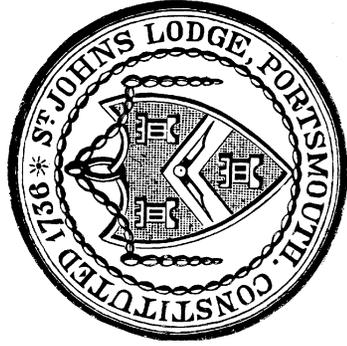
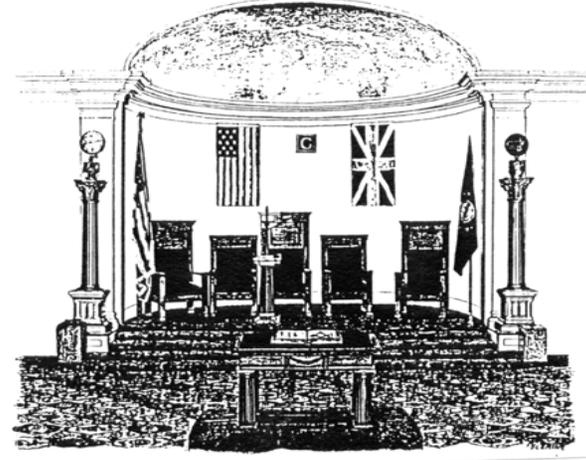


St. John's Lodge, No. 1, F&AM
280 Bayside Rd
Greenland, NH 03840



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December 2012



December 2012 Trestle Board

St. John's Lodge No. 1
Portsmouth, NH

The Master's Message

Greetings from The East, Brethren!

Well, it's hard to believe but my year in the East is drawing to a close. I'm about to complete our submission for the Mark Twain Award and, regardless of whether we win it or not, I believe it's been a great year for St. John's Lodge #1.

I'm not going to list all of our accomplishments here, but it really is amazing to think of all the activities we're involved in each and every year from our Monthly Stated and Special Communications, Degree Work, Veteran's Programs, Past Masters Programs to our Out of Hibernation Race, Game Night, Strawberry Bank Halloween Event and our march to St. John's church to name but a few.

However, there is one more very important request I need to make of you Brethren. **Please bring an unwrapped toy to our Stated Communication or Officer Installation this month for our annual donation to the Toys for Tots Program.** The Holiday Season is really about giving and whatever we can do to put a smile on the face of a youngster who might not otherwise have a present under the tree on Christmas morning is more than worth the effort. I'd like to express a special Thank You for Br. Timothy Neihart for organizing this effort as he has done for several years now. Thanks, Tim!

St. John's is a thriving lodge, Brethren, and the reason for that is you. No one person or even small group of brethren can make our lodge a success. The more involved each of us gets in our activities, the better we will become. You've heard it a lot, but St. John's is your lodge. If there's something you like or don't like, let your officers know. Without your feedback, it's that much harder to make positive change.

As I've said, there's much we can be proud of Brethren, but we can always improve. I encourage you to help your 2013 Slate of Officers to do that. Get involved on a committee, participate in our activities and let them your officers know what you think. Above all, come to Lodge!

Finally, I want to thank all my officers for helping me through this year. I certainly could not have done it without you. Not to mention that you made it a lot of fun! I look forward to working with you all in the future. I wish you all a very happy Holiday season!

Fraternally Yours,

Wor Gib Palmer

1751 by Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Bond, and was the first hospital in the United States. Tragically, while in the hospital and with his mind having given way, George Richards died by his own hand on March 1, 1814 at the young age of 59 years.

You may remember from last month's article how Rev. Richards offered a sermon on New Year's Eve, 1799 in commemoration of the life of President and Brother George Washington. In similar fashion, Rev. Richards was remembered by his friend and colleague Hosea Ballou in "A sermon designed to notice, in a religious manner, the death of the Rev. George Richards, of Philadelphia, formerly of this town: Delivered in the Universalist Meeting House in Portsmouth, on the evening of the 4th Sabbath in March 1814." It was a fitting tribute to a great poet and patriot, author and composer, preacher and pastor, leader of the Faith, champion of education, loving father of twelve and faithful husband of three.

George Richards was in every respect a good man and a good Mason, and he was another in a very long line of great men from St. John's Lodge. Today, we remember him and a few of the things that he did during his life, including the role he played in helping make our city, country and fraternity great!

