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# THE BEACON

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

June 2019

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## Tidings From the East

Greetings, Brothers!

I would like to start out by congratulating all of you for helping put together our most successful School Outreach fundraiser ever. On Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, we were able to raise almost \$1,200 which will be used to help buy local children school supplies and clothing. Many, many thanks to all who came out and supported the Lodge with their hard work and generous donations!

At our June stated communication, we will be raffling a Lego Freemason and a beautiful engraved Masonic pen. All Masons who volunteered at the Pancake Fundraiser will be in the running for those prizes.

At our May stated communication, I had the honor of presenting WB John Porter II with a Hiram Award. The Hiram Award is one of the highest honors in Blue Lodge Masonry and it was wonderful to give it to WB John after so many of his years of service to Union Lodge. We also heard an excellent Fellow Craft Degree proficiency from Brother Chris Noble and we are working on putting together a Master Mason Degree in his honor. Updates to follow.

I'd also like to say how impressed I am with our three Entered Apprentice Masons - Brothers Nick, Kal, and Seamus. It's been wonderful to see all three of you being involved with Union Lodge through your participation in stated communications, social events like the Breakfast with the Brothers, and helping out at our recent fundraiser.

It's wonderful to see good men joining the Lodge and getting involved.

Our June stated communication will feature a presentation by our Senior Warden, Brother Scott Rassbach, who will be sharing information about Contemplative Masonry. Brother Scott always puts together interesting and informative presentations and I'm sure that this one will be no exception.

**Also, please note that we will not be going dark this summer. July and August dress code will be business casual.**

Fraternally,  
WB Matt Gerbrandt  
WM, Union Lodge #3

## Events/Announcements

- June 4<sup>th</sup> meeting program: Bro. Scott Rassbach, Contemplative Masonry
- June 6-8<sup>th</sup>: Grand Lodge in Seaside
- July 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting program: "The Word Is Yours...", WB Matt Gerbrandt
- July 13<sup>th</sup> 10:30am: Regional family picnic with Tuality Lodge, Holbrook Lodge, and others at Rood Bridge Park in Hillsboro.
- September meeting program: WB Johnny Edwards, guest speaker, Willamette Mystery Stone
- October meeting program: WB Gene Hill, guest speaker, topic TBA



## Tidings from the West

### *June: Duties to Country*

*"When we assumed the soldier, we did not lay aside the citizen." - General George Washington*

Memorial day has just passed, and with it we honor those who've served in a military capacity, and given their lives in service to their country.

The Freemasons have a long history of serving in the military. The most famous American example is George Washington, general of the Revolutionary Army, who went on to defeat the British and gain for the colonies their Independence from Britain. He went on to serve as the first president of the United States, continuing his service, and laying down his duties after two terms.

Washington joined Freemasonry in the Lodge at Fredericksburg, Virginia. He was 20 years old when he received the first degree of Entered Apprentice on November 4, 1752. He paid the Lodge two pounds and three shillings to join. Ten days after turning 21, on March 3, 1753, he was passed to the second degree of Fellowcraft. On August 4, 1753, he was raised to the third degree of Master Mason. The lodge's surviving minute book records Washington attending only two more meetings: September 1, 1753, and January 4, 1755.

He resumed his Freemasonic career in 1778, and was a frequent attendee of FreeMasonic meetings throughout the rest of his life. His funeral rites were performed by the members of Alexandria Lodge No. 39, of which he was an honorary member.

A number of other Freemasons served in the Revolutionary war: General Joseph Warren was initiated in St. Andre's Lodge in Boston on September 30, 1761; passed November 2.

The exact date of his raising is unknown. He was Master of his lodge in 1769 and in the same year received from the Earl of Dalhousie, Grand Master of Masons in Scotland, a commission dated March 3, 1772, bearing the date of May 30, 1769, appointing him Grand Master of Masons in Boston and within one hundred miles of the same.

He is said to have remarked: "I know that I may fall, but where is the man who does not think that it is glorious to die for his country?" He died at the Battle of Bunker Hill, in 1775.

Admiral John Paul Jones was the first officer commissioned in the American Navy. He was the first to command a war vessel. He was the first to run up the American flag over a war vessel, the Alfred, in 1775. He is the first and only naval officer named in the Act of Congress for creating the new flag, the Stars and Stripes.

John Paul Jones received his E. A. Degree in St. Bernard's Kilwinning Lodge No. 122, Kirkcudbright, St. Mary's Island, Scotland on November 17, 1770. It is reported that he took his F. C. Degree and M. M. Degree in the Royal White Hart Lodge at Halifax, North Carolina.

