

THE UNION OBSERVER

JANUARY 2008

LODGE OFFICERS FOR 2008 INSTALLED IN GRAND LODGE CEREMONY

Officers for 2008 of Union Lodge of Strict Observance No. 3, along with those of ten other lodges, were installed by Grand Master Ira Slaven and other Grand Lodge officers, in a joint ceremony held in the Commandery Asylum of the Detroit Masonic Temple on Saturday, December 15, 2007.

The Grand Master installed the eleven Worshipful Masters simultaneously, followed by the other Grand Lodge officers installing their counterparts in like manner.

In Union Lodge's 156th installation of officers,



Robert L. Murphy,
Worshipful Master

Robert L. Murphy, P.M. became the new master of the lodge. Brother Bob resides in Novi and is a past master (1972) of Golden Rule Lodge

No. 159, in Ann Arbor. He affiliated with Union Lodge last year.

Since his retirement, he's kept himself busy through active participation in lodge. Among other Masonic duties, he serves as the Grand Lodge's District Deputy Instructor for District 47.

Officers for 2008:

Bob Murphy, W.M.
Robert Berry, Jr., S.W.
Bill Krebaum, J. W.
Bill Tolles, Treasurer
Phil Kuspa, Secretary
Don Pietruk, Chaplain
Dave Bartell, S.D.
Dave Higgs, J.D.
Norm Martin, Tiler.



Ira S. Slaven,
Most Worshipful Grand Master of
Masons of the State of Michigan

Union Lodge of S. O. No. 3 was organized in Detroit, Michigan in 1851 and received its charter from the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Michigan on Jan. 15, 1852.

JOINT DEGREE WITH MILFORD LODGE SET

Milford Lodge No. 165 will visit the Detroit Temple and initiate an Entered Apprentice in a joint communication with Union Lodge of S.O. on Sat., Feb. 23, 2008.

"After the degree, we'll have lunch and tour the Temple," stated Worshipful Master Bob Murphy.

Lodge will open at 1:00 PM. Arrangements had not been finalized as of press time. Details will be announced in Lodge and will appear in the next issue of *The Union Observer*.

"MASONIC APRONS AND THE LADIES WHO MADE THEM" IS TOPIC AT LODGE DINNER, SUNDAY, JANUARY 13

M.W. Brother Richard H. Sands, P.G.M., will speak on the subject of "Masonic Aprons and the Ladies who made them," at a Union Lodge dinner set for Sunday, Jan. 13 at the Traffic Jam restaurant, at 4:00 PM. Brother Sands will

be assisted in the multimedia presentation by Worshipful Master Bob Murphy.

The two traveled last year to the Library of the Grand Lodge of Iowa to conduct research, and to Kalamazoo Regalia to interview,

on video, some of the women engaged in the creation of Masonic aprons today.

Masons, ladies and guests are invited to attend the event. For information, call Bill Krebaum, Junior Warden, at 734-320-2677.

BROTHER JOHN B. GRAYSON, 1806-1861

By William Krebaum

Col. John B. Grayson appears as Member No. 2 on the lodge register, being one of eleven charter members named on the dispensation dated November 14, 1851, establishing Union Lodge of Strict Observance, U.D.

John Breckenridge Grayson was born at Cabell's Dale, Fayette County, Kentucky in 1806, to a prominent family. His maternal grandfather was John Breckenridge, a congressman from Virginia and later senator from Kentucky, who also served as Thomas Jefferson's second Attorney General. His paternal grandfather was William Grayson of Virginia, who served as an aide-de-camp to Gen. George Washington, rising in rank to Lt. Colonel, and later was a delegate to the Continental Congress and subsequently a U.S. Senator.

Brother Grayson was appointed to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, graduating in 1826. He was an artillery officer early in his career and served at the artillery school at Fort Monroe until 1828. He was then assigned to topographical duties, serving at various posts.

He served in the Seminole War in 1835-36. Rising in rank to Captain, he was assigned to commissary duties, stationed in New Orleans from 1836 to 1847. He was Chief of Commissary of Subsistence of the Army under General Winfield Scott during the Mexican War.

He saw action in several battles in that conflict during 1847. He received field promotions to Major and then to Lt. Colonel for "gallantry and meritorious conduct" at the battles of Churubusco and Chapultepec, respec-



Portrait of John B. Grayson in 1847, shortly before his assignment to Detroit.

tively.

Napoleon famously remarked that "an army travels on its stomach." We cannot be surprised, then, that an officer skilled in keeping the officers and men well provisioned would be most welcome and appreciated. This appears to be the case with John Grayson, who was doubtless considered very well-qualified in his area of expertise, as may be inferred by his election as the first vice-president of the Aztec Club of 1847, and subsequently as its president.

The Aztec Club of 1847 was organized in Mexico City on October 13, 1847, soon after the occupation of that city by General Scott's army. According to an account given by Col. DeLancey Floyd-Jones, one of its founders, "The Club was organized for the pur-

pose of forming a resort for officers, as a promoter of good fellowship, and of furnishing a home where they could pass their leisure hours in social intercourse, and where more palatable and healthful viands could be procured at a reduced price than at the best Fandas of the city."

Brother Grayson was then assigned to commissary duty in Detroit. He was promoted to the permanent rank of Major, during his sojourn in the City of the Straits, in 1852. So we see that, at the time of the founding of Union Lodge of S.O., he held the permanent rank of Captain, although he was generally referred to as "Col." Grayson—it being a common practice to refer to officers by the highest rank attained, even though that may have been higher than their official permanent rank.