**Alan Robinson
Historian**

Election of Officers



Every year, at this time, the Brothers of St. John's Lodge gather to elect a new slate of officers for the coming year. Every Brother should understand the importance of the election process and the value of their vote. Please make every effort to attend the Stated Communication on **Wednesday, December 5th** and cast your vote.

Contact
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Worshipful Master
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Robert Sutherland Jr.
Secretary
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on October 23, 1796. The following year, they had their first of four children, a daughter named Alice, who was the first child dedicated in the Universalist Church in Portsmouth, once again by Rev. Murray. On July 11, 1799, Reverend Richards was ordained a minister in the Universalist Society.

Worshipful Brother George Richards' Masonic history was substantial. He was the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts (1784-87). He joined St. John's Lodge, No. 1 in Portsmouth on March 4, 1801, and in 1808 and 1809, he served as Master of our Lodge. He was an active Mason here in Portsmouth and for several years in the early 1800s, worked on an American edition of William Preston's 1772 "Illustrations of Masonry," the handbook for Masonic history and practice of the time. He delivered many memorable Masonic speeches including, "Watchfulness, Essential to Wisdom, Strength, and Beauty: A Masonic Discourse, Delivered December 27th, Anno Lucis 5800, Before the Columbian Lodge, Nottingham, N.H." on December 27, 1800 which was then published in 1801 by John Melcher. [By the way, in ceremonial or commemorative proceedings, Freemasons typically add 4,000 years to the current Anno Domini (AD) calendar year and append Anno Lucis (AL) ("Year of Light") to the Gregorian calendar year.] In 1807, he served as Grand Chaplain of the Grand Lodge of New Hampshire and also that year, to a crowd of over five-thousand, he delivered a "Masonic and Social Address as Pronounced before the Most Worshipful Thomas Thompson Who Attended the Laying of the Corner Stone of St. John's Episcopal Church in Ample Form on the 24th of June 1807". The following year on July 14, 1808, Richards was the keynote speaker for the consecration of Ancient Land-Mark Lodge in Portland, Maine.

Along with his congregation, Rev. Richards dedicated a new meeting house on Pleasant Street overlooking the South Mill Pond in 1808. That building was destroyed by fire in 1896 and a new 'Brick Church' was built in its place. The so-called 'Brick Church' survived until 1947 when it too burned to the ground in a spectacular fire witnessed by many, including Wor. Rodney Robinson who lived on the other side of the Pond. The fire prompted the full merger of the Universalist Church and South Church, the two churches having become federated in 1945.

Not long after the dedication of the new church building in 1808, Rev. Richards' sixteen year ministry in Portsmouth came to an end, and he was succeeded in the pulpit by his friend and colleague Hosea Ballou. He relocated soon after to Philadelphia. He continued to preach in Philadelphia and to serve Freemasonry as Grand Chaplain of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, but for the next few years he struggled within himself to make sense of it all. On December 15, 1813, his wife Alice died after a lingering illness, which, as the newspaper wrote, she bore with Christian fortitude. With his spirit broken under the weight of leaving his pastorate in Portsmouth, the loss of his eyesight, and finally the death of his third wife, George Richards was admitted to Pennsylvania Hospital in Philadelphia. This famous hospital was founded in

December 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Stated Communication—Open in EA

Wednesday, December 5, 2012

Dinner—Chicken Cordon Bleu

Election of officers

St. John's Lodge Annual Meeting

(Dinner 6:00, Open 7:00)

Officer dress— Business Suit

Installation of Officers

Saturday, December 8, 2012

10:00AM

Families are invited and encouraged to attend.

Reception to follow

Officer dress— White tie and tails

Master Mason Rehearsal

Sunday, December 16th—3:00PM

All new officers are expected to attend

Special Communication—Master Mason Degree

Chris Brown

Wednesday, December 19, 2012

(Dinner 6:00, Open 7:00)

Dinner—Chinese

Officer dress— White tie and tails

St John's Masonic Association, Inc.

351 Middle Street
Portsmouth, New Hampshire 03801

Annual Report of St. John's Masonic Association, Inc., for the year 2012

Brethren, as you will hear from the budget presentation, we were not able to reduce the rent this year, even though we have completed the major project that we started some six years ago in record time. I am sorry to say that it is due to the high costs and current conditions of the market it is not going to be in the cards this year. Brother Sutherland has worked out a new ten year agreement with the City on the rental of the Parking Lot contract that will assure us of a fix income for the next ten years.

