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# THE BEACON

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

December 2017

## Table of Contents

[Tidings From the East](#)

[Tidings From the West](#)

[Tidings From the South](#)

[From a Mason Abroad](#)

[Masonic History](#)

[Lodge Calendar](#)



## Tidings From the East

Tidings from the East, my Brothers! As we approach the final days of my time as Worshipful Master, I would like to take a few moments to reflect on the year and thank you all for being a part of Union Lodge.

Becoming Worshipful Master was not only an honor; it was also a personal life goal and a family tradition. This journey lasted 10 years and was delayed a few times by various life changes and moving across the state. While not all of this journey was the path of my choice, I'm grateful for every bit of it.

Many times, I have seen new Master Masons rushed into Deacon or Warden positions before they were ready. Having a good decade invested in Masonry gave me time to learn about and appreciate the symbolism of our craft and made the journey and my time in the East more meaningful than it would have otherwise been. The delays in progressing through the officer line also gave me a deeper appreciation for the opportunity to hold those offices once I was able to do so.

One of the most important goals for my time in the East was to start the process of re-engaging our Lodge with the community. Since we already had a school outreach program in place, I thought that was a good starting point to build from. To that end, I thought we should do a pancake fundraiser. Back in my days at Pendleton Lodge, we used to do these events fairly often, so it seemed like something I could figure out here in McMinnville.

One of the stressful things about planning a Lodge event, like planning a party, is that you never really know who is going to show up until it happens. To my incredible happiness and relief, the members of Union Lodge really turned out and made it a huge success. This event was a wonderful affirmation of our members' desire to help our community and to help Lodge grow in new directions.

Another moment of concern happened in the early summer when we found out that our Lodge Secretary (and day-to-day Treasurer, and keeper of the cemetery) was leaving us to pursue his education in England. As much as I was happy for WB Frank, this news came as a bit of a heart stopper. The amount of Lodge work that WB Frank had taken on was truly of a heroic proportion and to find out that he was leaving was a bit of a bombshell.

Once again, though, the Brothers of Union Lodge stepped up and volunteered to take over his various jobs. As a result, the transition was smooth and fairly seamless. I can't thank you all enough and would like to especially give thanks a kudos to MWB Hunt Compton, WB Tom Gardner, and WB Johnny Edwards for helping the Lodge (and me) through this transition.

I would also like to give a very hearty thanks to my wife Katie for all of her advice and patience during this past year and in all the years prior. She has been an amazing sounding board as well as a wonderful source of ideas for Lodge events. I am incredibly grateful.

Congratulations to WB Johnny Edwards for being re-elected as Worshipful Master during this upcoming year. It's wonderful to know that Union Lodge is in such capable and dedicated hands. I look for-

ward to serving as your Senior Warden during the upcoming year.  
Have a Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year!

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



## Tidings from the West

### In Search of...

I was Raised as a Master Mason in 2001.

I have been searching for something for those 17 years.

Masonic Light.

I have written about this on more than one occasion. My journey has plagued me. Sometimes it has haunted me.

My mentor stressed that this was important as most mentors do or should do during the memorization lessons upon the completion of the three degrees.

He handed me a couple of books of Masonic Essays and I went on my way on my Masonic Walk.

I have been chasing this Masonic Light ever since. At times I felt as if I was about to catch up to the running leash but it would take off running again as it always did.

With all of the reading and listening to recordings, documentaries and discussions amongst Brothers I have learned a considerable amount concerning our Honorable and Ancient Craft. Past and present.

I looked for this Masonic Light. When I found the light, I was never satisfied and traveled endlessly again In Search of ...

I just couldn't find what "I was In Search of" ...  
Until now.

Just recently I have retired and a considerable amount of clarity with the extra time that I now have has come my way.

Thinking back to my Masonic Walk that I was placed upon I have been meditating as to what I have done with the gift of light as I have walked.

While hungry for Masonic Light I began this walk in my Blue Lodge and sat in each Station in a Lodge and resisted suggestions to move ahead to a higher station. I started in the JD Station and did an entire circle until I came upon the East where I sat as Worshipful Master in 2007.

This satisfied me for a while. I enjoyed the challenge but before I knew it I was hungry once again.

I was honored to be asked to become District Deputy for three years and this once again satisfied my Masonic Hunger at the time.

After this part of my walk was over I was extremely hungry and I was clouded in darkness, no light.

