

— GRAND SECRETARIES BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES —

M.: W.: THOMAS MILBURNE REED (1 [5])

GRAND MASTER – DECEMBER 1862 - NOVEMBER 1863

GRAND MASTER – NOVEMBER 1863 - NOVEMBER 1864

GRAND MASTER – SEPTEMBER 1866 - SEPTEMBER 1867

1ST GRAND SECRETARY – DECEMBER 1858 - DECEMBER 1862

GRAND SECRETARY – NOVEMBER 1865 - SEPTEMBER 1866

GRAND SECRETARY – SEPTEMBER 1867 - OCTOBER 1905²

² *Died in Office, October 7, 1905, Horace W. Tyler appointed to fill vacancy.*

THOMAS MILBURNE REED

Taken from "Not Made with Hands," the Centennial History of the M.: W.: Grand Lodge of F. & A.M. of Washington and Alaska, [Volume I], Page 169

— *By: V.: W.: Paul W. Harvey, Grand Historian, 1933-34, 1934-35 & 1958-59*

Three In a Century

The Grand Lodge of Washington has had the remarkable good fortune of having been served by three dedicated men who measured up to the high requirements of the office. Especially fortuitous is the happy circumstance that these three Grand Secretaries have spanned a century among them, and that the last of them is still running strong.

They were and are Thomas M. Reed, Horace W. Tyler and John I. Preissner.

"Uncle Tom" Reed was our first Grand Secretary. He served from the day Grand Lodge was founded in 1858 until his death in 1905, except for three years when he was Grand Master and one year in 1864 when he was in Idaho Territory on private and official business. Past Grand Master Thornton F. McElroy was elected Grand Secretary in 1862, Past Grand Master Elwood Evans in 1863 and 1864, and R.: W.: Brother W. H. Wood in 1866, when Brother Reed was called upon to serve a third year as Grand Master. His tenure as Grand Secretary covered almost 43 years.

M.: W.: Brother Tyler occupied the post for 39 years.

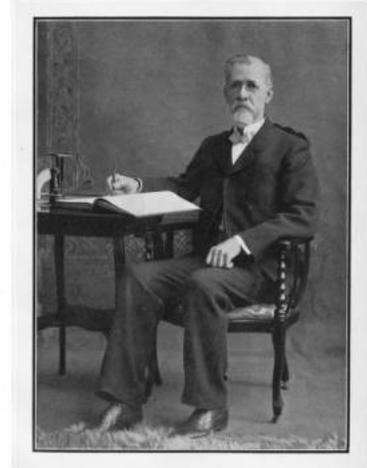
M.: W.: Brother Preissner has now served more than 14 years.

Their service adds up to 96 years. No figures are available to show that in the last century three Grand Secretaries in any other Jurisdiction have equalled this record.

Thomas Milburne Reed

Thomas Milburne Reed was born Dec. 8, 1825 at Sharpsburg, in Bath County, Kentucky. He was of Scotch Presbyterian descent and he early displayed a strong, independent character. He demonstrated this when he applied for the Masonic Degrees. The Morgan Affair still had its repercussions when he was a young man, and some of his relatives and friends were bitter enemies of Masonry without knowing anything about it.

Young Tom Reed decided to investigate for himself. He talked with several respected members of the Fraternity, decided that the public bias against Masonry was based on falsehood, and concluded that



M.: W.: Thomas Milburne Reed

Grand Master

December 1862 – November 1863

November 1863 – November 1864

September 1866 – September 1867

Grand Secretary

December 1858 – December 1862

November 1865 – September 1866

September 1867 – October 1905**

** *Died in Office, October 7, 1905,
Horace W. Tyler appointed to fill vacancy.*

he should identify himself with the Craft. He was raised in Halloway Lodge, No.153, in his home county on June 7, 1847, soon after he reached his majority. Kentucky Lodges conducted their business in the First Degree, and he was elected Secretary of his Lodge even before he was made a Master Mason. Never did he cease his labors for our institution through the 58 remaining years of his long life.

He worked on a Kentucky farm, taught school for a brief time and clerked in a store. He felt the surge of patriotism during the war with Mexico and volunteered in a local company, but it was not called to active duty.

To California For Gold

The course of his life was changed when he heard the news of the gold discovery in California in 1848. He determined to seek his fortune in the West. He and a friend travelled by way of the Isthmus of Panama and reached San Francisco on July 26, 1849 after a journey of five months.

He prospected for gold for two years with small success. He then decided to capitalize on the knowledge of merchandising he had acquired in Kentucky and he opened a general store at Georgetown in El Dorado County in the Mother Lode country. His business prospered and so did his Masonry. He became the Master of two California Lodges, Georgetown No.25 and Acacia No.92. He was appointed Grand Marshal of California in 1857. However before that year expired he decided to sell his business at Georgetown, which had declined as a mining center, and to settle on Puget Sound.

This young Forty-Niner had acquired wide knowledge and experience during his eight years in California. He had served as Postmaster, County Treasurer and Supervisor, and as a Justice of the Peace in addition to conducting his own business. He had studied law in order to fill the Justice of the Peace post with more ability. He was admitted to the bar and he came to be regarded as a capable attorney, but he practiced for only a short time in Idaho.

Was Territorial Legislator

Tom Reed debarked from a ship at Seattle in 1857, and immediately went to Olympia, the leading town in the Territory. There he reentered the mercantile business, and likewise resumed his connection with Wells Fargo & Co. as its local agent in its banking and express business. Gold mining was still on his mind and he became interested in some properties at Florence in the Idaho country. He spent considerable time there while retaining his home in Olympia.

