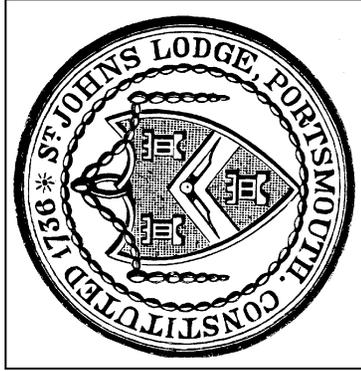
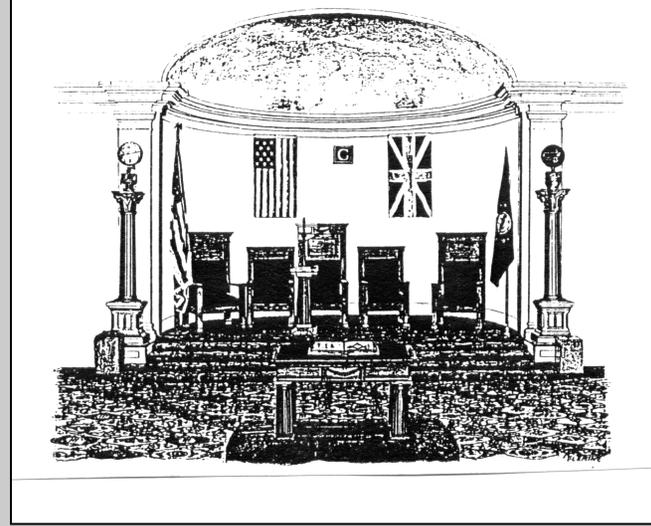


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January 2013



# January 2013 Trestle Board

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

# The Master's Message

Dear Brethren,

Happy New Year! I would like to extend my sincere and heartfelt thanks to all of you for entrusting me as Worshipful Master of St. John's Lodge #1. I look forward to serving you and promise to ride out to meet those challenges that face our Lodge and our Fraternity at large. I would also like to thank my line of officers, who have committed their time and talents to the betterment of Freemasonry. Furthermore, I offer thanks to the Past Masters of St. John's Lodge and the Grand officers of the First Masonic District for your overwhelming support.

We are already off to a great start! In December, we raised one Mason to the Sublime degree into St. John's as well as one for Gideon #84. St. Andrew's #56 was kind enough to do a courtesy EA degree for one of our candidates. Brethren, it is no longer viable to keep within our own walls. We are blessed with a mix of seasoned officers and a steady stream of new candidates coming into our fold. Thus, it is altogether too easy to do what is comfortable and keep to ourselves.

Having the largest membership in the state, we have a responsibility to reach out to the rest of District 1 and offer our support and assistance. I fully understand that modern life puts unreasonable demands on our time but the future of our Order depends on it. One extra evening each season to visit another lodge or attend a fundraiser can go a long way to spread the cement of Brotherly love and Affection.

And as you emulate that trowel, remember to be cheerful. Had apathetic Masons surrounded me throughout my journey, I would not have made it to the oriental chair. An Ambassador of St. John's should always carry with him and infectious spirit of excitement about the craft. You'd be surprised just how quickly one animated soul can trump a tepid audience. Let's have a great year!

Fraternally Yours,

*Wor Jonathan Neihart*

## 2013 Officers

Worshipful Master .....	Jonathan Neihart
Senior Warden .....	Nicholas "Floyd" Caron
Junior Warden .....	Roderick M. MacDonald, D.E.O.
Secretary .....	Wor. Gilbert H. Palmer
Assistant Secretary .....	R.W. Robert L. Sutherland, Jr. D.D.G.M.
Treasurer .....	Wor. Verne S. Anderson, Jr.
Assistant Treasurer.....	Wor. Glen R. Gordon
Senior Deacon .....	Wor. Thomas W. Haslam
Junior Deacon .....	Christopher T. Newcomb
Senior Steward .....	/..... Nicholas R. Pesarik
Junior Steward .....	Richard Moss Laskey, Jr
Chaplain .....	Wor. Nelson D. Hersey
Assistant Chaplain .....	Wor. Daniel G. Stolworthy
Marshal .....	Timothy Neihart
Tyler .....	Peter W. Pretoroti
Electrician .....	R.W. Ronald E. Metcalf
Musician .....	Nelson K. Ward
Historian .....	Wor. Alan M. Robinson
Grand Lodge Representative.....	Wor. Gilbert H. Palmer
Webmaster .....	Charles E. Gaudet II