The Association holds its meetings on the 2nd Monday of every month at 5:00 PM. All are welcome to attend and see us in action. Each renting body is requested to elect a member to attend these meetings, so that we will have better communications between the renting bodies and the Association.

The Board would like to thank WB Robinson for his work on the approved usage rules of the building making it much easier for the building manager when people call to use the building for various reasons. It clarifies in writing what we have been doing for a long time but give the building manager a firm policy that he can use.

The members of the Association would like to thank the Lodge for letting us serve on the board and keep this fine building in the condition that will best serve the interests of our Masonic Family in the years to come.

Respectfully submitted

Donald L. Stevens Pres.

year old mother of his three children. In 1786, he married his second wife, Sarah, with whom he had six more children. For the next couple of years he continued to advertise private school lessons in the North End of Boston.

Richards' fifth child (the second with his wife Sarah) was the first child to be dedicated by Rev. John Murray, the founder of the Universalist denomination in the United States. In 1788, Richards began preaching in Rev. Murray's fledgling Universalist Church in Boston, and in 1794, he arrived in Portsmouth to take the pulpit of the Universalist Church here. In addition to serving the local Church, he opened a school for the winter season in Portsmouth. He taught between 9:00 AM and noon, and from 2:00 to 5:00 PM. Richards invited "those gentlemen and ladies who please to honor him with the tuition of their children," including 'the customary allowance of wood', "to leave their names at his house." On October 27, 1794, tragedy struck again when he lost his second wife, Sarah, at the age of 36 years.

After the loss of his second wife, Richards authored a lengthy profession of faith which was adopted by his Portsmouth fellowship in May 1796. The "Testimony of Belief and Fellowship in Union of the Universalist Society in Portsmouth, NH" states in part, "First. We believe that all Scripture, as contained in the Old and New Testaments, is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness. Second. We believe in one God the Father, of whom are all things and we in him, manifested in one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him, revealed in one Spirit of Truth, who receives of Jesus, shows the Redeemer unto us, and glorifies the Saviour. Third. We believe it a faithful saying that they who believe in God should be careful to maintain good works, for these things are good and profitable unto men. And more, as the Seal of Faith can only be impressed by Practice, we mutually desire that a good confession may be witnessed, by meeting together on the First day of the week, to Read the Scriptures, Sing Praises, and Hear the Preached Word, accompanied by Prayer, Supplication and Thanksgiving. Secondly. In the fellowship of one Spirit of Charity and judging no man's conscience, every man is to be fully persuaded in his own mind whether he cometh unto or abstaineth from Baptism or the Lord's Supper; and whensoever a Minister or Elder is requested to administer the one or celebrate the other, let not him who receiveth or eateth judge his Brother. Thirdly. As members of Society and of Families, in the Social and Relative Connections we mutually desire to be found in practical fellowship with the Precepts of the Lord Jesus Christ, the pattern he hath set before us, and the admonitions of his Apostles and Evangelists; and every Brother or Sister who walketh not orderly is to be admonished in meekness and love for the adorning of the doctrine of all things."

Richards was married for the third time to Alice Ayres Simes of Portsmouth

St. John's Lodge

Historical Sketch

Reverend George Richards, Part 2

At the onset of the American Revolution, George Richards, the twenty year old teacher and eventual Universalist minister who was featured in last month's article, enlisted with the Rhode Island Regiment and served as its quartermaster. After a couple years of hard fought battles, the Regiment was absorbed by the Massachusetts Regiment of Artillery. On August 29, 1778, Richards and the Massachusetts Regiment participated in the Battle of Rhode Island and the Siege of Newport.

Newport had been occupied by British forces since 1776. General George Washington directed Major General John Sullivan, who was overseeing the Continental Army in the area, to assess the situation at Newport and begin assembling troops for a campaign to regain control of the city. Major General Sullivan's command was augmented by Brigadier Generals John Glover and James Varnum who had moved their men into the region by recommendation of our French friend and ally, Marquis de Lafayette. Sullivan's call for militia support went out across New England and when they learned of the French assistance, militia units from Rhode Island, Massachusetts and New Hampshire immediately traveled to Sullivan's camp, swelling the American forces to 10,000 men.

The famous battle at Newport didn't go smoothly and there were many losses on both sides. The actions of the French during the battle were not well accepted by the American military leadership, including Major General Sullivan, but General Washington, determined to preserve the newly established alliance between France and America, worked hard to calm their emotions.