He was elected to the Washington Territorial Legislature from Idaho County and served as its Speaker in 1862-63, and he was Prosecuting Attorney and Deputy Collector of Internal Revenue in Idaho for a season. He was elected to the first Legislature of the new Idaho Territory from Nez Perce County in 1864.

For a second time Brother Reed endeavored in vain to serve his country at war. He was chosen captain of a company of volunteers raised at Olympia, but it was not called into service for the Union because of the cost and trouble of moving it to the seat of battle.

The end of the Civil War found him back at his Olympia home. From 1865 to 1872 he was chief clerk in the office of the U.S. Surveyor General. He devoted most of his effort from 1872 to 1880 to surveying public lands in Western Washington, in either a private or official capacity. He was elected to the Territorial Council, upper branch of the Legislature, in 1877 as representative of Lewis and Thurston Counties. He then was chosen Territorial Auditor, and held this post from 1878 to 1888. He was a member of the convention which framed the present Washington State Constitution in 1889.

First State Auditor

Running for State Auditor, he led the Republican ticket at the first general state election in 1889, proof that he had the confidence of the people of the new commonwealth. After his term as Auditor ended in 1893, he devoted less and less time to private affairs and more and more to his increasing duties as Grand Secretary. This post finally occupied all his time and energy.

Those who knew him well described “Uncle Tom” as a dignified man of fine presence. He was rather tall but slender. He walked and sat upright. He was neat in his dress. He was by no means an extrovert, but he was genial. He had a reputation as a fine whist player. While he was patient and kindly, his temper could be aroused and his speech could become vehement.

He founded an influential family. He was thrice married, two of his wives having died. His first marriage was in Kentucky in 1853 when he made a trip to his old home from California. Two sons were born to this union, Thomas Milburne Reed, Jr., was a Superior Court Judge at Olympia, and later U.S. Commissioner at Nome, Alaska. He became an organizer and Master of Anvil Lodge, No.140, there, the most westerly Masonic Lodge in North America. Marcus Edward (Mark) Reed, became president of the Simpson Logging Co. of Shelton, Speaker of the House of the State Legislature, and a political leader in the state. He was a Past Master of Olympia Lodge, No.1, and prominent in Masonic affairs for years.



THOMAS M. REED
Grand Master 1862-4, 66-7
Died Oct. 7, 1905

Our Grand Secretary by his second marriage was the father of a daughter who became the wife of Dr. George W. Ingham of Olympia, and by his third wife of a son, Garneti Avery Reed, who was also a Mason and a respected resident of Shelton.

William G. Reed, grandson of Thomas M. Reed and son of Mark Reed, is now head of the Simpson Logging Co., which long ago broke its bonds in Mason County and expanded afar into Oregon, California and other states. This present head of the family resides in Seattle and is one of the farseeing industrialists of the Pacific Northwest, and is an officer or director of important financial and business enterprises.

A Founder of Grand Lodge

Our future Grand Secretary affiliated with Olympia Lodge on July 5, 1858. His experience and learning in Masonry made him an outstanding member, and he became Master of the Lodge two years later. It has been recited in an earlier chapter how he took a leading part, and perhaps the foremost role, in the formation of Grand Lodge; how he made trips to Steilacoom and Grand Mound to arouse the interest of the brethren there, and how he enlisted the cooperation of Washington Lodge at Vancouver through its Past Master, Judge O. B. McFadden, at that time Chief Justice of Washington Territory.

As already written, Brother Reed was installed as our first Grand Secretary on his 33rd birthday on Dec. 8, 1858. He was also our first Grand Lecturer, and as such took the first strong steps to establish uniformity in our work. He was largely responsible for our early rituals and laws, and for their evolution over several decades.

As our Foreign Correspondent for 30 years he became an authority on Masonry throughout the world. He came from a small Jurisdiction far off in an isolated corner of the nation, but his reviews were so clear and his observations so judicious and so imbued with Masonic principles that he had a strong influence on the Fraternity wherever dispersed.

He Inspired Early Leaders

Those who worked with him in the difficult pioneer days of struggle, and sometimes of disappointment, credit him with searching out young Masons of ability, and encouraging them to assume responsibility in their own Lodges and in Grand Lodge. It has been asserted that the high quality of our early Grand Masters, when our Craft was fighting for a foothold, was largely due to Tom Reed.

When death overtook him on Oct. 7, 1905 in his 80th year, he was esteemed as the most notable Mason in our Grand Jurisdiction, and the one who had done most for it. He was also the Grand Secretary of longest service in the nation.

“For nearly half a century he has been the most important factor in Freemasonry in Washington,” Grand Master Abraham Lincoln Miller told Grand Lodge in 1906. “It is interwoven with his life, and neither can be complete without the other.”

Brother Miller reported that “on a beautiful October afternoon, with a cloudless sky, attended by a large concourse of his brethren and friends, we carried his remains to a lovely spot.” That was in the Olympia Masonic Cemetery, where so many Masons have stood in reverence before his monument over the years. Past Grand Master Louis Ziecler, his bosom friend, came from Spokane to conduct the Masonic services as he had promised to do, should occasion ever require it, a score of years before.

A bust of Brother Reed was presented to Grand Lodge at its 1906 Session, which voted unanimously that “when our Home is established it be designated the Reed Memorial Home.” That was not done, but a perpetual memorial was erected in his remembrance when Thomas M. Reed Lodge, No.225, was chartered in Seattle in 1919.

