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THE BEACON

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

April 2019

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Tidings From the East

Hello, craftsman and welcome to April!

March was a very busy month for us. Starting out, we hosted the Grand Lodge officers for our annual Corned Beef and Cabbage night. Many thanks to everyone who pitched in to pull that off, especially Worshipful Brother John Porter, who did a lot of the cooking and gathering of supplies. Additional hearty thanks go out to Brother Scott Rassbach, our Senior Warden, and his wife Patty who put on an excellent ladies program for the women who came along with their Grand Lodge officer husbands. It really takes a lot of teamwork to pull off these Lodge functions and I really appreciate everyone's help!

We also put on another entered apprentice degree in March. Congratulations to our newest Entered Apprentice, Seamus Bean! Seamus is the stepson of our Senior Warden, Brother Scott Rassbach. He also currently the youngest Freemason in Oregon, having recently turned 18!



As many of you know, I have been organizing a "Breakfast with the Brothers" day for the last couple of months. These breakfasts have been a wonderful opportunity for people to get together, have some good food, and get to know each other a little better. If you have not received an invitation to these breakfasts, please contact me or the Lodge

Secretary to make sure that we have your email address.

I'm looking forward to seeing all of you at our next stated communication!

Events/Announcements

- April 2nd: Official visitation from RWB Steve Vanderzanden, GL District Deputy
- May 7th meeting program: Jared Brandon Flande, topic TBA
- May 18th: Pancake Fundraiser for School Outreach Program
- June 4th meeting program: Bro. Scott Rassbach, Contemplative Masonry
- June 6-8th: Grand Lodge in Seaside
- July: Regional family picnic with Tuality Lodge, Holbrook Lodge, and others
- September: WB Johnny Edwards, guest speaker, topic TBA
- October: WB Gene Hill, guest speaker, topic TBA

Fraternally,
Matt Gerbrandt
Worshipful Master



Tidings from the West

April: Cardinal Virtues: Justice and Fortitude

Two remaining cardinal virtues remain for our consideration: Justice and Fortitude.

Fortitude is the moral virtue that ensures firmness in difficulties and constancy in the pursuit of good. It strengthens our resolve to resist temptations and to overcome obstacles in the moral life. It is the virtue of Fortitude that conquers fear, even fear of death, trials and persecution.

Justice is the moral virtue that consists of the constant and firm will to give their just due to the Great Architect and neighbor. Justice toward Deity is called the "virtue of religion." Justice toward men disposes one to respect the rights of each and to establish in human relationships the harmony that promotes equity with regards to persons and for the common good. The just man is distinguished by the habitual fairness of his conduct toward his neighbor.

The Four Cardinal Virtues as being the 'Perfect Points of Entrance', to wit: 'Guttural the throat, Pectoral the breast, Manual the hands and Pedal the feet'. They are also associated with the tassels. One article has given specific positions for the tassels as well as the Cardinal Virtues. The article is a mixture of both the Canadian and American rituals. This article places the tassels and Cardinal Virtues as follows: In the northwest corner is Temperance which is related to guttural, since the throat is the avenue of the body which is most employed in the sins of intemperance. Temperance refers to the entrance upon the penal responsibilities and 'lest any brother should forget the danger to which he is exposed in the unguarded hours of dissipation, the virtue of temperance is wisely impressed upon his memory by its reference to one of the most solemn portions of the ceremony of initiation.'

In the northeast corner is Fortitude which is related to pectoral since the heart has always been considered the seat of fortitude and courage and hence by this word is suggested to the Mason certain symbolic instructions in relation to the virtue of Fortitude.

In the southeast corner is Prudence which is related to manual since masons are, in a peculiar man-

ner reminded, by the hand, of the necessity of a prudent and careful observance of all their pledges and duties, and hence this organ suggests certain symbolic instructions in relation to the virtue of Prudence.

In the southwest corner is Justice which is related to pedal, since the just man is one who, firmly planting his feet on the principles of right, is as immovable as a rock, and can be thrust from his upright position neither by the allurements of flatter nor the frowns of arbitrary power. And hence this word is suggested to the mason certain symbolic instructions in relation to justice.

The directions, though, are not fixed. In the questions and answers from a lecture in Lancashire, England, dating to the end of the 18th century included the following:

- Q: What do you furnish it with?
- A: The four Cardinal Virtues.
- Q: What are they?
- A: Justice, Prudence, Temperance and Fortitude.
- Q: How do you place them?
- A: justice in the East, Prudence in the West, Temperance in the South and Fortitude in the North.