This empty void of darkness allowed me to sojourn to my Lodge of Union #3 where I have found a Masonic Home ever since. When I affiliated with Union #3 I was exposed to a bright beam of light which I was satisfied with for many years. During this time, I went searching for additional light with the Scottish Rite, Shrine, Royal Arch and I came up empty.

I was happy to give my money to these honorable organizations for the benefit of their individual charities but this didn't satisfy my increasing grumbings of hunger that were surfacing once again.

Since my retirement I have been spending a lot of time within the four walls of our Honorable Masonic Lodge.

I recently had an epiphany.

All of these years that I have been searching for this Masonic Light while on my Masonic Walk it was right before me.

I was clouded by a darkness on the path ahead blocking this Ancient Light.

When the darkness cleared and the cloudy light abated I was able to see what I had been searching for all of these many years.

So many years of searching and it was right before me.

The Masonic Light is my Lodge of Union #3.

I am surrounded by my Brothers from the most senior to the youngest with different intensities of light shooting my way.

The Masonic Light is within the Four walls of this old building.

Filled to the brim with history and the souls of the Brothers who have passed or moved on.

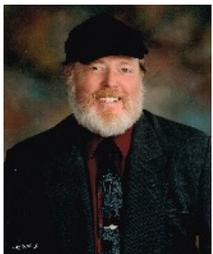
These souls if I calm myself in the vastness of an empty Lodge talk to me. They share with me their experiences.

I have never been as satisfied as I am right now.

I am drowning in the Masonic Light at this stage of my Masonic Walk but I am floating and I am just fine.

Come on in Brothers the Masonic Water is just fine.

Fraternally,  
Johnny J. Edwards  
Senior Warden  
Union # 3



### Tidings from the South

“What we have done for ourselves alone dies with us. What we have done for others and the world remains and is immortal.”  
– Bro. Albert Pike

The year was 1898, and the nation was gripped in patriotic fervor. The Spanish had been dealing with a rebellion in Cuba for years, and their cruel tactics and concentration camps were daily newspaper fodder. In February the U.S.S. Maine exploded and sank in Havana harbor, becoming the touch stone for the Spanish American War. The zeal and nationalism which resulted were touted as signs that the nation had finally placed behind the wounds of the Civil War, coming together and healing from that conflict that had cost so many lives mere decades before.

For black Americans, that national solidarity had come at a price. The legal status they had gained at the end of the Civil War had since been steadily eroded, beginning with the Mississippi Constitution of 1890 which set up legal barriers to voting. In November of 1898, that quiet dismantling of rights came right out in the open when 2,000 white men overthrew the legally elected mayor and city council of Wilmington, North Carolina. For 20 days they roamed the black-majority town, killing at will and burning down black businesses and homes, includ-

ing the only black-owned newspaper in the State. Ordered to quell the riot, the Wilmington Light Infantry and Federal Naval Reserves joined in attacking the blacks. Thousands fled the city, never to return.

In the Pacific Northwest, things were working out a little differently. The previous year, two Prince Hall masons named Gideon Bailly and Con Rideouthad petitioned the Grand Lodge of Washington, asking whether any means could be devised so that they could sit in Masonic communion



William H. Upton

with their Brothers. The Grand Lodge had assigned a committee of three men to look into the matter, including the Senior Grand Warden William H. Upton. The results were presented at the annual meeting of the Grand Lodge in 1898.

The Committee on Correspondence did not restrict themselves to a simple statement of opinion or a suggestion of possible courses of action. Their report, published in 1899 by MWB Upton as “Light on a Dark Subject,” systematically addressed and dismantled every known objection to the recognition of the Prince Hall Lodges. The published version is 137 pages long, and speaks not only to the legitimacy issue but also to the prevailing situation and the difficulty inherent in offering recognition which other Grand Lodges might feel bound by.

The Resolution, which was hotly debated and then passed by a large margin, fell just short of outright recognition of the Prince Hall Lodges. Striving to craft a ruling which would affect only the Grand Jurisdiction of Washington, it stated that there existed no reason not to recognize the Prince Hall Lodges. It rejected outright any belief that race or color were valid reasons to deny the Masonic degrees. While falling short of outright recognition, it allowed the individual Lodges to seat Prince Hall masons.

It further stated that “*since the white and colored races in the United States have in many ways shown a preference to remain, in purely social matters, separate and apart*” that it would raise no territorial objection should black Masons choose to create either Prince Hall Lodges or a Prince Hall Grand Lodge in the Grand Jurisdiction of Washing-

ton. The Resolution, coming so far ahead of its time, makes very interesting reading.