John Arthur’s Eulogy

In his beautiful and inspired eulogy at the 1906 Session Past Grand Master John Arthur said of his dear friend and associate:

“There was nothing wishy-washy in the character, the conduct, the Masonry or the daily walk or conversation of this man; he was a stalwart in every phase of his life; he was the outspoken enemy of all indirection; he was the soul of honor in all transactions with his fellow men; his unselfish devotion to the public interest and needs of the community in which he lived brought him to the verge of financial ruin and cost him a fortune; his guiding star alike in public and private life was the strictest integrity; and

“Thus he bore, without abuse

“The Grand old name of Gentleman.”

Brother Reed’s life and career was the subject of Grand Orator Bertil E. Johnson of Destiny Lodge, No.197, of Tacoma in 1937. Judge Johnson said in a longer retrospect that his outstanding impulse was to “be charitable to all mankind, be ever-loving, kind and tolerant. . . . He often had been heard to say, ‘If you cannot speak a good word of a man, then it were better to remain silent.’”

And finally Past Grand Master William H. Upton wrote of him: “Thomas Milburne Reed has been not only far and away the most influential man ever connected with Washington Masonry, but one of the broadest and soundest teachers of Masonry which America has produced.”

While Brother Reed was our Grand Secretary the Fraternity grew from 113 members in 1858 to 9,880 in 1905, and from 4 Lodges to 137. No inconsiderable part of this growth was due to his vision, his steady labor toward a defined goal and his mastery and practice of the Masonic philosophy.

IN MEMORIAM
THOMAS MILBURNE REED

BY: M.: W.: JOHN ARTHUR

Taken from our 1906 Grand Lodge Proceedings, Volume XVI, Part I, Page 64-76

M.: W.: Grand Master and Brethren:

The grief of King David over the death of Abner, the son of Neb, the captain of Saul's host, found touching expression in his question to his servants: "Know ye not that there is a prince and a great man fallen this day in Israel?" So might our M.: W.: Grand Master have asked the Freemasons of Washington when on the 8th day of October, 1905, he learned that our noble and faithful Grand Secretary, Thomas Milburne Reed, had passed to his final reward.

Bro. Reed was called away from us in the fullness of time. He had gone well into his 80th year, and had survived all but one or two of his brethren who were associated with him in the organization and establishment of this Grand Lodge forty-seven years previously. He was born at Sharpsburg, Bath county, Kentucky, on December 8, 1825.

He was of that Northern Irish Presbyterian stock which came to America by the hundreds of thousands in Colonial days upon the wholesale destruction by the British Government of Ireland's extensive manufacturing industries, on account of their being dangerous rivals to England's factories and commerce. These immigrants brought with them not only a bitter hatred of that Government, but also the resolution to establish and pursue in the Colonies, under the protection of long distances and scattered settlements, the industrial arts to which they had been brought up in their native land; only to find that the foremost champion of the Colonists in the British Parliament, the great Earl of Chatham himself, would not permit them, as he expressed it, so much as to make a hat or manufacture a hobnail. I need not tell any student of our Revolutionary period that those Presbyterian immigrants and their descendants were the most resolute, radical and irreconcilable of all the foes of England in the Colonies, and that they all were intensely American in their loves and in their hatreds; and to those who were close to Bro. Reed it is equally well known that he cherished to the last all those sentiments of sturdy, independent, uncompromising Americanism which their self-reliant religion, their democratic church polity, their racial antipathies, their sore political grievances, and the heavy financial losses to which they had been subjected by a cruel policy of national selfishness, all made it so easy for them to imbibe and to perpetuate. Kentucky being, as Henry Clay said, a transplanted Ireland, in which Presbyterianism was the dominant religion, those sentiments were from the outset sedulously cultivated there, and carefully bequeathed from sire to son. These circumstances of heredity and environment had their large part in moulding the character and influencing the mind of Bro. Reed. All through his life he clung with unflinching tenacity to the doctrines and the principles which had become an integral portion of his inheritance.

When the Southern States decided that in order to preserve the system of African slavery from constant assaults by the North they must withdraw from the Union and appeal to England to support them in the impending conflict with the North, Bro. Reed lost no time in taking sides with the Union. His Americanism was aroused and he became an unwavering supporter of the Federal Government. His patriotism could brook no compromise.

In an age of crumbling creeds, dissolving theologies, destructive Biblical criticism, and growing indifference to church membership and to the fundamentals of Christianity, Bro. Reed preserved unshaken the faith of his ancestors and never ceased to take an active part in the management of the Presbyterian congregation to which he belonged. He was indeed, a model Christian. Whilst a firm believer in the doctrines taught by his own church, he was a sincere friend of all other churches and was free from all trace or suspicion of bigotry. He was on terms of intimate friendship with more than

one priest of the Roman Catholic faith, and he would fight as hard and as readily for the rights of the Communion as for those of his own.

He judged men by their characters and their works, and not by their creeds or their want of creeds. In all the controversies of the age, religious, political, or Masonic,

“He had kept
The whiteness of his soul, and thus men o’er him wept.”

Bro Reed’s mother died when he was only twelve years of age. The family fortunes had reached a low ebb, for his father had become surety on promissory notes for friends in financial distress and had in consequence lost his own property. In sadness and humiliation the father left the old home and migrated to another part of Kentucky. Thomas was then only fourteen and he was committed to the care of his maternal uncle, James Workman. He labored on his uncle’s farm for eight dollars a month and his board during nine months of the year. The winter months were devoted to school. Out of the seventy-two dollars earned in the working season he clothed himself and paid for his winter schooling. The purchasing power of money in that simple and rural community at that time was much greater than it is now in our industrial settlements; and young Thomas was doing better than would appear at first blush. After four years of this life he struck out for something higher. In a neighboring county he was employed to teach a country school. He filled this station for a season with satisfaction to all hands, but with exceeding difficulty to himself. Many of his pupils had had a more thorough training than the teacher; but he resolved that they should never find it out; he was going to be the master in fact as well as in name. He took no rest or recreation, but employed all his time – sometimes far into the night – in getting a good grasp of the subjects and problems embraced in his curriculum. He had his hardest struggle with mathematics, in which some of his boys were quite proficient; and he often had sore apprehensions that these would discover the severe limitations of his own learning in that important branch of study; but they never did; his courage, his pride and his tact bore him triumphantly through all his pedagogic trials, and he was voted a success as a teacher.