Scott Rassbach - Senior Warden



Tidings from the South

Work Life Balance

Our monthly Stated Meetings at Union Lodge are on the first Tuesday of the month, promptly at 7:30 The balance is sometimes difficult. Many

Brothers work varying shifts, often out of town.

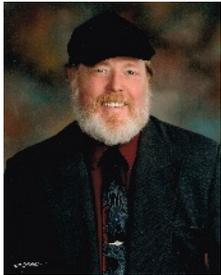
The mad dash to Lodge for me to our March Stated Meeting stressed me out. The big night. The Corned Beef and Cabbage dinner. As Junior Warden I got the honor of being the MC for the event. Introductions of the Grand Master and his delegation, talking in front of a crowd keeping the flow going.

After a wonderful dinner Lodge started promptly at 7:30 In Lodge I noticed we had a large turn-out. After a long day at work, a stressful drive home and rush to the Lodge, I was doubting myself.

Then I saw a big delegation of Brothers from Tillamook, some from Rickreall, Rainier and Clatskanie. I thought to myself it is Tuesday, a work day and promptly at 7:30 all these Brothers traveled far and are here with me.

That put it all into perspective.

Matt Coady - Junior Warden



From the Secretary's Desk

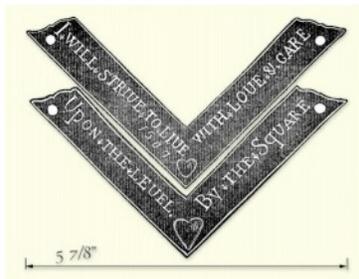
"To enlarge the sphere of social happiness is worthy of the benevolent design of a Masonic institution; and it is most fervently to be wished, that the conduct of every member of the fraternity ... may tend to convince mankind that the grand object of Masonry is to promote the happiness of the human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



The Adventures of a Country Master Mason Abroad

Fraternal Greetings from across the pond!

A lot has been going here in the last few months. I was installed as Senior Deacon in January. February saw the beginning of my "trial by fire" - double EA, double FC, double MM in February, March and coming up in a couple weeks at our April meeting. We have a potential problem with the line, so it's possible that I'll be jumping ahead to Sr. Warden next year. This doesn't frighten me too much, except that it shortens my preparation time for the Master's chair. The Master confers all degrees here and it's different from our degree conferrals. Here, much of what we cover in the lecture is delivered by the Master in each of the degrees. The most challenging is the FC degree, which is called here "the Master's Degree" as 80-90% of the speaking is performed by him.

Also in February, besides the double EA in Craft Lodge, I was exalted in the Royal Arch degree at Cabot Chapter. There is only one degree in Royal Arch. At one time, it was delivered in Blue Lodge but was later extracted. I'm given to understand that, much like the Craft Lodge ritual here in Bristol, there are elements to the Royal Arch degree that are unique to the Province. Notably, this is represented in a part of the ceremony called "The Passing of the Veils." It was a unique ritual. As the candidate, it was confusing and disconcerting (most of it is conducted while hood-winked) but I'll get a chance to see it conferred later this week at a different chapter.

As I think I've mentioned a couple times, the Province of Bristol, which covers the ancient boundaries of the city and county of Bristol (Bristol has been a county in its own right by Royal Decree in 1381), has 37 Craft Lodges, a couple dozen Chapters (Royal Arch), Mark Masters, Ark Mariners, Rose Croix (roughly equivalent to the Scottish Rite in the States), Camp of Baldwyn, Order of Aethelstan, and a few other Rites and Orders all of which meet in the same building – Freemason's Hall on Park Street in Bristol. The Province is unique in being the only one that covers only a single city and with all constituent Lodges meeting in one hall.

One of the benefits of that arrangement is that it makes it easy to visit other Lodges, Rites, and Orders to which you may belong – there's only one hall; you only need to choose your night to attend and you'll hit something, for sure. I'm sure it makes a difficult job for the building manager to arrange Stated Communications, dinners, practices, committee meetings and the like. Another benefit of that is that you get to know Brethren from all over the Province just by showing up and having a beer or a coffee in the lounge in the basement while you or they are preparing.

