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THE BEACON

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

July 2019

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Tidings From the East

Greetings, Brothers and welcome to July! Hope that you're all enjoying the heat after a long, soggy winter.

I'd like to extend a hearty congratulations to our newly elected Grand Master, MWB Ronald J. Eggers! It was wonderful to meet up with old and new friends and to be a part of the Masonic community gathered for Grand Lodge's Annual Communication in Seaside in June.

At our June stated communication, our Senior Warden Brother Scott Rassbach, gave an excellent presentation about Contemplative Masonry. Brother Scott provided a background of the philosophical approach and guided the Brethren through meditations, with an emphasis on breathing techniques and Masonic imagery. His information was both thought provoking and peaceful. Well done, Brother Scott!

We're currently organizing a Master Mason Degree for Brother Chris Noble, so please keep an eye out for emails and other correspondence associated with that event.

Also, our dress code for July and August will be business casual.

Fraternally,
WB Matt Gerbrandt
WM, Union Lodge #3

Events/Announcements

- July 13th 10:30am: Regional family picnic with Tuality Lodge, Holbrook Lodge, and others at Rood Bridge Park in Hillsboro.
- August 6th meeting program: "The Word Is Yours...", WB Matt Gerbrandt
- 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

For this month's column, I bring you the words of Worshipful Brother Clive Herron, Marine Lodge 627 I.C. of the Grand Lodge of Ireland, in Durban, South Africa:

RESPONSIBILITY TO NEIGHBOR

Be especially careful to maintain in their fullest vigor those truly Masonic characteristics, Benevolence And Brotherly Love.

You must love and respect your brother, irrespective of his religion, race or creed

"To your neighbor, you must act upon the square, and do unto him as you wish he should do unto you."

Before I became a Mason, I had the idea that Freemasonry was a tight organization whose obligations did not go beyond the bounds of the Lodge, and that Masons were under an obligation to practice Masonry with Masons and no more. Then I discovered the real bounds of the Lodge and the fact that we are not a mutual aid society.

A Lodge is said, symbolically, to extend
In length from the east to the west;
In breadth from north to south;
In height, from the earth to the highest heavens;
In depth, from the surface to the centre.

A Lodge is said to be of these vast dimensions to denote the universality of Masonry. We can see that our responsibility goes beyond the Lodge room that we may have perceived in its narrowest sense, to our fellow man, and therein lays another of our great responsibilities.

RESPONSIBILITY TO THE LODGE

Yes we have a responsibility to the lodge – it is put to us in the ancient charges.

Every member has a duty and responsibility to the Lodge to which he belongs. Sadly, there are Masons who receive the three degrees and then forget all about the Lodge.

They seem to feel that it's somebody else's responsibility to keep the Lodge going.

For a Brother to forget the Lodge that gave him his Masonic birth is like a son who would forget his mother that gave him physical birth.

Suppose no one attended Lodge meetings any more than you do, nor took any more of an active part than you do, nor showed any more interest than you do, what would happened to your Lodge? Would it still be in existence?

I quote from the Charge given to the Entered Apprentice in the Scottish and English Constitutions,

"Although your frequent appearance at our regular meetings is earnestly solicited, yet it is not meant that Masonry should interfere with your necessary vocations, for these are on no account to be neglected."

Pay special attention to this wording for it does not give brethren a licence to allow anything and everything to interfere with Masonry, On the contrary it gives an honest mason the opportunity to make an

honest decision in the event that should it be necessary to miss a lodge meeting.

In the third paragraph of the Ancient charge published in 1730 and printed in the Laws and Constitutions of Irish Freemasonry. It reads 'in ancient times no Master or Fellow could be absent from it (Lodge). Especially when warned to appear at it, without incurring a severe censure, until it appeared to the Master and Wardens that pure necessity hindered him".

It is clear that Freemasonry places a firm responsibility on a brother to fulfil his duties to attend lodge meetings unless there is an honest and legitimate reason to stay away.