This experience probably contributed in a large measure to the high intellectual development which Bro. Reed afterwards attained. His old associates in this Grand Lodge know how quick-minded and clear-headed he was in the deliberations of this body; and although he did not remain long at the practice of the law, he was known among the legal fraternity as one who possessed a fine legal mind and who had the faculty of readily applying the correct fundamental principles to a given state of facts. It was this faculty which, in combination with intellectual honesty and high character, made him a great name in the Masonic world beyond the confines of Washington. For more than thirty years he reviewed the Masonic proceedings of the world for this Grand Lodge. That was a formative period in American Masonic jurisprudence. The Fraternity was recovering from the ruin wrought by the Morgan episode and was trying to adjust itself to an altered world. Many of its reviewers or correspondence writers had rather hazy notions of landmarks and principles and were taking positions which struck Bro. Reed as being fallacious and dangerous. He entered with high spirit upon the task of converting these uninformed brethren to juster views and wiser policies. Although he represented a very small jurisdiction on the northwestern edge of the Republic, he became a power in shaping the course of American Masonry and establishing it upon sound and solid foundations. European Masonic writers soon recognized in this Kentucky lad of limited educational opportunities one of the best informed and most judicious of American reviewers, and one of the safest guides possessed by the Fraternity.

To return to Kentucky: After a summer’s experience as a school teacher, young Reed secured a position in a country store. As was inevitable, he earned various promotions in the course of the five years following. He became general manager of the business in stores of considerable importance, and was considered a promising young man. He was maturing fast. He had a mind of his own. His logical faculties enabled him to perceive the folly of much that he heard daily in the store and in the neighborhood. He took nothing for granted, but critically considered each question on its own merits. When the talk turned upon the wickedness

and the criminal practices of the Freemasons, he took no part in it, but determined to find out for himself how much or how little truth there was in the charges which everybody was making against them.

The next year after Bro. Reed's birth William Morgan's "Illustrations of Freemasonry," purporting to reveal the secrets of the Fraternity, with its grips, signs and tokens, appeared in Batavia, New York. Some foolish Masons lost their weak heads and acted as if the end of the world had come. Morgan was last heard of at Lewiston, on the Niagara river. Whether he was kidnapped, killed, drowned, bought off, or he committed suicide, the world will never know. His disappearance was a match applied to the magazine. The pent-up hostility exploded. The detonation was terrific. The country went wild. All Masons fell under suspicion, and the ignorant mob regarded them all as murderers. The Craftsmen of the present day, who see the Fraternity basking in the sunshine of popular esteem and favor, can have but a faint conception of the widespread ruin and destruction caused by the mysterious fate of Morgan. Let one concrete example suffice at this time:

Union Lodge, No. 121, of Philadelphia, was organized October 24, 1810. It was composed of fine material. Meetings were held daily, and the three degrees were in several cases conferred by dispensation the same evening. Its members were not the kind of men to be easily stampeded; and so for three years it withstood the storm; but at last even its aristocratic thoroughbreds were cowed by the popular animosity, and while they kept up the payment of their dues – \$9 a year – and kept the Lodge in good standing by the payment of Grand Lodge dues, the attendance at the meetings fell off, and the regular meetings had often to be dispensed with. In one year only one regular meeting was held. Sometimes at regular meetings only one officer would be present. December 18, 1841, more than fifteen years after the disappearance of Morgan, the Lodge closed, to meet at the call of the Master, who did not call it again together until October 20, 1842. The next meeting was in December, 1843, when it was found that only four Craftsmen had retained their membership in the Lodge.

Such was the fate of one of the most high-spirited and faithful Lodges in-the country. Bro. Reed, free from silly boyishness and serious-minded and thought ful beyond his years, was in his teens carefully pondering the strange peculiarities of the raging fanaticism. His people all shared it. He could get nothing impartial from them. Without knowing Latin, he knew in his honest heart the Roman principle and injunction, *Audi alteram partem* (Hear the other side). He learned that in the neighborhood resided an old man who was a Mason, and him he sought. When young Tom Reed was assured by the veteran that there was no truth in the charges made against the Masons, he resolved to join them upon reaching the age of twenty-one; and he did so. This showed the sterling integrity of his character. To emphasize his disapprobation of falsehoods, slander and calumnies, he was going to take a step which would probably lead to a break with all his relations and seriously menace his future. Thus early in life his nobility of soul shone resplendent; he brushed aside all considerations affecting his own social standing and his financial prospects, and on March 30, 1847, less than four months after reaching the age of twenty-one, he was made a Mason in Holloway Lodge, No. 153, in his native Bath county. He received on June 7, 1847, the Sublime Degree; but before this time he had become secretary of his Lodge, which in those days transacted all business on the first degree. His next move was almost immediately to enlist as a volunteer in the war with Mexico, but his company's services were not needed and the company was disbanded. He had a similar experience in Olympia, his new home in Washington Territory. On the outbreak of the civil war he was chosen Captain of a company of volunteers, but on account of the large expense of transportation the Government declined its services.

