



UNION LODGE # 3 A. F. & A. M. OF OREGON

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MASONIC NEWS & TRESTLEBOARD June 2015

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Greetings from the East!

We are settling into the middle of our Masonic year, with the Annual Communication on the 4th and 5th of June. Our Stated Meeting will be at the normal time on June 2nd, and we will not be going dark this year. We will be switching to summer uniform (slacks and sport shirts) for the months of June, July and August. We also plan on having a picnic/barbeque sometime in July, details to follow.

Last month, I started a little story about the William Morgan Affair. Here's the second part...

Not a lot is actually known about Captain William Morgan. His story begins and ends as a bit of an enigma. William Morgan was born in Culpepper, Virginia, near the time of the Revolutionary War. When he was older, he moved his family to Little York, Ontario. He claimed to have been the owner of a distillery or brewery in Little York (now part of Toronto), where he said he had become a Mason. When the business caught fire and burned down, Mr. Morgan moved his family to Batavia, New York. However, there is no Masonic record of William Morgan, nor can any record be found of the brewery which he supposedly owned. Even his appellation of Captain seems to be in question. Though he claimed to serve under General Andrew Jackson in the War of 1812, no record of such service can be found.

Upon moving to Batavia, William Morgan began attending Lodge. It seems that he was invited by a Brother who assumed he was a Mason, and accepted by the local Lodges on the presumption that the original Brother was vouching for him. The Brother, for his part, presumed that the Lodge would vet Morgan's claim, and thought no more of it. This trusting and lax approach would later be cited by a Masonic investigation for helping to create the conflict which followed.

Morgan was made a York Rite Mason in Leroy, New York. He was evidently very active in degree work, and known for

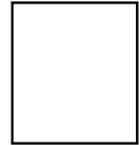
his knowledge of the ritual. However, he didn't seem too concerned with taking care of his family or business obligations, and frequently relied on Masonic Charity. Although he signed the petition for the formation of a York Rite lodge in Batavia, enough Brothers had begun to question his Masonic standing that the petition was redrafted without his signature before being presented to the Grand Lodge of New York.

This evidently was more insult than William Morgan was willing to take, as he contacted a printer named David Miller with his desire to print an expose of the Masons. John Davids and Russell Dyer were brought into the arrangement, and the four men signed an agreement binding them to the project, with severe financial penalties should anyone back out. There have been some reports that the owner of the paper may have been an Entered Apprentice who had been dropped for failing to advance. Whatever their individual motivations, in the summer of 1826 Morgan ran an advertisement in Miller's paper which stated that his book, "Revealing the Secrets of Freemasonry," would soon be available at \$1 per copy. This caused so much anger in the local Lodges that they had to be admonished not to take any action.

All of this local drama was playing out against the backdrop of major political upheaval at the national level. The national political landscape was about to settle into what became known as the "Second Party System," a time when Democrats and Whigs would use slander and patronage to whip the voters into a frenzy, resulting in turnouts of 80 to 90%. All the tensions over slavery and State's rights that would later lead to the Civil War were slowly coming to a boil. There were so many people disaffected with the major parties that a third political party was, for the first time, becoming an historic possibility. Many politicians, seeing an opportunity to advance their own fortunes, were fanning the flames.

And in this supercharged atmosphere, waiting for the smallest spark to set it off, Captain William Morgan was arrested in Canandaigua, New York, for stealing a shirt and tie. He was released for lack of evidence, but immediately arrested again for a debt of \$2.69 to an innkeeper. One day later, a group of men appeared and paid his fine. He was never seen again.

Continued next month



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- June 6** Tuality # 6 Stated 10:00 am
- June 2** Union Lodge # 3 Stated 7:30 pm
- June 2** Holbrook #30 Stated 7:30 pm
- June 3** Rickreall # 110 Stated 7:30 pm
- June 4** Newberg # 104 Stated, 7:30 pm
- June 10** Sheridan-Dayton # 64 Dinner 6:00 pm
Lodge 7:00 pm
- June 30** Union Lodge Trustees 6:30 pm - Officers 7:30pm

Reminder

For our June, July and August Stated meetings we will again change to our **summer uniform**. So put away the suit and tie and relax in slacks and a sport shirt. Call it "business casual" if you please. Just remember, shorts are a major no-no.

A Bit More Masonic Trivia

"The Character of a Freemason"
From the Farmer's Almanac, 1823
Andover, Massachusetts

The real Freemason is distinguished from the rest of Mankind by the uniform unrestrained rectitude of his conduct. Other men are honest in fear of punishment which the law might inflict; they are religious in expectation of being rewarded, or in dread of the devil, in the next world. A Freemason would be just if there were no laws, human or divine except those written in

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his heart by the finger of his Creator. In every climate, under every system of religion, he is the same. He kneels before the Universal Throne of God in gratitude for the blessings he has received and humble solicitation for his future protection. He venerates the good men of all religions. He disturbs not the religion of others. He restrains his passions, because they cannot be indulged without injuring his neighbor or himself. He gives no offense, because he does not choose to be offended. He contracts no debts which he is certain he cannot discharge, because he is honest upon principle."

Thanks to "THE TRESTLE BOARD" Cochran Masonic Lodge #217 F&AM Cochran, Georgia, USA

Of the early American Astronauts, John Glenn, L. Gordon Cooper, Virgil I. (Gus) Grissom, Edwin E. Aldrin, Jr., Thomas P. Stafford, and Donn F. Eisele were members of our "GentleCraft."

In 1892 the world's tallest building was the Masonic Temple at Randolph and State Streets in Chicago.

Massachusetts lodges have no numbers. Pennsylvania has eleven lodges with numbers but no names. Georgia has two lodges identified as number 1, Social #1 and Solomons #1. Neither Maryland, Pennsylvania, or Tennessee has a lodge with the number 1.



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