## Banning Freemasonry

July 2, 1751, Ferdinand VI of Spain issued an edict against Freemasonry. Father Jose Torrubia secured a special dispensation from the Pope, joined a lodge, secured the names of its members, and proceeded to have them arrested. Hundreds were arrested, persecuted, and imprisoned.

In 1801, Czar Alexander I of Russia banned the craft. In 1803 he rescinded the order and became a Freemason. But in 1822 he again ordered Freemasonry banned in Russia.

When Mussolini gained control of Italy, Masonic lodges were declared illegal and the Grand Master was arrested, tried, and imprisoned, where he died. Mussolini also ordered all Masonic references removed, including the emblems on the base of Garibaldi's monument in Rome. After the restoration of the republic, fascist emblems were removed and the Masonic emblems restored.

In Fascist Spain under Franco, it was a crime to be a freemason. Masons convicted had to serve prison terms equal in years to the number of Masonic degrees possessed. Master Mason – 3 years.



## From the Secretary's Desk

Brethren:

Thank you all that have sent in your dues so timely. I thank you for the questions on Life Membership and the two new members that have joined so far this year before the increase in the GL per capita, and for your continuing support of the lodge long after you have departed this life.

I would like to thank all those 50 year members that have made donations to the lodge, we appreciate your support of our lodge.

Sincerely yours,

*Robert L. Sutherland, Jr.*  
*Secretary*

Contact  
Information:

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**Gib Palmer**  
**Secretary**  
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(603) 601-2294

## January 2013

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 MM**  
**Wednesday, January 2, 2013**

**Dinner**—Pulled pork, beans and corn bread  
(Dinner 6:00, Open 7:00)

**Officer dress— White tie and tails**

**Star in the East Lodge—Official Visitation**  
**Thursday, January 10, 2013**

(Dinner 6:30, Open 7:15 PM)

Call (603)418-5000 for reservations

**Special Communication—Fellow Craft Degree**  
**Wednesday, January 16, 2013**

**Br. Eric M Arnold**

(Dinner 6:00, Open 7:00)

Dinner—Fish and Chips

**Officer dress— White tie and tails**

**Remembering 1988 – Part 1**

1988 was a good year. Ronald Reagan was President and in the November election, George HW Bush won the Presidency over Michael Dukakis. Micro-soft distributed Windows 2.1, the Dow Jones Industrial Average hit a high of 2,183, and gasoline was \$1.07.9/gallon. The movie Rain Man won the Oscar, Michael Jordan won the NBA MVP, and our Lodge was 252 years old. It doesn't seem possible, but 1988 came to a close 25 years ago. Just as I did then, I thought it might be fun to review that particular year in the history of our historic Lodge.

At our Annual Meeting held on December 2, 1987, with Wor. Peter Newbury in the East, I was elected Master of the Lodge. Three days later, on Saturday, December 5 at 7:00 pm, with a full Lodge room watching, I was installed into office by my brother and father, Wor. Rodney Robinson. He declared me installed and after Wor. Roland Ripley proclaimed it, he invited me to personally install my officers – a unique opportunity which I eagerly accepted. The Charges to the Master, Wardens and Brethren were written by Wor. Paul Revere and on this night were presented by Wor. Rodney, Wor. Wes Aykroyd and Wor. Bill Fiigen. Bro. Bill Mosteller sang during the installation and gave an inspiring performance of 'Jerusalem' from the movie 'Chariots of Fire' accompanied by Bro. Nelson Ward. After the installation, we retired to the auditorium for a huge party with a live band on the stage lead by Bro. Nelson Ramsdell on trumpet. They played all sorts of great music including Christmas tunes well into the evening.