Life in a Kentucky country town was far from satisfying the brave spirit and honorable ambition of Tom Reed. When the news of the great gold discoveries in 1848 in California found its way into the blue-grass state, he besought his young associates to cut loose and to strike for the Eldorado on the Pacific. Five of them agreed to go; only one lived up to the agreement. Reed and this faithful one started from Maysville, Kentucky, February 23, 1849, and came by the Isthmus of Panama to

California. They reached San Francisco on July 26, 1849; – a journey of five months and three days. It is interesting in this connection to recall his own words:

“I did not return to my old Kentucky home until after I had been in California about five years. When I got there, I found this old uncle, who had been so severe, a Royal Arch Mason! I had one brother older than myself, and I found him a Master Mason; he afterward became a Royal Arch Mason. Another brother, who became of age after I left there, was a Master Mason. These were all the living brothers I had. Such a remarkable change had taken place! In place of Masonry being unpopular at that time in Kentucky it was almost too popular. The Lodge was flourishing; and the Chapter was in the same hall. They had built a new hall, and in it I took the Chapter Degrees. Rev. Ralph Harris was the Master of our Lodge. When I took the Degrees from that man I thought I had never in my life heard anything so beautiful. He was an eloquent man; he was a good ritualist; and the lessons as taught by him made a deep impression upon all the candidates that were initiated, passed and raised by that Lodge.”

This exemplary Master was a Presbyterian minister, and had come from Virginia to Kentucky. Before Reed had attained his twenty-first year, Daggett, the constable in the Justice Court held by Reed’s uncle, James Workman, said to him:

“Tom, that new preacher, you know, that comes up to your uncle’s, your old home, is a Mason.” “Is he?” said Reed. “If he is, he cannot stay here.” “Well,” replied Daggett, “I am afraid they will run him out if they find it out, but we are going to get up a Lodge here, and there is enough old men to do it.”

They got up the Lodge and Reed joined it. As the friends of Tom Reed, both Harris and Daggett will live in our Masonic annals.

It was on the occasion of this visit to the old home that Bro. Reed, on October 20, 1853, at Upper Blue Licks, Kentucky, wedded Miss Elizabeth Hannah Finley, by whom he had two children who survive and are Craftsmen: Hon. Thomas Milburne Reed, former Judge of the Superior Court of Washington, sitting at Olympia, and now United States Commissioner at Nome, Alaska, and Senior Warden of Anvil Lodge at that place; and Marcus Edward Reed, manager of the extensive business of the Simpson Logging company, and Past Master of Olympia Lodge, No. 1. Although not in chronological order, it may not be inappropriate to mention here that by his second wife, nee Eliza Carter Giddings, he had a daughter, Emma Eliza Reed, who is the wife of a prominent physician in Olympia, Dr. George W. Ingham; while by his third marriage, to Hattie A. Fox, he had a son, Garnett Avery Reed, who is also a Mason and who holds a responsible position in a large mercantile house in Shelton, Mason county, Washington.

All of Bro. Reed’s surviving children are married, respected and prosperous.

Upon his arrival in California Bro. Reed engaged at once in the pursuit of the golden fleece. After a two years’ chase, with only moderate success, he entered the business with which he was most familiar – the keeping of a general store – at Georgetown in El Dorado county. Here he had for his partner John Conness, who was about five years his senior and who was afterward elected United States Senator from California. Mr. Conness, after his service in the Senate, removed to Boston, Massachusetts, where he still lives. He and Bro. Reed kept up an epistolary correspondence to the last; and it was a genuine delight to Bro. Reed and myself to note how firm, steady, elegant and clear was the handwriting of this patriarch even in his eighty-fourth year. Conness has never been a Mason, but his son became one and the father expressed to Bro. Reed his gratification over the event. For fifty-five years these two grand men esteemed and loved each other. Bro. Reed used to tell me that his “old Irish partner,” as he called him (for Conness was a native of the Emerald Isle), was “as true a man as ever lived.”

In California, Bro. Reed served as Master of two Lodges. He took the Templar degrees in that state, in Sacramento Encampment, in February, 1857; three years later, in San Francisco, he took the degree of Royal and Select Master in California Council, No.2. In Washington he served Capitular Masonry as Grand High Priest and Grand Secretary; and Templar Masonry as Grand Recorder and Grand Treasurer. He attained the 33rd degree in the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States. He was, almost from its foundation, one of the loved and honored members of Afifi Temple of the Ancient Arabic Order of Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, situated at Tacoma; but he took no office in it, always pleading his advanced age as ground for being excused.

Although he thus bore his part in the guidance of the Concordant Orders, and was warmly appreciative of their ritualistic beauties and the excellence of their teachings, he never lost his head over them. He considered their true function to be that of aids to Ancient Craft Masonry; and he used to lose patience with those Craftsmen who neglected the Lodge in order to give all their spare time to Chapter, Commandery, etc. The first Degree in Masonry was to him the most impressive in the whole cabinet of ritualism. Rev. Ralph Harris brought out its great moral force and beauty, and he had an apt pupil in young Tom Reed.

The scenes shifted in California, and Georgetown lost its importance. Bro. Reed resolved to try the new country up north on Puget Sound. He loved to show me the spot where he landed in Seattle in the year 1857. Olympia was then the capital of the Territory, as it now is of the State, and it was much more of a place than Seattle; so to Olympia he went. Having served in California as an agent for Wells, Fargo & Co.'s Express, he was at once given its agency in Olympia. He also kept a store there. He became interested in the Florence Gold Mines in Idaho.