These men, and many others, are examples of those who took up the soldier, but never laid aside the citizen. With the principles of Freemasonry in their breast and the eyes of their Brothers upon them, they sought to exemplify the morals and virtues of Freemasonry before the world, even in the theater of war. We, as citizens, are grateful for their service; we, as Freemasons, hope to keep their courage and duty alive by remembering their sacrifice, and carrying on with the duty they left for us.

Scott Rassbach - Senior Warden



## Tidings from the South

In our busy working lives we look forward to that three day holiday weekend. Hook up the travel trailer, get out camp and relax. Now that my wife and I are empty nesters the camping on holiday weekends has come to an end.

This memorial day weekend I went up to the Yamhill-Carlton pioneer cemetery. I tend to the five graves of family members by cleaning and pulling weeds. I put the small American flag on my father's military grave and tidy it up.

A few graves up from my father is one that is just over 50 years old. I also get that one squared away, string trimmer in hand, then soap and water. After getting back I thought I would do a little research on the world wide web.

Turns out Staff Sergeant Thomas Hepburn Perry was the nephew of Kathrine Hepburn. During the Vietnam war he was a U.S. Army special forces

medic (5th SF group). SSG Perry went missing in action May 10, 1968.



I found the after action report of his last battle. it is so difficult to read and to comprehend, truly the horrors of war. below is the link to the website:

<https://www.pownetwork.org/bios/p/p077.htm>

The defense department has ongoing investigations for our missing in action and prisoners of war through the defense POW MIA accounting agency (DPAA) .

SSG Perrys current status per (DPPA) website is: XX - Presumptive Finding of Death

[Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency \(DPAA\)](#)

So after our long Memorial day weekend complaining about how bad the traffic was, just remember what this 3 day holiday weekend denotes.

Memorial day originally called decoration day it morphed into what we know as memorial day today. It started after the civil war, Now it is to honor military personnel who have died during all wars.

Matt Coady - Junior Warden



## From the Secretary's Desk

*"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

*I recently got a text from a Brother who admitted that he was having a hard time figuring out what he wanted to write about for an article. Now, for me to give advice on writing would be for me to attempt to embody the definition of hypocrisy—I will write, but it always seems like I'm barely making a deadline or casting about for something to say, driven on by scathing messages from a long-suffering editor. But since I was reminded that I'm not alone in that boat, I thought about this article I had written a couple years ago. It had some good ideas then, and they might just be helpful now. So here you go....*

—◇—

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 them-

selves 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.-*



## The Adventures of a Country Master Mason Abroad

Fraternal greetings from the Southwest of England.

As I mentioned last month we're in the middle of our summer of darkness at Cabot Lodge and Bristol, generally. There's no expectation of meeting every month here and most Lodges only meet seven or eight times a year. Darkness usually falls in the summer months – May to September in some form. There are a few Lodges that only meet quarterly, a pattern which is very common in the various appendant bodies. The Lodge building itself will be closed off to membership in June, July and August. Besides saving a little money on utilities when the building isn't being used, it provides time for maintenance and whatnot without having to dodge the 37 Craft Lodges and 100 appendant bodies trying to meet and eat.

That's not to say that Masonic things stop completely. Provincial Grand Lodge was held a couple weeks ago and Provincial Grand Chapter for Royal Arch last weekend. In and of themselves, they don't take much time – a couple hours for each. There are no elections, all positions are appointed, including Provincial Grand Master who serves a term that is open-ended. Terms of 7 – 10 years are common although one Provincial Grand Master served from 1910 to 1932. There's no expectation of moving up a chair every year, moving through

the ranks in that way. Appointments are based on service to the Craft and to some degree on seniority.

There are a lot of Brethren who are introduced as “having achieved the high rank of Past Provincial XXX.” This is because it’s customary to be appointed to one’s first PAST Provincial Grand Rank 6 years after your first year as Master of a Craft Lodge; it’s not an indication that you served in that position in the past. There is an upward movement through Past ranks based on that 6-year interval. When one moved up a rank by seniority, it is called a “promotion.” All of the same is true at the Grand Lodge level, as well. Our current Grand Master of UGLE, the HRH the Duke of Kent, is in his 52<sup>nd</sup> year as Grand master if my math is correct. Likewise, there’s no discussion or debate on legislation. Any decisions that need making are handled beforehand and any amendments or changes are presented as fait accompli.

Most of the time at Provincial Grand Lodge is taken up by the ceremony itself – there are a lot of officers and dignitaries to ritually receive and settle - and the appointments of the active ranks and any promotions; this year there were about 20 promotions.

For my own part, I’m cramming for next year learning the Sr. Warden’s part and getting a jump on the Master’s parts for the year after – both are significantly larger and more involved than Oregon or American Craft Masonry, generally. I have open and close on the EA and the EA degree conferral parts down. It’s a start. The next big chunk is the FC where the Sr. Warden delivers the charge. In the fall, I’ll have to start working on putting the words together with the floor work.