Following the battle at Newport and for the next several years, Richards served as Chaplain and Purser aboard the 28-gun frigate *Providence*. He then served as Chaplain and Captain's Clerk on the frigate *Deane* in 1781, and on the frigate *Hague* until 1784.

Following the Revolutionary War, Richards returned to teaching in Boston, the hometown of his wife Jane. The October 2, 1784 edition of the Massachusetts Centinel, a Boston newspaper, had the following advertisement from Richards: "An EVENING SCHOOL is now opened, at the room late occupied by Master SAMUEL HOLBROOK, opposite the Friends Meeting House, Leverett's Lane, where Apprentices and others, will be taught English, Orthography [the art of writing words with the proper letters], Reading, Grammar, Writing and Arithmetick."

The next spring of 1785, tragedy struck when Richards lost his wife, the 28-

St. John's Masonic Association Inc.

351 Middle Street
Portsmouth, New Hampshire 03801

Proposed Officers and Trustee for 2013

President	Donald L. Stevens
Vice President	Robert L. Sutherland Jr.
Clerk	Joseph Cardone
Treasurer	Thomas Hand Sr.
Legal Council	Thomas Hand Jr. (non-voting member)
Existing Trustee	
Trustee 1 year	Rodney Robinson (2013)
Trustee 2 years	Ronald Metcalf (2014)
Trustee 2 years	Roderick MacDonald (2014)
Trustee 3 years	Larry Day (2015)
Trustee 3 years	Verne Anderson (2015)
Sub Trustee 1 year	
Sub Trustee 1 year	Jack Hartman
Calvin Wilder (Emeritus) non-voting	

St John's Masonic Association Inc.

Annual Proposed Budget for 2013

Income:	Members	Annual Rate per member	Budget Annual		Last Year
			Annual	Per Month	
St John's	\$ 255.00	\$ 27.00	\$ 6,885.00	\$ 573.75	27
St Andrew's	\$ 127.00	\$ 27.00	\$ 3,429.00	\$ 285.75	27
Washington RAM	\$ 102.00	\$ 6.50	\$ 663.00	\$ 55.25	6.5
Davenport RSM	\$ 95.00	\$ 6.50	\$ 617.50	\$ 51.46	6.5
DeWitt Clinton	\$ 85.00	\$ 6.50	\$ 552.50	\$ 46.04	6.5
Scottish Rite	\$ 595.00	\$ 18.00	\$ 10,710.00	\$ 892.50	18
Whalley Museum			\$ 8,000.00	\$ 666.67	8,000
Auditorium Rentals			\$ 2,500.00	\$ 208.33	2500
Parking Lot Rentals			\$ 21,500.00	\$ 1,791.67	21,500
Oper & Maint Fund			\$ 35,000.00	\$ 2,916.67	35000
Bank Interest			\$ 100.00	\$ 8.33	100
Miscellaneous Donations			\$	\$ -	
			\$	\$ -	
Totals			\$ 89,957.00	\$ 7,496.42	\$93,090.00
Expenses:	Monthly	WK		last year	
Custodian	\$ 500.00	\$ 115.38	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00	
Electricity	\$ 625.00	\$ 144.23	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00	
Gas	\$ 1,833.33	\$ 423.08	\$ 22,000.00	\$22,000.00	
Water/Sewer	\$ 50.00	\$ 11.54	\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00	
Telephone/TV/Internet	\$ 50.00	\$ 11.54	\$ 600.00	\$ 1,800.00	
Supplies	\$ 8.33	\$ 1.92	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	
Printing/Postage	\$ 8.33	\$ 1.92	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	
Repair/Maintenance	\$ 375.00	\$ 86.54	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 5,000.00	
Furn/Equip	\$ 41.67	\$ 9.62	\$ 500.00	\$ 2,000.00	
Taxes, CPA Fees	\$ 45.83	\$ 10.58	\$ 550.00	\$ 600.00	
Real Estate Taxes	\$ 2,666.67	\$ 615.38	\$ 32,000.00	\$31,000.00	
Insurances	\$ 791.67	\$ 182.69	\$ 9,500.00	\$ 9,500.00	
Plowing/Lawn Care	\$ 166.67	\$ 38.46	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	
Miscellaneous	\$ 350.00	\$ 80.77	\$ 4,200.00	\$ 3,000.00	
Pay back of Loan from SF	\$ -	\$ -	balance \$2000	\$ 2,000.00	not paid last yr
Totals	\$ 7,512.50	\$ 90,150.00	\$ (193.00)	\$93,200.00	Surplus