In California he had filled such positions as Postmaster, County Treasurer, County Supervisor, and Justice of the Peace, which led him to the study of law; and so in Idaho he was pressed into service as Prosecuting Attorney and as a member of the Territorial Legislative Assembly, although he never changed his residence from Olympia. From 1865 to 1872 he was, in that city, the chief clerk in the office of the Surveyor General of the United States for Washington Territory.

From 1872 to 1880 he devoted most of his time to the survey of the public lands in Western Washington – sometimes in an official capacity, and at other times as a contractor. In the year 1877 the counties of Thurston and Lewis elected him to the Territorial Council, the equivalent of our State Senate, which elected him its president. At the close of the session he was made Auditor of the Territory, which position he held until January, 1888.

In 1809 he was elected a member of the Convention to frame a constitution for the State. In the same year he was elected State Auditor, and he received the highest vote, notwithstanding the popularity of several of his associates on the Republican ticket. He filled this office, with great benefit to the state and much credit to himself, until January, 1893. This term closed his career as a public servant.

For a man whose independence and integrity were always of the aggressive kind, and so never to the liking of political manipulators, Thomas M. Reed occupied a surprisingly large number of public stations. He commanded the esteem and confidence of the whole people. "Honest Tom Reed" became a favorite appellation for him. The training which he got from boyhood in mercantile life and in public office proved of great value to the Grand Lodge of Washington. The accounting system for it which he devised and established is a model of intelligence and thoroughness.

From December 8, 1858, his thirty-third birthday, when he was installed as its first Grand Secretary, to the day of his death, nearly forty-seven years later, he loved and cherished this Grand Lodge with marvelous devotion. Once, while in Idaho, he missed a Stated Communication; he did not miss another until June, 1905, when that sickness which proved to be his last confined him to his bed. His inability to attend this Grand Communication at Bellingham was a source of intense and

pathetic disappointment to him. He found it hard to realize that his stock of vitality was so greatly reduced. I visited him a few days before the opening of the Grand Lodge and joined the family and the physicians in dissuading him from the attempt to go to Bellingham, a distance of about 150 miles from Olympia; but it required the stern and positive prohibition of the physicians to restrain him and make him keep to his bed. During the three-days' Communication of the Grand Lodge he kept his watch open on the chair at the head of the bed and timed each step of the proceedings.

“They are now calling the roll of the Lodges”; “the Grand Master is now reading his address”; “Bro. Tyler is reading my report”; “the Grand Orator is now speaking”; “the Grand Lodge takes a recess”; – such was the tenor of his talk to the family for those three days in June, 1905. The Grand Lodge's dispatch to him did much to soften his disappointment. It was like a cheerful message from a loved child.

St. Paul complained that he had to “take care of all the churches”; but it was Bro. Reed's delight to feel that every Lodge in the Grand Jurisdiction was under his special care and guardianship. When in August, 1905, I sailed for Bering Sea to constitute Anvil Lodge at Nome and install its officers, Bro. Reed tried to time my whereabouts and movements from day to day as he had timed the proceedings of the Grand Lodge. He felt that he was fast losing ground, and he wanted to hear from me as to the character, condition and prospects of that Lodge before the service of the final summons upon him. As the month of September waned and no word came from me, his anxiety became intense, and twenty times a day he would ask:

“Have you heard from Bro. Arthur? Have you telephoned to his office to see if they have heard? Have you read the Seattle papers carefully? Has any steamer arrived from Nome? When is the next steamer due?” etc., etc.

He was constantly assured that upon my arrival I would start at once for Olympia. The messages that awaited me told of his rapid decline, and that I must come without delay if I expected to see him alive. When they told him that I had reached home and was on my way to Olympia, he seemed to take a fresh lease of life. There was new strength in his voice and he gave minute directions as to bringing me at once to the house without stopping at any hotel, having a good supper prepared for me, seeing that a certain room was properly fitted up for my occupancy, etc.; and he electrified family and physicians by saying to the nurse:

“Ida, have a good toddy ready when Bro. Arthur arrives, for he and I will have a toddy together.”

With a joyous heart Ida, who was very fond of her patient, concocted the toddy. When, with proper ceremony, the Kentucky favorite was dispatched by him and me, he said, with a semi-reproachful twinkle of the eye:

“Ida, that wasn't a very strong toddy you gave me!”

Ida protested that it was the same as mine; but as I am a poor judge in that matter, my opinion that it was a splendid toddy may carry little weight.

All through that evening Bro. Reed wanted to do as much talking as I; and I kept up a running fire of objections to his interrupting me, such as,

“Now, Bro. Reed, let me do some of this talking; I want to tell you a good deal more about Anvil Lodge; how every Mason sprang to his feet when your name was mentioned; how at the two elaborate banquets which they tendered to me, you were much more the hero than I was; how they drank your health in champagne and hoped that you would recover your strength and visit them next year; and how every man of them charged me to give his love to you,” etc., etc.

The tears of grateful appreciation would stream down his cheek as I told him that in the most Northern and most Western Masonic Lodge in the United States his very name was an inspiration to the Craftsmen.

Although his death had been looked for at any moment, this story of affection and admiration from the far North cheered up his heart and stimulated his imagination. It added two weeks to his honored life. Those two weeks I spent with him. One of his dearest wishes was vouchsafed by Heaven; he died in gloriously fine weather and we buried him on an October day that would be a credit to July.