Coming up in September, we’re having a general meeting of Cabot Lodge membership aimed at getting input from the younger (or more newly Raised) MMs to get an idea of how we can get them more engaged and involved in Lodge leadership – a perpetual problem not constrained by geography. Then in October, we start regular meetings again. In the meantime, I’m hoping to get out and visit a couple other Lodges – there are emulation and other working Lodges that meet throughout the summer. I haven’t seen Oxford workings or Tailor workings yet, so those are on my agenda.

Hoping the summer is going well for you all and Union Lodge is trucking on!

Frarnally,  
-Frank



## Some Thoughts from WB Johnny Edwards

First, a picture of Brother Stan Frugard hard at work in the Lafayette Masonic Cemetery.



Brothers please click the link below to view the updated History Book of Union No. 3. I try to update it every year. jje

[Union # 3 History Book 2018 -.pdf](#)

Here is a very informative article that provides an interesting perspective that I feel is being lost within the Ancient Craft.

### Traveling Man

So many Experience it; so few Understand the Experience. Further Light facilitates Further Travel.

“Proficiency”, also known to most Brothers who have gone through them as “Catechism”, is a requirement in which many Brothers must participate to progress

through the Blue Lodge Degrees, at least, within the majority of the Jurisdictions in the USA. The Proficiency requirement does a multitude of things for both the Candidate and the Lodge. Over the years, the Proficiency requirements exist within fewer and fewer Jurisdictions due to a host of reasons. It is most unfortunate that those Jurisdictions eliminating it are not training these Brothers in one of the most important aspects of Masonic Travel.

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### Freemasonic Purposes

Given opportunity to explain, the average Brother would say that Proficiencies have important purposes for the Fraternity. The most obvious response some Brothers provide is that it reveals how serious a Candidate is to participate in the Organization. Another response you'll readily receive is that it helps Brothers remember what they went through during the degree.

Those Brothers who are savvy to the needs of the Lodge and the Organization as a whole shall immediately share that it installs a script within each Brother. Such installation makes it easier for each of them to participate in Degree work when new Candidates come through to be Initiated, Passed or Raised.

All are purposes that serve well the Organization of Freemasons.

### Masonic Purposes

The purposes for Proficiencies are far more than what may seem to be obvious to Organizational support upon first glance. One purpose that I have been sharing for years is that Proficiencies are in themselves Road Maps that Candidates can and follow to Better themselves. These Road Maps, once recognized as such, contain specific directions and tasks that aid toward Making Good Men Better, when followed through upon.

When Candidates Recognize them in this form, for what they truly are, and seek to Understand what these Road Maps direct them toward, they can then journey forth using them as guides toward Betterment. It's truly a shame that too few Proficiency Instructors do not point this out to Candidates before, during and after the Proficiencies are engaged in by them. Candidates would benefit much more by Understanding the basis behind this effort and perhaps have more incentive to engage

in them knowing the purposes that lay behind them.

Another underlying purpose has nothing to do with the Catechisms themselves. It has to do with men getting to know one another. In this sense, the Catechisms are there for Instructors to use as a tool and vehicle for Brotherly bonding. The catechisms become a catalyst for each man to become familiar with and to learn about the other, by focusing upon a task that lessens the awkwardness sometimes experienced by men initially unfamiliar with each other.

I've seen a lot of very good opportunities missed, deliberately skipped over and even lost because the activity focus was so strongly upon the Catechism that the men involved faded into the background.

Doing Proficiencies provide ample time to get to know one another. This especially in a day and age where the mobility of people is almost certainly going to interfere with knowing each other much better, and certainly before having these Brothers Passed and Raised.

Should you be in the position of Instructing Candidates through these Proficiencies, you might want to step back and look at it as an opportunity to get to know the Candidates.

### Ancient Purposes

There is an ancient purpose that is not often known that should be Understood by both Instructors and Candidates alike before they engage in these activities. That ancient purpose has been described in a whole host of different sources over the years. That purpose was to develop the Candidates' ability to remember using an ancient technique referred to repeatedly by both Plato and his student Aristotle, among many others. It is currently known by many names: "Method of Loci[i]", "The Roman Room" and "The Memory Palace", are just a few.

The Technique is truly simple. It requires that you memorize the layout of a room, home, or even a well-traveled path. Colors, shapes, sizes, textures and anything that is best suited to the individual's method of experience[ii] should be taken into consideration. Once you have created a location or path within your mind with which you are familiar, you can then Travel through it.