During his time in Detroit, Brother Grayson, besides his role in the founding of Union Lodge of S.O., was very active in Templar Masonry, serving as Eminent Commander of Detroit Commandery No. 1, and was presiding officer for the inaugural meeting of Hillsdale Commandery No. 3 and the installation of their first officers.

He succeeded the late Gen. Hugh Brady as leader of the Detroit militia. The beloved Gen. Brady had been a fixture in Detroit for many years, having served under Gen. "Mad" Anthony Wayne against the Indians on the Maumee River (near Toledo) in the 1790s, and fought with distinction in the War of 1812

Over the history of Union Lodge of S.O., many distinguished men have graced the roll of membership. This is the first in an occasional series of biographical sketches of some of our more notable brothers.



Brother Grayson as a General in the Confederate Army in 1861, not long before his death.

in the Northwest.

So, instead of "Brady's Guards," the company of Detroit militia became "Grayson's Guards." After Grayson's departure from Detroit, upon his appointment as Chief of Commissary for the New Mexico territory, the militia company was reorganized as the Detroit Light Guard.

In 1861, Brother Grayson resigned

his commission in the U.S. Army, in favor of the cause of the Confederacy. He was commissioned a Brigadier General by Confederate President Jefferson Davis in that same year, and was appointed commanding officer of the Department of Middle and Eastern Florida.

He contracted "a disease of the lungs" (perhaps pneumonia) and passed to the Celestial Lodge Above on October 21, 1861, at Tallahassee, Florida. His mortal remains were transported to New Orleans by his son, and were interred at Saint Louis Cemetery No. 1.

In an ironic postscript, we note that one of John Grayson's lodge brothers, Horace S. Roberts (No. 16 on the Union Lodge register) would perish while leading the advance of that unit formerly known as Grayson's Guards, in the Second Battle of Bull Run, in August of 1862.

Grayson's Guards had become the Detroit Light Guard in 1855, which then, after the commencement of the Civil War, would comprise Company A of the 1st Michigan

Infantry Regiment.

Lt. Col. Horace S. Roberts, commander of the 1st Michigan, Past Master of Union Lodge of S.O. and Past Grand Master of Masons of the State of Michigan, would follow Brother Grayson into the Celestial Lodge, less than one year after the latter's death in Florida.



Memorial plaque at Saint Louis Cemetery No. 1, New Orleans. (Birth and death dates are off by one year.)

UNION LODGE HISTORY TO BE PRESENTED IN FEB.

Bro. Bill Krebaum is scheduled to present the first chapter of his *History of Union Lodge of S.O. No. 3* at the next meeting of the Michigan Lodge of Research and Information No. 1.

The Lodge will hold a brief business meeting at 10:00 AM on Saturday, Feb. 9, in the Greek Ionic (center) Lodge Room of the Detroit Temple. After the closing of Lodge, ladies and non-Masonic guests are invited

into the room for the presentation of papers.

Bro. Bill relates, "as I researched, I found more and more stories of interesting and notable men whose names appear in the archives of our lodge.

"I realized that I couldn't just write a *paper* on the Lodge's history—it would have to be more like a *book*. So I intend to write and present the history in a series of in-

stallments."

All Masons are welcome to attend the MLRI's tiled business meeting, and all interested persons are welcome to attend the public presentation of papers. Coffee and donuts will be served before the meeting, from 9:00 AM.

Contact Bill Krebaum for information, 734-320-2677.



The Detroit Masonic Temple
Home of Union Lodge since 1926

For Information, Please Contact:

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or

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!
UNIONLODGE.NET

REMEMBER LODGE DINNER, JAN. 13

Time: 4:00 PM

Day: Sunday

Date: January 13, 2008

Cost: Fifteen dollars per person

Place: Traffic Jam & Snug
511 W. Canfield,
at Second, almost one mile
north of the Temple

Contact: Bill Krebaum, 734-320-2677.



First Class Mail

From Brother Secretary's Desk . . .

Life Members: To all who answered the call for donations, a heartfelt, *Thank You!* Union Lodge can breathe a little easier, financially, because of your generosity. One brother made a particularly large contribution and I want to acknowledge him without embarrassing him or any of the other contributors by saying, thank you, W.B. R.B.

25-Year Pin: Last Call— I have heard from about half of the brothers who are eligible for the Grand Lodge 25-Year Pin. The pins will be presented by Past Grand Master Richard Sands, a Union Lodge member, to those brothers who attend our lodge dinner to be held on Sunday, January 13, 2008 at the Traffic Jam restaurant in Detroit. The pins will be mailed to those eligible brothers who cannot attend.

"Lost" Members: Again, I am appealing for help in finding the brothers whom I've been unable to contact. All of them are life members. All of my letters to them, including dues cards, have been returned as undeliverable.

I'm including the month and year that these brothers became Master Masons in order to jog the memory of our "more mature" brothers, who, perhaps, knew these brothers at the time they were raised.

The "lost" members are: Clyde E. Bradley (May, 1953), Edward W. Frymark (Sept., 1957), James A. Golden (June, 1955), Robert L. Jones (April, 1949), Thomas A. Keys (Sept., 1946), Amos C. Kirk (October, 1950) and Edwin C. Zamber (June, 1953). If you know the whereabouts or status of these brothers, living or deceased, please contact me.

I would like to wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas (belatedly) and a very happy, healthy and prosperous new year!

Fraternally,

Philip M. Kuspa, P.M.,

Secretary

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