While their efforts to craft a just solution that would not cause conflict were admirable, the attempt to preserve harmony proved somewhat naïve. Reaction amongst the other state Grand Lodges was swift and overwhelmingly negative. Those reactions ranged from the simple rejection of the Grand Lodge of Oregon to the vile language offered up by the Grand Lodge of Tennessee. Threats to rescind recognition of the Grand Lodge of Washington came flooding in from across the country. Faced with the firestorm of criticism, MWB Upton's successor rescinded the decision the very next year.

Yet MWB Upton never accepted that Masonry should fail to live up to its own stated belief that a man should be judged only by his internal qualities. He fought for the recognition of Prince Hall Masons for the rest of his life, and in his will stated that he wanted no Masonic marker on his grave until such time as both black and white masons were recognized in the State of Washington.

In 1990, nearly a century after that first Resolution, the Grand Lodge of Washington and the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Washington offered each other recognition. One year later the two Grand Lodges gathered in Walla Walla, Washington. In two lines, Prince Hall Masons on one side and mainstream Masons on the other, the Craftsmen proceeded to the resting place of MWB Upton. There the two Grand Lodges declared an engraved memorial square, level and plumb. When the veil was removed, the inscription read:

*"This memorial commemorates the fruition of the last will and testament of William H. Upton MW Past Grand Master Wash. F & AM who desired that all Masons regardless of color, should dwell together as recognized Masonic Brethren. This was accomplished in 1990 by actions of both Grand Lodges MW GL F&AM of Wash. and MW Prince Hall GL F&AM of Wash. Dedicated June 8, 1991 AL 5991"*



As Masons, we seek to meet on the level, act by the plumb and part on the square. From the rough state in which we are initiated, we work to apply the

lessons of Masonry and make ourselves better men. But we are not always granted the boon of seeing the work completed, the realization of the complete design on the Trestleboard. Yet it is good to know that in the fullness of time our work as Masons can make a difference.

Walk in light, my Brothers.



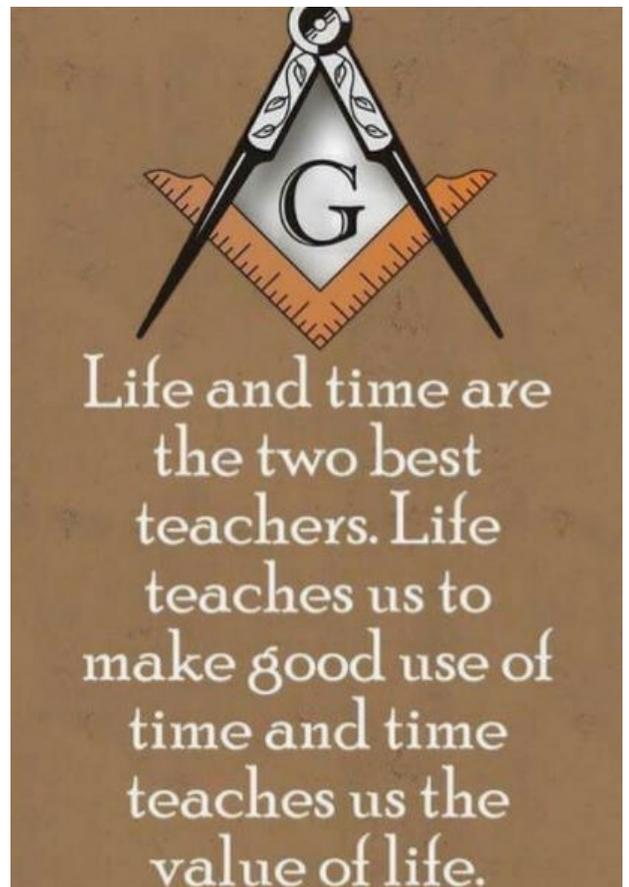
## The Adventures of a Country Master Mason Abroad

**Editor's Note:** Our wandering Master Mason Abroad has been awash in end or academic term studies plus some time spent with the British National Health Service. His column will return next month.



## Some Thoughts from WB Johnny Edwards

A couple of photographs from our Master Elect:



Garbage is out of old room. I will start cleaning it and preparing it for when the Trustees decide to start the renovation. Last we talked it would possibly start 2019.



### 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](mailto: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.

### December 2017/January 2018 Calendar

- Dec 2** - Tuality # 7 - Stated 10:00 am
- Dec 5** - Union # 3 Stated Meeting - 7:30 pm
- 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  
Program will be: "Introducing the programs and charities for the year"

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@onlinenw.com](mailto: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.