Another wish very dear to his heart was fulfilled. Fifteen or twenty years before, a fraternal compact was made between three Past Grand Masters of Washington: Colonel Granville O. Haller, U.S.A., of Seattle; Hon. Louis Ziegler, of Spokane (Past Senior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge of Illinois); and Hon. Thomas Milburne Reed, of Olympia, that one or other of the survivors should conduct and perform the Masonic ceremony at the burial of the departed. Bro. Haller passed away first, and Bro. Ziegler officiated. Bro. Reed followed next. When we informed Grand Master Miller of the compact, he gracefully and generously invited Bro. Ziegler to take his place and conduct at the grave the Masonic ceremonies over the remains of his dear and departed friend. The magnificent attendance of Masons from all corners of Washington will not soon forget the words of philosophy, love and eulogy so touchingly pronounced on that occasion by the last survivor of the three parties to the compact. They were worthy of Reed and worthy of Ziegler. *Par nobile Fratrum.*

What shall I say of the grace and sweetness with which Thomas Milburke Reed met and bore the fast-growing years? How shall I tell you of that glorious boyish spirit which even in his later seventies made him-one of ourselves, and not at all an old man?

How neat and tasteful was he in his attire! How sympathetic was he with youth and inexperience! What a warm personal interest he took in the new members of the Grand Lodge, and how eager was he to help them along in every way! How he would encourage them to study and to foster Ancient Craft Masonry! And how the young men warned to him! And if in the laudatory references to him at the Lodge meetings, banquets and functions which he attended he was mentioned as “our venerable Grand Secretary,” how pleasantly would he receive my repudiation of the adjective and my insistence that there was nothing “venerable” about him, and that he was a ringleader among our younger set and generation!

How shall I bring home to you the full import of the fact that whenever he visited me in Seattle – which was just as often as he could snatch a day or two from his work and his anxieties in the office of the Grand Secretary, to him the loveliest position on earth – the game of whist, in which he was a Past Master, found him at one o’clock in the morning as lively as a kitten, while Tyler, or Rinehart, or Limerick, or Taylor, or myself, was struggling hard to keep his eyes open and make a pretense of enjoying the cards and their ever-varying illustrations of the doctrine of chance? How quickly he would notice our false plays, and how magnanimous was he in forgivingly smiling at our want of skill! And then how we loved him! And when we parted with him at the hotel, we would say to each other: “He will live to a hundred years!” But it was not to be. The sciatic rheumatism had got a firm grip on him. He fought it as only such a noble spirit could fight; but the infernal pain was relentless. He suffered intensely for years and he could get no relief. We suffered with him, but all in vain. He contracted a cold while attending a circus at Olympia in the latter part of April, 1905. He never recovered from it. We prayed and we hoped; but the Grand Old Man of Masonry in the State of Washington had received his death sentence. The remaining months were only a respite from execution.

Bro. Reed was an impressive personality. Tall, spare, straight as an arrow until recent years, with eyes of fire and force, a genial manner and a bearing of easy, natural dignity, he would attract attention in any concourse of men and would at once be acknowledged as a man to be reckoned with. He was by nature kindly, considerate and patient; but back of all of this was the sleeping lion, whom an undeserved prod might awake to resistless fury.

When Bro. Reed was engaged in the mercantile business at a mining town in California, the bully of the neighborhood formed the resolution of picking a quarrel with him and thereby adding another

trophy to the well-filled belt. Reed bore with him for a time as became a good Presbyterian and a good Mason; but the bully was out for blood and he finally struck a vicious blow at Reed. The blow was deftly warded off, and it became Reed's turn to act. That bully spent two weeks recuperating, while Reed escaped without a scratch. Nobody else, after that event, forgot his politeness in Reed's presence.

In the days of the Civil war the Territory of Idaho was regarded as a hotbed of secession sentiment. The Internal Revenue officers of the Federal Government were unable to collect the taxes levied under the Act of Congress. Tom Reed was appealed to. He accepted the perilous task. He soon realized, if he had not previously, what it meant. At the hotel where he put up in Idaho when he entered upon his mission, all the men were outspoken sympathizers with the South, and when his errand became known there was no restraint upon the language of reprobation and scorn to which he listened in the dining-room and around the hotel. Nobody would sit at the table with him. Finally the leading stock raiser of the region went "to him and said:

"Reed, do you think you are going to get any money here for the support of your infernal Yankee Government?" "Yes," answered Reed, "I do; and I expect you to pay me this day what you owe the Government of the United States under the Internal Revenue law, for I am going to leave here today and I am going to take that money with me."

The cattleman laughed at the absurdity of the idea, and his friends gathered around him and joined in the laugh; but there was something in that flashing eye of Reed's which the cattleman did not like; he did not like the firmly-compressed lips and the fearless bearing; he did not like the serene composure with which this strange intruder met the flouts and jeers of the mob; he did not like the stalwart and wiry frame of the man; he saw a world of meaning in the quiet, firm assurance that Reed was going to take that money with him that day; and after studying the situation over he paid Reed the money, and his example was quickly followed by the other delinquents.

The story of a wrong done, a malicious lie told, or a fraud committed by anybody, especially if a friend or neighbor was the victim, instantly stirred the strongest indignation in Bro. Reed; and it was fine to see then the coruscations from those eyes and listen to the words of Berserker rage from that angry tongue of his. With what vigor would he raise his right arm aloft and bring it down like a sledge hammer on the unoffending table! Then did you feel that

"The elements
So mixed in him that Nature might stand up
And say to all the world, *This was a man.*"

Looking backward sixty-seven years to the sorrowful dis severance of that paternal home in Kentucky which made the young boy "lord of himself, that heritage of woe"; to the brave struggle which he waged to earn a livelihood and at the same time to acquire something of an education; to the steady progress which he made from the farm-boy to school teacher, from school teacher to store clerk, from store clerk to bookkeeper, from bookkeeper to manager, from manager to California Argonaut, miner and merchant, from various pursuits and public stations in two commonwealths to first auditor of the State of Washington, and above all to the honor and distinction of being at the time of his death and for several years previously the oldest Grand Secretary of Masons in length of service in the entire world, and to his possession in full measure of