"UNTO THYSELF BE TRUE". If you cannot live up to this, requirement, being true to yourself, then you are stepping onto a ladder with its first rung broken and there is no hope for you reaching your Masonic goal.

One of the most tragic truths is that Masonry means so little to some who call themselves Masons. Can you imagine the resurgence Freemasonry would experience if suddenly every Lodge member would become a Mason once again in deed as well as in word; if suddenly every Lodge member would become what he professed to be; if suddenly every Lodge member would do what he is obligated himself to do; if suddenly he would practice what he preaches; if suddenly he should measure up to his Masonic Responsibilities or if he would attend more regularly or visit other lodges occasionally.

The story is told of a Minister's daughter said to her boy friend, "Dad's sermon tonight is on the text, LOVE ONE ANOTHER. Would you like to go to church and hear him? Her boy friend replied, "I'd rather stay here and practice what your father's preaching."

It's like some Brethren who believe that they can practice the art of Freemasonry without learning the rules.

Being a regular mason, an efficient Secretary, Treasurer or even Master of the Lodge, is what is expected of us when we take office and being men of honour we must give of our best. Freemasonry coerces no one – you should progress at your own pace, and if you accept office it is your duty as a man of honour to perform the task to the best of your ability.

A duty is a responsibility we undertake and according to the task that duty can vary. Our Masonic

responsibilities are non negotiable and cannot be wavered.

Every man who entered Freemasonry did so of his own free will and accord. He was not invited to join the Fraternity. He had to knock at the door for admittance.

It should have been impressed upon him during the interview stages, that as in life, "nothing comes for nothing" and now with his admittance he would be taking on duties and be responsible to live a Masonic life.

Scott Rassbach - Senior Warden



Tidings from the South

I have always collected military challenge coins. They vary in size and are for recognition or trading with other units or gifts to individuals . I received my first in Germany from my company commander for a job well done.

The coin I am writing about today is not a military coin. It's a Masonic coin but it's size is very similar to a military coin. I drilled a hole in it for a key chain. I have had this coin for at least 25 years. I don't remember if I got it from a garage sale or from my fathers military collection.

I was thinking of an article and I looked at my key chain and said why not, I will write about my good luck charm. The front of the coin has the Square and Compasses made of silver. The back of the coin reads: Hancock Lodge 311, Kansas. Entered 24/2/59, Passed 14/4/59, Raised -blank- PORTER. I decide to do some Internet searching for Hancock 311 Masonic Lodge in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. My suspicions of it having a military connection was correct. Raised and passed in 1959. OK, now that's interesting. My mother and father were stationed there in the army around that time. At the very bottom of the coin it says PORTER, so I asked our Union Lodge Secretary John PORTER for his thoughts as to what it meant. He was taken aback a bit, It's the name of the Brother who owned it he said. So I go back to the world wide web and Google "Hancock Lodge Fort Leavenworth Porter" I got a hit. The true owner of this coin Brother Richard F. Porter of Lansing, Michigan. Sad to

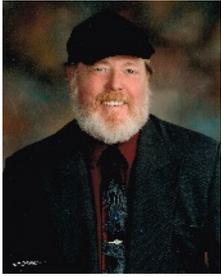
report brother Porter passed away in 2014 he was a 55 year Mason. He went into the army in 1952 he was stationed at Fort Leavenworth were he was raised and passed in 1959. He served in the Vietnam war. A solid man with solid character. My good luck charm for 25 years needs to find a new home back to the family. I was going to give it to our Lodge Secretary since it bares his last name. As I finish this article I gave a quick call to my mother and asked about Fort Leavenworth. She said she remembers not being able to vote for Kennedy in 1960. She wasn't 21 yet. I asked her if the name Porter sounds familiar she said yes kind of she said he probably worked with your father at the prison as a military policeman. Now I have to do more research. So in closing, sorry Brother John PORTER. The coin will be on it's way to Lansing Michigan to the other Porter family.



Below is a link to past master Richard Porter's obit:

https://www.meaningfulfunerals.net/?action=obituaries.obit_view&o_id=2741233&fh_id=13118

Matt Coady - Junior Warden



From the Secretary's Desk

"...a Brother to Pirates and Corsairs."

