February 2013
The Master’s Message

Dear Brethren,

February is when we reflect upon and honor our most revered and most famous American Freemason, George Washington. Along with an entrance fee of 2 pounds and 3 shillings, young Mr. Washington was initiated into Fredericksburg Lodge on November 4th, 1752 and would be raised to the sublime degree the following August.

As Masons we would like to think that the tenets of our venerable institution molded our brother into a great and formidable leader. Perhaps, but Brother Washington had already been adhering to a set of learned principles before reaching the altar. When he was sixteen years of age, Mr. Washington had copied by hand a set of Rules of Civility & Decent Behavior in Company and in Conversation. 110 rules to be exact, many borrowed from a set of principles first transcribed by French Jesuits in 1595. Historians have postulated that he reviewed these principles at the end of each day that he might correct his actions upon awakening to the next.

If true, then no doubt he reviewed his Masonic tenets and obligations with equal rigor. There is one oft’ repeated story about the General’s men returning from the defeat of the British 46th regimen. With them, a chest of regalia, furniture and implements belonging to a travelling military lodge constituted under the Grand Lodge of Ireland. Washington ordered for its immediate return; likely a confusing and awkward turn of event for some of his men.

But I digress. Brethren, if we remove our rose-colored spectacles we can see that Brother Washington was not the infallible and perfect specimen of humility as he is often portrayed. Some of his decisions as a General, President and a privileged Virginian were and still are “controversial”. But what I feel is important to note is that he worked diligently at identifying and then correcting those flaws he was able to, leaving the rest to providence to iron out in the end. We all have our ghosts, but through corrective actions we needn’t dwell upon them. What better model can a Mason have than that?

By the way, I highly recommend reading the Rules of Civility & Decent Behavior. It is entertaining, insightful, and sometimes comical like rule # 95:

Put not your meat to your Mouth with your Knife in your hand neither Spit forth the Stones of any fruit Pie upon a Dish nor Cast anything under the table.

Fraternally Yours,

Wor Jonathan Neihart

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2013

OUT OF HIBERNATION 5K
Portsmouth, NH

The 7th Annual Out of Hibernation 5K Road Race
Saturday, April 13th

This year, proudly supporting the Wounded Warrior Project. As usual, we need your help.

We need brothers to help solicit sponsors for the race, particularly from other lodges in our area. Please contact Dan Stolworthy to volunteer to attend any of the following Stated Communications:

New Hampshire Lodges

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<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Lodge Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Gideon Lodge #84</td>
<td>Kingston</td>
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<td>Monday</td>
<td>St. Andrew’s Lodge</td>
<td>Portsmouth</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Strafford Lodge #29</td>
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<td>Rising Star Lodge #47</td>
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<td>Moses Paul #96</td>
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<td>Tucker Lodge #99</td>
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Maine/Massachusetts

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<td>St. Aspinquid #198</td>
<td>York Village</td>
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<td>Naval Lodge #184</td>
<td>Kittery</td>
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<td>Monday</td>
<td>St. John’s Lodge #51</td>
<td>S. Berwick</td>
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**Historical Sketch**

……………….continued from page 5

Lake Golf Course. He and his family requested that he only have a Masonic funeral service, and so on August 29, we traveled over to the Wilson-Cooper Funeral Home in Kittery where we presented a very special and emotional Masonic service in celebration and appreciation of our brother’s life.

Wor. Charlie Nutter’s Past Masters Jewel was returned to the Lodge after his passing and today it is worn by a distinguished brother of our Lodge who wears it for a very special reason; do you know who wears it and why? I’ll answer that question next month when we complete the recap of 1988, a very memorable year in the history of our Lodge.

Alan Robinson
Historian

**From the Secretary’s Desk**

Brethren:

Keep the dues coming in Brothers!

For any brother interested in life membership, please see me. The 2012 period has closed but we’ll be able to accept 2013 life memberships soon. For more information, please contact me.

Sincerely yours,

Wor. Brother Gib Palmer
Secretary

**February 2013**

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Stated Communication—Open in EA
Wednesday, February 6, 2013
Dinner—Breakfast for Dinner
(Dinner 6:00, Open 7:00)

Officer dress—White tie and tails

Annual Report of the Audit Committee and the St. John the Evangelist Fund

Program “Master Mason Mystery Men”
A quiz game presented by DEO Wor. Rod MacDonald

Four Square
Monday, February 18, 2013
St. James Lodge
(Supper 6:30, Program 7:30PM)

Special Communication—Master Mason Degree
Brother Eric Arnold
Wednesday, February 20, 2013
(Dinner 6:00, Open 7:00)
Dinner—Lasagna

Officer dress—White tie and tails

Masonic Education and Game Night
Wednesday, February 27, 2013
5:45—6:30PM Education
How to give a tour of the Hackett House and St. John’s Lodge
All brothers are welcome, officers are required
7:00-9:30PM Game Night
Open to all and any Good Men
Pizza provided, BYOB

**Contact Information:**

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Gib Palmer
Secretary
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(603) 601-2294
In this month’s article we are continuing our review of the activities of our Lodge during the year 1988.

On Friday, May 27, 1988, a bus full of brethren and their spouses left the Masonic Temple parking lot on a trip to Quebec. We had accepted the invitation of St. John’s Lodge No. 1 of Quebec City to attend their 200th Anniversary celebration on that Saturday afternoon. We had a great time riding in our motor coach with Bro. John Pearson and his wife sitting in the front seat. When we arrived in Quebec, we had a bus tour around the old city and then arrived at our hotel. That night and on Saturday morning we were free to explore the city on our own. In the afternoon we assembled as a group to attend the Anniversary celebration and banquet of the City’s historic Lodge. They invited me to sit at their head table and the rest of the delegation from Portsmouth sat together and had a great time! That Saturday night some of us ventured out to enjoy the Quebec night life. We sampled the local fare and laughed so hard as we tried to drink beer from a ‘Yard Glass’. We were all especially happy to share the weekend with Wor. Michael and Suellen Goodman who had recently become newlyweds, and I was especially privileged to share accommodations with our Tyler, Wor. Arthur P. Tibbetts. We walked all over the place that weekend and even though Art’s legs were tired by the end of the evening, he didn’t miss any of it – including drinking from the Yard Glass! He brought his own supply of Bag Balm and he plastered it on his legs before bed… The smell of it filled the room and it made him and all of us laugh all weekend long. For all of us, it was a wonderfully memorable trip, and one that we will never forget, especially Wor. Jack and Roxy Hartman.

At the Stated meeting in June 1988, with 27 members present, Bro. Joe Frost gave an enlightening talk on New Hampshire’s involvement in the ratification of the Federal Constitution. A week later on June 8, we received our Grand Master, Most Worshipful Philip L. Hall, into the Lodge. 109 brethren, ladies and friends joined us that evening as we honored our Masonic Veterans. That evening, Wor. Edgar Warren Anderson was presented the Major General John Sullivan Distinguished Service Medal.

On the morning of Sunday, June 26, we opened the Lodge at the Masonic Temple, and after having pastries and coffee in the auditorium, we assembled the brethren and processed to St. John’s Church for the 233rd annual St. John’s Sunday observance. With flags flying high, DeWitt Clinton Commandery, Knights Templar, escorted the brethren of St. John’s, St. Andrew’s, Naval, and several other seacoast Lodges through the streets of Portsmouth. Father Gor-