Brother asked in email if it's true that various Lodges and Provinces have different ritual according to custom and tradition. That seems to be the case. The majority of Lodges are "in emulation" of the Grand Lodge of England base ritual framework, but many, including Bristol, have their own. For example, I was also told that Taunton (a little bit to the Southwest of Bristol, but in a different Province) has their own which is especially noticeable in the installation ceremony (which, I was warned, is VERY long.)

After Lodge, we had a short drink in the bar before heading to the dining room for "after-meeting." The "after-meeting" (dinner) was excellent. In the States, we would recognize it more as a "table Lodge" or a "festive board" - highly structured with a series of toasts and firings. I was the recipient of the "Toast to Visitor(s)" and offered the response - Fraternal Greetings from the Grand Lodge of Oregon and Union Lodge #3 in McMinnville, thank-you's and pledges of wanting to get to know more Brethren better over the next several months and years, and congratulations to the candidate.

Dinner itself was excellent - an appetizer of mushrooms with wine sauce and brie and a main course of chicken of some sort with a tomato sauce. I was enamored of the sides - new potatoes, haricots vert, and cheese-sauced cauliflower. Afterward, cheese and fruit. I had some lovely conversation, including with a Brother whose 4th Great-Grandfather was a founding member of one of the 4 Lodges that formed the Grand Lodge of England in 1717 and whose picture hangs in the Grand Lodge building in London. (He could, theoretically, I think we determined have 9 bars on his "Lewis Jewel", depending on how he sliced it.) Another interesting tidbit that came out that conversation (which I'm sure WB Johnny will be interested in, based on some of our conversations) is that his ancestor are written up in the history of two other mid-18th c. English Lodges related to his lasting influence including turning attention to charity. He's sending me those chapters so that I can review them and we can discuss them later. I'll pass on what I learn.

In the UK, one can't have a charity activity that has a return - like a raffle. So I donated £10 to the charity

chest and received 10 tickets to a "free prize drawing." In which drawing I won a bottle of wine. (It's lovely... and may be gone before too long.)

After Lodge, I had a parting half pint with a Brother at the bar and a great conversation. Following that, I hailed a cab and came home. While waiting, I was approached by a man on the street who had seen me come out and had questions, knowing that it was a Freemason's Hall... and I did my best to answer them. I don't know if I did answer them, but he was a nice guy (if a little tipsy) and a friendly chat while waiting for the cab.

I am looking forward to next month, which will include an MM degree.

And, in a very American like twist - I was approached to learn parts of the ritual and get involved for either the EA coming up (there was a ballot tonight) or the MM degree for the FC candidate that was passed tonight... and a handful of other Brethren were in turbo-recruiting mode for me to join and take the Royal Arch Degree and Mark Master ... and eventually, perhaps, the other nine-thousand degrees and appendant body memberships in the Province. I didn't think it was possible, but they have more than we do.

WB Frank Blair

A Mason Abroad



Some Thoughts from WB Johnny Edwards

Some assorted bits of history, etc.

Here is a link to a 2002 article in the McMinnville News Register concerning our [Masonic Cemetery](#). Click to see a most interesting article.

Here is a link to a book published in 1908 titled [The Mission of Masonry](#). It is around 40 small pages, but still a great read.

On page 5 are a couple of pictures of our Union Lodge Library.

It is now clean again as it was at grand opening.

The difference is that all of the boxes full of books and other junk have been gone through and the things I deemed that should be in Library are on the shelves and the rest is either garbage, stored

in historical cabinets, on peg board in dining hall for all to see or lastly donated to first come first see on table outside of dining hall.



Finally, here is a filler picture that I found affixed to the Dec. 16, 1958 minutes for the Lodge.



Fraternally,
Johnny Edwards

November/December 2017 Calendar

Nov 28 - Union # 3 - Trustees Meeting 6:30 pm
Officers meeting 7:30 pm

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

Dec 5 - Union # 3 Stated Meeting and Installation of Officers- 7:30 pm (NOTE: This will be a CLOSED installation)

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

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

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

Dec 13 - Sheridan-Dayton # 64 - Stated 7:00 pm

Dec 26 - Union # 3 - Trustees Meeting 6:30 pm
Officers meeting 7:30 pm

Jan 2, 2018 - Union # 3 Stated Meeting - 7:30 pm

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.

6. 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.

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@onlinew.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

**THE LODGE OFFICE (503) 472-2341
OR
FRANK BLAIR, SECRETARY (503) 858-5445**