You might say, "So what? What does that do for me?" What it does for you is Establish a path that

you can Build upon. In other words, the cultivation of this technique within one's mind brings about a structure for recall. Doing so remaps the Parietal Lobes of the brain and interconnects it with the other lobes as well[iii]. Should you research this Further, you'll find that the ancients knew a lot about using the brain more effectively than we might give them credit for today.

Once this internal path is Established, you then create specific stop points or loci along the way that you shall remember without fail. As you Travel through this imaginary path at anytime thereafter, these stopping points shall allow you to place images that shall remind you of what it is that you want to recall.

When I first heard this method explained, I thought to myself, "Yikes! That's an awful lot of work to memorize something! First I have to memorize a path, and then I have to memorize images that will trigger memories of what I want to remember! There's got to be an easier way." I reluctantly tried to use it but gave up because it seemed to not work quickly enough for me. I resolved in those moments that I would not pursue it any further, no matter how great it might have worked for those who perfected it.

### Along the Road

I held that opinion for many years. And there was nothing that seemed to budge me from it. Even though I knew that it was a technique that was recommended for over 2400 years, I resisted Cultivating it. My conclusion and choice kept me from Traveling down that Path.

Then something changed for me. I went through my first Degree as a Freemason and was told immediately afterward that I was required to memorize about six single spaced sheets of responses to question and requests from a proficiency Instructor before I was allowed to advance to the next Degree. I had no idea how I was going to accomplish that task. I was encouraged by my Instructors. I was told that I was not the only one faced with this overwhelming task and that many others faced it too and succeeded. With the help of my Instructor I stepped up and started to memorize what was asked of me.

As you know from my status as a Master Mason, I was successful in memorizing what was required of me. I did this three times over and was supported by my Brothers in doing so. It wasn't till years later

that I became aware of what actually occurred for me through those memorization efforts.

### Locus Focus

I had a question put to me by a Brother. The question was simple.

What does memorizing all these Proficiencies do for a man?

It was a bit too simple a question and I should have expected there would be another not so easy question fired at me very quickly after the first one was put forth. And I was right. That second question was not so simple.

Wouldn't a man be better off understanding what he went through rather than simply memorizing all those provided responses not knowing what they meant?

Over the years, I've responded to the second question with an unshakably energetic and confident, "Absolutely!" That response went unchecked for a very long time. That is, until I Recognized the underlying reason for the memorization. Once I realized that the basis behind these memorizations was to install a Freemasonic version of a "Roman Room" in the form of a Masonic Lodge, it all clicked!

Yes! It was very important to Understand what was being memorized. And to get to the point where you can Understand what you are memorizing, you have to be able to recall it and do so without wasting a lot of time trying to remember it!

This led to the following connection: The underlying purpose behind doing Proficiency is to both honor and engage in an ancient practice involving teaching Candidates how to remember using the "Method of Loci" used by humankind since time immemorial.

To be a "Traveling Man", one must be capable of Traveling Masterfully within one's mind, not only through "natural" occurring memory, but through what the Greeks referred to as "artificial" memory[iv]. Proficiencies help us toward this end, should we participate in doing them. When you never have opportunity to Cultivate this important technique within yourself, your Travel shall be muted by many moments caused by memory roadblocks and stumbling points. Those Jurisdictions that still require Mnemonic Cultivation are providing an invaluable supportive service that Builds Better Travelers, one mind at a time!

## Points to Perpend

1) Does your Jurisdiction require “Method of Loci” training in the form of Proficiencies?

2) Have you used this Training to remember

3) How do you see such Training affecting your Travels?

[i] plural of Latin locus for place or location

[ii] Depending upon a person’s internal “wiring” they might be tactile, visual, or auditory; smell and taste should not be left out since they are also modes of sensory input that some people are more sensitive to than others.

[iii] The parietal lobe integrates sensory information from different modalities, particularly determining spatial sense and navigation. For example, it comprises somato-sensory cortex and the dorsal stream of the visual system. This enables regions of the parietal cortex to map objects perceived visually into body coordinate positions. Several portions of the parietal lobe are important in language processing. Just posterior to the central sulcus lies the postcentral gyrus. This area of the cortex is responsible for somatosensation.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parietal\_lobe]

[iv] <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mnemonic>

## June-July 2019 Calendar

June 1 - Tuality # 7 - Stated - 10:00 am

June 4 - Union # 3 - Stated - 7:30 pm

June 4 - Holbrook # 30 - Stated - 7:30 pm

June 5 - Rickreall # 110 - Stated - 7:30 pm

June 6 - Newberg # 104 - Stated 7:30 pm

June 6 - 8 - Grand Lodge in Seaside

June 12 - Sheridan-Dayton - Stated - 7:00 pm

June 26 - Trustees Meeting 12:30 pm

July 2 - Union Lodge Stated 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](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



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