It also makes it easier to be sociable across Lodges. All the Master's in any given year are automatically joined to a "Circle" for that year – for example, all the Masters of the 37 Lodges in 2019 will be members of the 2019 Circle. They will elect a presiding officer and a couple assistants and plan meetings periodically for charity and visitation, supporting each other and each other's Lodges from that point forward. You can tell Circle members by their lapel pin with a Roman numeral of their joining Circle. There is also a social organization just for junior Brethren – Brethren who have not received Provincial honors - called "The Duncker-

leys." They get together for outings, dinners, and other social activities (going to watch the Bristol Bears rugby matches, for example.)

As a bit of an aside, the Dunckerleys take their name from Thomas Dunckerley, a naval officer, potentially an illegitimate son of George II, and a prominent Brother in the mid-18th century – he was raised in Portsmouth in 1754, received a charter for a floating Lodge on his ship *The Vanguard*, which he later transferred to several other naval vessels under his command. He was appointed Provincial Grand Master of Hampshire in 1767, Provincial Grand Master of Essex in 1776, and it was his request that formed the Province of Bristol in 1786 with himself as Grand Master. At one point he is also appointed Provincial Grand Master for the counties of Dorset, Essex, Gloucester, Somerset and Southampton, and the Isle of Wight. He was a vocal and energetic advocate for Royal Arch, Mark Masonry, and Ark Mariner Masonry. He later became the first Grand Master of the English Masonic Knights Templar. Altogether an underachiever, especially when you consider that he also wrote extensively and published articles, charges, lectures, and songs and was instrumental in standardizing ritual and record keeping in each of those bodies.

I'll keep everyone informed about the progression, but if you're looking for something to do in a couple years and might fancy a trip across the pond, I'd love to host a large contingent of Brethren from my home Lodge when I'm installed as Master at Cabot Lodge here. It will either be January 2021 or January 2022, depending on how things go. I give a mean medieval walking tour of Bristol and can arrange for some fun hosting activities including Masonically and historically interesting sites nearby. The Bristol Workings and the variation of the installation ceremony would be a lot of fun for any of you (especially Past Masters in the crowd.) If you think you might have an interest, let me know and I'll keep a running list for planning purposes. Through Lodge Brethren I can also get some discounts on lodging and entertainment.

For the time being, this is probably a good update. I have a Bristol Masonic Society meeting, a Royal Arch Chapter visit, and practice to work on for the double MM in April this week; that is beyond the research and writing that I'm meant to be doing.

Frarnally,
-Frank



Some Thoughts from WB Johnny Edwards

Recently while working at the Grand Lodge of Oregon Library and Museum I came across a very rare book.

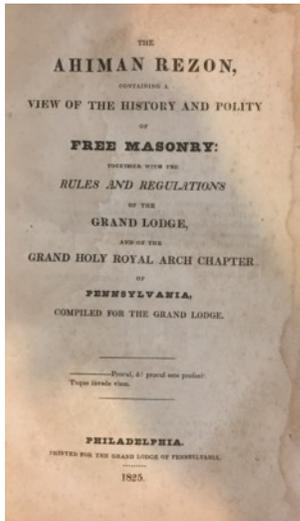
An Ahiman Rezon dated 1825.

The GLO Library has a few reproductions but not a copy that is close to the age of its actual use in Masonic History.

To give a dollar amount perspective, a similar copy dated 1819 was being sold for \$1600.00.

Very exciting find.

If the reader has never heard of the Ahiman Rezon I would suggest turning your Masonic Light Bulb on and “get to it!”



To wrap-up this month’s column, here are a few pictures from the 22nd annual Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner, held on March 5th.



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.](#)

April-May 2019 Calendar

- [Apr 2](#) - Union # 3 - Stated - 7:30 pm
- [Apr 2](#) - Holbrook # 30 - Stated - 7:30 pm
- [Apr 3](#) - Rickreall # 110 - Stated - 7:30 pm
- [Apr 6](#) - Tuality # 7 - Stated - 10:00 am
- [Apr 10](#) - Sheridan-Dayton - Stated - 7:00 pm
- [Apr 11](#) - Newberg # 104 - Stated 7:30 pm
- [Apr 30](#) - Trustees Meeting 6:30 pm
Officers meeting 7:30 pm
- [May 7](#) - Union Lodge Stated 7:30 pm
- [May 18](#) - Union Lodge annual Pancake Breakfast fundraiser for our school outreach program