The Master’s Message

Greetings from The East, Brethren!

On June 08, 2012, a new piece of Masonic History in New Hampshire was created with the Constitution, Consecration, Dedication and Installation of the Officers and Members of New Hampshire’s newest Masonic Lodge-Phoenix Lodge No. 105, F & AM.

As Master of St. John’s #1, the oldest Lodge in the State, I had the honor of joining the Grand Master’s Suite and presenting the Grand Lodge Constitution at the opening ceremonies. I was quite proud to represent our Lodge and you, Brethren, on this important occasion.

Phoenix Lodge No. 105 is a “Traditional Observance Lodge” which focuses on education and introspection. Before a candidate can advance to the next degree, not only must he recite his lesson in full, but present a paper on a topic of his choosing, usually discussing the degree and its importance to him.

Papers and presentations are the norm for meetings, as are silence, musical pieces and introspective meditation. The Lodge requires the officers and members to dress formally with white gloves, signifying their pure intentions in the Craft.

I am quite intrigued by the work that the brothers of Phoenix Lodge will be doing and hope to attend one of their meetings sometime soon. If any brother is interested in joining me, please let me know. I think this would be a great way to welcome the first new Lodge in NH in over 40 years.

On another note, please be aware that our Stated Meeting for July will take place on The Fourth of July. We will not be serving dinner that night. We will open Lodge at 7 PM and close very shortly thereafter. You are welcome to attend, but the meeting will be extremely short.

Enjoy the 4th of July and have a wonderful month.

Fraternally Yours,

Wor Gib Palmer

From the Secretary’s Desk

Brethren:

My Brothers, we are half way in the Masonic Year. Many of you have been helpful in getting your dues paid timely. However the Lodge has a budget that it has to meet and your dues are necessary in meeting our obligations. We have over 35 members that owe at least 2012 dues and some who also owe 2011. In August, I will be sending out 90 day notices to those members that owe 2 years dues. Please help us keep our lodge on the upward growth that we have had for the last three years. Don’t be one of those members that we will be forced to suspend for nonpayment of dues. As always, if you are having problems, PLEASE let me or the Master know. We can HELP and that is what masonry is all about.

Sincerely yours,

Robert L. Sutherland, Jr.

In this painting of George Washington, by Charles Willson Peale, Washington is seen wearing a sash but Washington carried a different sash with him through most of the war for independence. That sash, blood-stained from battle, was given to him by the dying and defeated British General Edward Braddock at the Battle of Monongahela, where Washington became a war hero at the age of 23.

In a letter written in 1932 by Mrs. Ellis Lovell Crosby, a great-great niece of President Washington to Brother S.J. Pridgen of Atlanta, GA, she states, “I am sending a piece of fringe from Washington’s sash. I sold the sash to Pierpont Morgan for $3,500. He gave it to Mount Vernon and it now hangs in the hallway of the mansion. I only took a little from the sash so as to keep it” She presented the small piece of the sash to Georgia Lodge # 96, F&AM of Atlanta which they proudly display among their archives.

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Historical Sketch

"General,—It is with no ordinary sensation of pleasure that we again see the national standard waving over our heads. Four years’ deprivation of our civil rights has given to them an increased value. The pleasure we feel on again receiving the privileges and protection of our country is in no wise diminished in having them restored to us by one who so bravely fought in their defense.

The world has heard of the gallant deeds done at Erie, Bridge-water, and Brownston. We tender our admiration to the man who sought danger, and won for himself and country glory and renown.”

The following year, 1819, it was voted in town meeting to petition the legislature of Massachusetts to separate the District of Maine from Massachusetts proper, and that a committee be chosen to prepare a petition. Ichabod Chadbourne was one of the committee of three chosen by the legislature. He went right to work on the petition and the next year, on March 15, 1820, Maine was admitted to the Union as the 23rd State.

In 1839 and again in 1841, Ichabod was elected to the Maine State legislature as a member of the Whig Party.

Ichabod first married Dolly Dana and later married Hanah Lincoln. With Hanah, he had nine children. He was a man of commanding presence and was an effective public speaker. He was very well liked, and admired personally and professionally by his family and friends. He was often heard giving his opinion at town meetings and was regularly invited to speak at public occasions. He was good man in every sense of the word.

Ichabod Rollins Chadbourne died in Eastport, Maine on December 8, 1855 at the age of 68. It shouldn’t surprise you to know that this good man who helped return Moose Island and the town of Eastport to the United States, and who was personally instrumental in establishing Maine as the 23rd State in the Union, was a Freemason. But it might just surprise you a little to know that Brother Ichabod Chadbourne was a member of St. John’s Lodge in Portsmouth, having been raised a Master Mason here on February 1, 1809.