"That which should accompany old age,
As honor, love, obedience, troops of friends,"

we can say without exaggeration that the boy Tom Reed had grand stuff in him, and that the career which he carved out for himself has shed luster on his family and on his name and furnished to the Masonic Fraternity an exemplification of its tenets and teachings that can be pointed to with pride and gratification. There was nothing wishy-washy in the character, the conduct, the Masonry or the daily walk and

conversation of this man; he was a stalwart in every phase of his life; he was the outspoken enemy of all indirection; he was the soul of honor in all transactions with his fellow men; his unselfish devotion to the public interest and needs of the community in which he lived brought him to the verge of financial ruin and cost him a fortune; his guiding star alike in public and private life was the strictest integrity; and

“Thus he bore, without abuse,
The grand old name of gentleman.”

The passing away of such a man is a heavy loss to the State in which he lived, to the neighbors who looked up to him as their guide, philosopher and friend, to the great Fraternal Society of which he was the most distinguished member, and to the widow, children and grandchildren who loved him with all the ardor which such a lovable man inspires. We are apt to be selfish and unreasonable in the grief which we feel at so great and ir retrievable a bereavement. We are not in the mood to reflect that he was relieved from a pain which was growing into a chronic torture, and that he had lived beyond the allotted time of man.

“Ye sigh not when the sun, his course fulfilled,
His glorious course, rejoicing earth and sky,
In the soft evening, when the winds are stilled,
Sinks where his islands of refreshment lie,
And leaves the smile of his departure, spread
O’er the warm-colored heaven and ruddy mountain head.

“Why weep ye then for him, who, having won
The bound of Man’s appointed years, at last,
Life’s blessings all enjoyed, life’s labors done,
Serenely to his final rest has passed;
While the soft memory of his virtues, yet,
Lingers like twilight hues, when the bright sun is set?”

“His youth was innocent; his riper age
Marked with some act of goodness every day;
And watched by eyes that loved him, calm and sage,
Faded his late declining years away.
Meekly he gave his being up, and went
To share the holy rest that waits a life well spent.”

We sorely missed him in our Stated Annual Communication last year at Bellingham; but he was still living and we warmly cherished the hope that his illness was of a temporary character only, and that in 1906 he would again be at his old post in front of the Grand Master warning us against rashness, setting us right when we were groping in the dark, calling to our attention the things necessary to be done, and giving us in manifold ways the benefit of his unrivaled experience, his ripe Masonic scholarship, his unerring instinct for the right, and the philosophical liberality which comes with age and goodness. This hope of ours has been dashed to earth. Thomas Milburne Reed has gone before us, and this Grand Lodge, that he loved so well, will see him no more forever.

“Peace to this just man’s memory; let it grow
Greener with years, and blossom through the flight
Of ages; let the mimic canvas show
His calm, benevolent features; let the light
Stream on his deeds of love, that shunned the sight
Of all but heaven, and in the book of fame
The glorious record of his virtues write
And hold it up to men, and bid them claim

A palm like his, and catch from the hallowed flame.”

THOMAS MILBURNE REED

Manuscript, Grand Masters Bios for Web Page, Date: 2009 approx., Photo Copy, 46 Pages

— *By: V.:W.: Coe Tug Morgan, Grand Historian, 1990-91 & 2009-10,
Assistant Grand Secretary Emeritus*

The first Grand Secretary of the Washington Grand Lodge was born in Sharpsburg, Kentucky December 8, 1825. He received his degrees in Halloway Lodge No.153 and because Kentucky conducted business on the First Degree was elected Secretary even before taking his Master Mason degree. He was the Master of two California lodges Georgetown No.25 and Acacia No.92 and was appoint California Grand Marshal in 1857. He affiliated with Olympia Lodge on July 5, 1858. He was installed as the first Grand Secretary on his 33rd birthday, January 8, 1858. He died in his 80th year, October 7, 1905 and his body was laid to rest in the Olympia Masonic Cemetery.

California attracted him like the many others and by July 1849 he was in San Francisco. Having little success prospecting for gold, he opened a general store in El Dorado County. While in California he served as Postmaster, County Treasurer, Supervisor and Justice of the Peace while running his own business. He studied law and was admitted to the bar but after leaving California only practiced it for a short time in Idaho. He took ship to Seattle in 1857 and then settled in Olympia. He reentered the mercantile business and was the local agent for Wells, Fargo & Co. He had business also in Florence Idaho. He was elected to the Washington Territorial Legislature from Idaho County and served as Speaker in 1862-1863. He was Prosecuting Attorney and Deputy Collector of internal Revenue in Idaho for a period and was elected to the first Idaho Territorial Legislature from Nez Perce County in 1864. He was also the first Grand Secretary of the Washington Royal Arch Grand Chapter formed in 1884.

By 1865 he had moved back to his home in Olympia and he was chief clerk in the office of the U.S. Surveyor General. In 1877 he was elected to the Territorial Council, the upper branch of the legislature representing Lewis and Thurston Counties. He was Territorial Auditor from 1878 until 1888 and was elected to one term as State Auditor in 1889 leading the Republican ticket in votes. He was one of many Masons who framed the Washington State Constitution in 1889.

There were two new lodges chartered during his two years as Grand Master, Lewiston Lodge No.10 in Lewiston, Idaho Territory and Mount Moriah Lodge No.11 in Shelton.

Served as a Grand Lodge Elected Officer (either as Grand Master or Grand Secretary) from our conception in 1858 through 1905, with one exception, the year November 1864 through November 1865.