-B. John J. Robinson, *Born in Blood*

Back in the day, when I was first becoming interested in Masonry, I did a lot of research online to see what it was all about. And discovered, of course, that the Internet is full of disinformation. But to a reasonable person, the wild and crazy theorists come across as—well—wild and crazy. But there was some good information out there, and some of it (like the Shriner system) was quite intriguing. And the rest of my journey into the Craft was, as they say, history.

Now, one of the things that drew me into the Craft was an interest in history. And a book that I read at that time was John J. Robinson's "Born in Blood." For those of you who haven't run across it, this is a really fun read. Robinson (who later became a Mason) wrote this book primarily as an exploration of the Knights Templar, and so while it touches on Masonry there are a number of errors in his assertions about the fraternity. But it's an enjoyable read, and Robinson presented himself as having some reliability as an amateur historian.

It mainly deals with the suppression of the Knights Templar by the Catholic Church. And by suppression, please read "roasting people alive to force false confessions." Philip the Fair (King of France), likely because he owed the Templars more than a King's ransom for money he had borrowed for military campaigns, basically placed Pope Clement under house-arrest and forced the Pontiff to allow him to bring charges against the Templars. This allowed Phil to round them all up without warning (on Friday the 13th) and put them torture. Instead of, you know, paying back what he owed. The remnants of the Templars were, for the most part, forced underground and out-of-sight and their battle fleet simply disappeared from La Rochelle and the pages of history.

The naval battle flag of the Knights Templar was the skull-and-crossbones, which would later see good use as the official unofficial flag of pirates. Robinson postulated that ships of the Templar fleet took to piracy (which is likely) and as one of his rea-

sons to support this claim states that in the MM degree a Mason is told that he will become "...a brother to pirates and corsairs." Which is kind of a neat romantic line of thought, and plays well every 19th of September when "Talk like a Pirate" day rolls around.

Now, there is a certain variability in the ritual of the Craft. The wording in some states is slightly different than in Oregon, and the United Grand Lodge of England has even removed the physical penalties from the obligation—referring to them elsewhere as "the traditional penalties." So there was some possibility that this line of reasoning might have a solid basis. What a neat bit of the Craft to explore! All I had to do was find where in the Craft this particular variation had occurred. I knew from personal experience that it was not in either Washington or Oregon ritual, but surely some digging would reveal its source.

Alas, like many other really neat amateur theories, this was not to be. Nowhere...and I do mean nowhere...was there any actual Mason who vouched for the existence of that phrase in their ritual. Eventually, I would run across references to an interview with Robinson, where he admitted that he did not remember exactly where he got that particular bit of information. So, sadly, I will not be able to claim it as a Masonic act when the next "Talk like a Pirate" day rolls around and I start using "arrrr" in my online posts.

Which is not to say that "Born in Blood" isn't a fine read. Robinson does a great job of presenting the historical background of the suppression of the Templars, and there is a lot of fine information there on their history and accomplishments. But where the Masonic connection is concerned, his theory is (as a friend once phrased it) "bubble-gum



Pewter plate and spoon with Masonic symbols, recovered from the wreck of Black Sam Bellamy's Pirate ship Whydah Gally, which sank in April 1717—two months before the founding of the first Grand Lodge.

for the mind.” Good to chew on, but not much there.

Researching our gentle Craft is, for the contemplative Mason, one of the finer things about being a member of the Fraternity. There are a lot of things out there presented as history, some with great research behind them and some that are at best wild speculation. And sorting the wheat from the chaff can be kind of fun. So as you delve keep an open mind, question everything, but most of all enjoy the journey. With centuries of history behind us, you never know what you might find.

-Walk in light my Brothers.-



The Adventures of a Country Master Mason Abroad

Fraternal greetings from the Southwest of England

Most of us are familiar with the interweaving of history and legend in the Masonic past. I’m not going to address that specifically (this month) but I thought that some history and topics of Masonic interest would be a welcome relief from the usual “travelogue.”