Alan Robinson

Schedule of Lodges of Instruction

Friday, August 17 St. John’s Lodge, No 1 Portsmouth
Saturday, August 18 Hiram Lodge, No 9 Claremont
Friday, September 7 Gorham-Sabatis Lodge, No 73 Gorham
Friday, September 21 Winnipesaukee Lodge, No 75 Alton
Friday, September 28 Horace Chase Lodge, No 72 Penacook
Friday, October 26 Benevolent Lodge No 7 Milford
Saturday, October 27 Meridian Lodge, No 60 Franklin

Note: A current dues card is required for admission. The Grand Master requests that the Worshipful Master make an earnest effort to see that all Brothers who were Raised to the Degree of Master Mason after September 1, 2011 are aware of the meeting, be told that it is a Communication that they are expected to attend and will be one of Masonic information and education that should be of interest to them.
The dense forest which surrounded the clearing was alive with hostile red-men. The sturdy pilgrim went to sleep with his firelock at his bedside, not knowing at what moment he might be awakened by the glare of his burning hay ricks and the piercing war-whoop of the Womponoags. Year after year he saw his harvest reaped by a sickle of flame, as he peered through the loop-holes of the block house, whither he had flown in hot haste with goodwife and little ones. The blockhouse at Strawberry Bank appears to have been on an extensive scale, with stockades for the shelter of cattle. It held large supplies of stores, and was amply furnished with arquebuses, sakers, and murtherers, a species of naval ordnance which probably did not belie its name. It also boasted, we are told, of two drums for training-days, and no fewer than fifteen haut-boys and soft-voiced recorders -- all which suggests a mediaeval castle, or a grim fortress in the time of Queen Elizabeth.”

The blockhouse at Strawberry Bank was built by Humphrey Chadbourne. Humphrey arrived here from England on September 9, 1631 and was the chief carpenter for David Thompson, a local patenter. Thompson had the blockhouse, which was also called “Great House at Strawberry Bank,” built as a defense against the local Indians.

In later years, Humphrey Chadbourne was active in the Town of Kittery as a selectman, town clerk, deputy to the General Court, and associate judge of York County. The great American novelist Sarah Orne Jewett referred to him as “the lawgiver of Kittery.” This little bit of history about Humphrey Chadbourne is interesting, but this article is not about Humphrey or his building of the blockhouse in 1631; rather, it is about Humphrey’s great great great grandson, Ichabod.

Ichabod Rollins Chadbourne was born on January 7, 1787 in South Berwick, Maine, a son of Jonathan Chesley Chadbourne and Elizabeth Rollins. He lost his mother when he was 2½ years old and both his father and grandfather in 1799 when he was just 12 years old. During his formative years, young Ichabod looked to his aunt's husband, George W. Wallingford of Kennebunk, Maine, as a fatherly figure and role model. Mr. Wallingford, a practicing attorney, helped Ichabod with his school work and encouraged him to read books on law. Some of you may recognize the name Wallingford Hall, a large building that exists today on Route 1 in Kennebunk. It’s named for George Wallingford.

Ichabod entered Dartmouth College in 1806 and received his degree from there in 1809. He continued studying law with Mr. Wallingford and also with Daniel Davis, a Boston attorney. After a few years of preparation, he was admitted to the Suffolk bar in 1812. Now a professional lawyer, it was time for him to decide where to practice.

Ichabod decided to settle in the District of Maine (then part of Massachusetts), but before he did, he served for a time in the 1st Massachusetts (Nowell's) Militia during the War of 1812. In 1813, he arrived in the downeast town of Lubec, Maine, where he began practicing law. While in Lubec, he was appointed postmaster of the town. In 1814, he moved to the neighboring town, Eastport, on Moose Island. For reference, Eastport is next to Campobello Island and opposite New Brunswick, Canada. At that time, America was still engaged in war against the British (War of 1812) and on July 11, 1814, folks around Passamaquoddy Bay noticed that the harbor was filled with the sails of British warships. The fleet had arrived to demand the immediate surrender of Fort Sullivan located in Eastport. The local townspeople convinced the commanding officer of Fort Sullivan to surrender, which reluctantly, he did. The British subsequently occupied Moose Island and the town of Eastport. Five months later, on December 24, 1814, the Treaty of Ghent was signed that ended the War of 1812; but Moose Island and the town of Eastport were left under British occupancy.

Ever hopeful that they would one day return to American citizenship, the townspeople, lead by Ichabod Chadbourne continued to pursue their freedom from the British. Finally, nearly four years later, on June 30, 1818 the matter was resolved and Ichabod himself was selected by the townspeople to make the welcome address at the banquet held to celebrate the reestablishment of the island within the jurisdiction of the United States. Brigadier General James Miller, United States Army, was designated by the President of the United States, and Colonel Henry Sargeant was designated by the Governor of Massachusetts, to receive from Captain R. Gibbon, the British officer in command, the formal restoration of Moose Island and its dependencies, and to exchange the national flags.

Three toasts were made as the banquet began. The first sentiment was to the President of the United States, the second to the Governor of the Commonwealth, and the third to Brigadier General Miller. On the annunciation of the last toast, Ichabod Chadbourne arose in behalf of his townsmen, and addressed their distinguished guests with the following: —

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