At our stated meeting on January 6, I presented a 'This Day in History' recounting interesting happenings that I discovered in our Lodge records dating all the way back to our founding. The brethren, especially our Historians Bro. Joe Frost and Right Wor. Gerry Foss, enjoyed it so much that I repeated it every stated meeting thereafter. After the meeting, the 35 members joining us that night saw a slide show by Wor. Rodney Robinson about our 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. And then, keeping with tradition, we retired to the grill room for refreshments, compliments of our Junior Warden, Wor. George Flanders.

On Wednesday, January 13, more than 62 of us went to the recently reopened William Pitt Tavern to confer the Entered Apprentice Degree on Brothers Jeff Durell and Mark Moore. The officers wore colonial era clothing, and I wore a Tricorne (3-cornered hat). Our Secretary Ray Bemis read the minutes from the last time we met in the Tavern – July 3, 1792, which I re-approved as read. After we closed the Lodge, we retired to the second floor Tavern where we celebrated with laughter and fun, and toasted with hot Grog in commemorative

glass tankards that were donated and made special for the occasion.

On February 3, I talked about the events of our 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 1936 and then, while enjoying refreshments, 36 of us listened to an incredible program by Most Wor. Carroll Fogg that included home movies of activities of the Grand Lodge of New Hampshire during the term of Most Wor. Gorge Ward (1963-64). I will long remember the great feeling that came over all of us as we saw familiar faces in those home movies.

On February 10, we conferred the Fellowcraft Degree on Bro. Moore. On that occasion we were saddened to learn of the loss of our Senior Past Master, Wor. William Dennett. On February 22, with 110 joining us for a dinner put on by Wor. Bob Sr. and Kay Sutherland, we participated in the annual Four Square plus One meeting, that year hosted by Wor. Mark Goodman and St. Andrews Lodge. Wor. Mark gave an inspiring talk on Wor. George Washington whose birthday we were celebrating. At the Stated meeting on Mar 2, I recognized Wor. Ray Bemis as our Senior Past Master and presented him with the Senior Past Master Jewel. Also that night, Bro. Dave Dawley gave a talk on the ins and outs of the real estate business.

On March 9 we conferred the Fellowcraft Degree on Bro. Durell, and on March 23, after a delicious beef-tips dinner, we conferred the Master Mason Degree on Bro. Moore. Wor. Arthur Tibbetts portrayed the Wayfaring Man and Wor. Bob Reynolds did the Altar Charge. Wor. Edgar Anderson gave the History and Wor. Charlie Nutter gave the Charge. At the Stated meeting on April 6, Wor. Don Stevens brought in his diving gear and gave a very popular show-and-tell presentation as owner of Atlantic Aquasport in Rye, a business he founded in 1972. On April 20, with 42 in attendance, we conferred the Master Mason Degree on Bro. Durell and Bro. Doug Crossman in our typically excellent form.

On the May 4 Stated meeting, Bro. Phil Hoyt gave a wonderful travelogue of his trip through South America to 40 very interested brethren. On May 21, we attended the Annual meeting of the Grand Lodge of New Hampshire and witnessed Most Wor. Phil Hall be elected and installed Grand Master. On May 23, under the leadership of Wor. Jack Hartman and Wor. Edgar Anderson, and with the help of Shirley Alden, the widow of Wor. John Alden, 103 attendees participated in the semi-annual reunion of our Special Ladies.

The year 1988 was off to a great start; it's hard to imagine that it got even better, but it did! Next month we'll wrap it up for you. Until then, Happy New Year!

**Alan Robinson**  
**Historian**