One of the bits of history that we touch upon in our Masonic educations is the connection with medieval operative guilds of stonemasons – specifically those that built the great cathedrals of Europe. While the direct evolution argument is a bit dicey in many ways, there is a direct connection in that the form of the Lodge – the officers and their duties – were taken directly from craft guilds and livery companies. An operative Master Mason from the thirteenth century appearing today would recognize the Master, Wardens, and Deacons and the ceremony involved in opening and closing a Lodge, although the actual ritual/ceremonial bits would be different.

These roles still exist and many of the ceremonial aspects related to them survive intact in the Livery Companies of the City of London – cousins of guilds and fraternities that represent individual crafts and professions. They are ordered by precedence based on decisions by the Aldermen of the city in 1515 for the 48 livery companies at the time; by the date of their charter from that time to the pres-

ent. The oldest extant charter is the Worshipful Company of Weavers (1155) but the first in precedence is the Worshipful Company of Mercers whose original charters were issued in the 12th c. The Weavers are 42nd in precedence which indicates their influence and contribution to the political, economic, and social landscape of early 16th century London. The Mercers, representing wealthy merchants, were placed first.

The Companies are called “livery” companies because many of them adopted clothing (including liveries, basically tabards) that denoted membership – a full member, called a “liveryman”, was entitled to wear the livery of that Company. The companies themselves regulated their trades and crafts within the influence of the city of London ensuring quality and craftsmanship, collecting dues, and controlling admission into the trade which kept wages for quality work higher and provided value, consistency, and reliability to the customer – the Church and Crown. In this way the livery company acted in much the same way that guilds [sic; historically, this is the preferred spelling] did in other large cities through Europe. The modern livery companies perform many of the same functions by establishing codes of conduct and professional guidelines and influencing laws and regulations related to their membership and professions.

They also carry forward their medieval legacy by being major supporters of charity, the military, and education. Each medieval livery company (and guild and fraternity) would have either had their own almshouse or been associated with a larger one. This tradition continues – the Mercers Company, for example, endow Trinity Hospital in Greenwich. Together, they distribute over £40 million (about \$51 million) to charities every year.

Now, you may be saying, “that’s all well and good but what about the Masons?”

I’m glad you asked.



Worshipful Company of Masons

The Worshipful Company of Masons is 30th in precedence in the Livery Companies of the City of London. Their oldest extant charter is 1356, but they were operating long before that. They are still very active in training and educating traditional stonemasons, advocating for the use of natural stone in building works, supporting preservation and restoration work (many will probably be involved in the repairs at Notre Dame over the next several years.) Their charitable work includes The Craft Fund, which supports any charitable endeavor related to maintain the standards of the craft of stonemasonry, preserving or improving stonemasonry, or increasing the interest of the public in stonemasonry. They also contribute to the Lord Mayor's Charitable Fund and to education related charities aimed at providing skills training to school-leavers and promoting stone-skills related programs at universities and trade schools.

They have also started registering or collecting working mason's marks – which will be the topic for next month's column.

Fraternally
-Frank



Some Thoughts from WB Johnny Edwards

Are you a Rule Follower or
Are you Shooting From the
Hip?

I know, I know...

What a strange title for a Masonic article.

Have you ever questioned the validity of the following saying: "When a person gets older they get wiser."

When I was younger I did. I don't anymore.

I'm not perfect, but I know I'm getting wiser with age. We all are.

After being a Lodge officer for the last 18 years, a Past Master several times, a District Deputy for a few years, and a Trustee for my Lodge for too many years to count I have seen all different types of leaders.

Good, bad and in the middle.

I am indeed wiser than I was when I first sat in my First Officers Chair as a Junior Deacon so many years ago.

I am and always will be learning.

Once a Brother becomes a Master Mason every well furnished Lodge will provide a Ritual Book, Standard Manual, Grand Lodge of Oregon Code Book and lastly an Etiquette Book. I know that we as Union No. 3 do that very thing after a Brother is Raised.

The Grand Lodge of Oregon also has for incoming Lodge officers a book called the Officer Handbook.

So we all should have the working tools to run a lodge before becoming an officer of the lodge for the first time.

A question.

What percentage of officers of a Lodge have looked at all of these books and sources before sitting in an officers chair for the first time.

The answer?

It is a low percentage. This I do know.

Why is that?

The answer is in the title of this article.

On this specific topic it can be said there are two different types of Brothers in this Fraternity. The ones who try to follow all the rules of their Jurisdiction and the others who just SHOOT from the HIP when making decisions.

There are Brothers in our jurisdiction and throughout the world that try to follow every bit of the rules that they can get their hands on and other Brothers just kind of pick and choose which rule they will follow. Sometimes Brothers combine and mix up rules to create new ones. This is always interesting to watch.

Only the Great Architect of the Universe truly knows what is right.

It isn't possible to remember to follow all the rules of the lodge all the time. We are all human. However, what should be expected is the eagerness to learn or accept a new rule you were not aware of before and implement it in your Masonic Walk.

Working for the government for over 30 years I have said the following to many rolling eyes, "There is only the right way to do things anything else is

obviously wrong.”

My Brothers. We have a responsibility to serve our lodge, serve our fellow Brothers and serve ourselves in the best way we can.

We were all taught this in our Degrees.

We have an ongoing responsibility to do things in our lodge in the way we are guided to do so by Ritual, Code and other sources provided by the Grand Lodge and our own Lodge of Union No. 3.

We have our young Freemasons observing from the side lines things that are either right or wrong.

The ‘monkey see, monkey do’ effect is in full gear with these younger Freemasons.

They see poor Ritual without seeing correction within the Lodge they will inevitably give poor Ritual when they Prove Up. Why? Because they see that no one cares to seek perfection in their Lodge.

On and on down the slippery slope they will go.

Guaranteed.

Pull out your Ritual and try for perfection.

Do something that all Brothers should do at least yearly. Read your Obligations in all 3 degrees and see if you have erred.

Fix yourself if needed before wise council seeks you out.

Read your Lodge Bylaws and become knowledgeable concerning the two separate groups of Brothers that are responsible for the operation of Union Lodge No. 3. The Lodge side governed by our Elected Worshipful Master and the Trustee side which answers only to the Lodge as a whole. Our Lodge is uniquely different than most. We have two operating businesses along side our Fraternal Lodge responsibilities. This can make the month to month operations of the lodge difficult at times when issues arise.

Open up the Masonic Code and see how Lodges are required to be run from one situation to another.

Turn to the pages of the Oaths in the Standard Manual and read again your oath you took when you were installed as an Officer of your Honorable Lodge and see if you are fulfilling your oath you took in front of your Lodge brothers.

Find the Purple Etiquette book and find out how to properly hold your hands in this Jurisdiction for Prayer and whether as an Officer you should or shouldn't cross your legs while sitting. Small things yes! They are our regulations. These are the RULES.

There is only one way which is the right way, all other ways are the wrong way.

Strive to be a 100% Rule Follower not a Brother who Shoots from the HIP!

May the light of the Ancient Craft shine upon you while you Walk your Masonic Walk.

Fraternally as always,

Johnny
Past Master
Union No. 3





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.](#)

July-August 2019 Calendar

- July 2 - Union # 3 - Stated - 7:30 pm
- July 2 - Holbrook # 30 - Stated - 7:30 pm
- July 3 - Rickreall # 110 - Stated - 7:30 pm
- July 4 - Newberg # 104 - Stated 7:30 pm
- July 6 - Tuality # 7 - Stated - 10:00 am
- July 10 - Sheridan-Dayton - Stated - 7:00 pm
- July 13 - 10:30am: Regional family picnic with Tuality Lodge, Holbrook Lodge, and others at Rood Bridge Park in Hillsboro.
- July 24 - Trustees Meeting 12:30 pm
- August 6 - Union Lodge Stated 7:30 pm