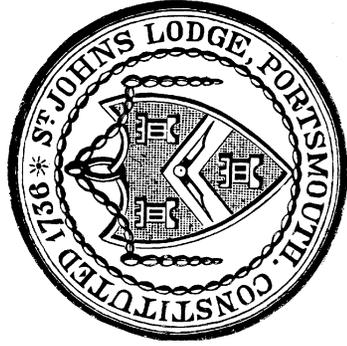
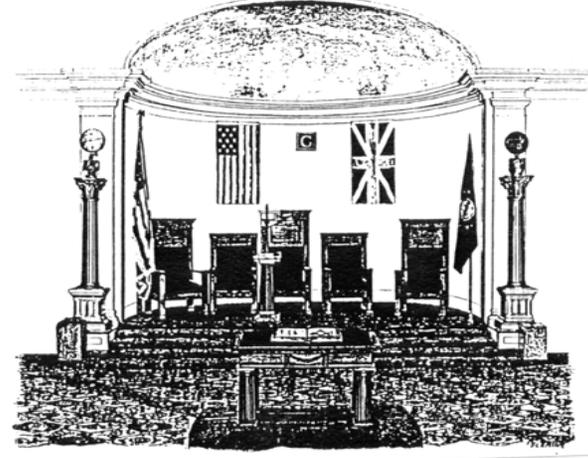


St. John's Lodge, No. 1, F&AM
280 Bayside Rd
Greenland, NH 03840



Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Portsmouth, NH
Permit No. 7

March 2013



March 2013 Trestle Board

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

The Master's Message

From the East

I write this message as we are experiencing yet another February snow storm. I am reminded of two things. First, not being the winter enthusiast I once was, spring cannot come fast enough! Also, good news does not cure cabin fever, but it certainly helps.

So good news! St. John's has been accepted to be a recipient of the Mark Twain Award. And as evidence in our hard work in obtaining this honor, it appears that we are already qualified to receive the Grand Master's Award. Job well done to all involved but especially to Wor. Gib Palmer who took on the lion's share to make sure all the criteria were met.

St. John's continues to reach out into our district and has been actively exchanging candidates with other lodges and will continue to do so throughout the year. St Andrew's will be performing the third courtesy EA degree for us this year on March 4 at which time will mean that 50% of our degree work will have performed by other lodges. Or to put it another way, we have completed six months of degree work in only three. Other benefits include impressive attendance, increased travelling, and better communication between lodges.

On April 24th St. John's will be hosting a district-wide Master Mason degree. Senior officers from each lodge in the district will be filling the chairs and Scottish Rite is putting together an ensemble to perform the history. It should be an interesting event.

As you will read elsewhere in this Trestleboard there will be some rather large expenditures to discuss at the March stated. In February, we learned that both our boilers have developed cracks and are in need of replacement. The lodge voted to move some funds (\$20,000) to deal with the problem expeditiously when the time comes but please note that the monies have only been moved and not spent. Please plan on attending the March stated to learn more about this problem and how we should proceed from this point.

Fraternally Yours,

Wor Jonathan Neihart

**Contact
Information:**

Jonathaing Neihart
Worshipful Master
moontowncafe@myfairpoint.net
(603) 3009093

Gib Palmer
Secretary
Gilbert.Palmer@assurant.com
(603) 601-2294

2013



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

Monday	3/4	Gideon Lodge #84	Kingston
Monday	3/11	St. Andrew's Lodge	Portsmouth
Wednesday	3/13	Strafford Lodge #29	Dover
Wednesday	3/13	Rising Star Lodge #47	Newmarket
Thursday	3/14	Star in the East Lodge #59	Exeter
Thursday	3/21	St. James Lodge #102	Hampton
Thursday	3/21	Moses Paul #96	Dover
Tuesday	3/26	Tucker Lodge #99	Raymond

Ward-Day Educational Committee



Applications are now being accepted from high school seniors. These applications should be filed with Worshipful Brother Tom Haslam. The due date for this year's applications is May 1, 2013. Please mail applications to the Lodge, 351 Middle St. Portsmouth, NH 03801

Historical Sketch

home on Richards Avenue and its contents which included many valuable antiques. As an example of the antiques, Bro. Ripley displayed a beautiful hand painted leather fire bucket. Next, Bro. June Begala presented the Lodge with the Tyler's Chair which he had meticulously refinished. In a wonderfully memorable ceremony, the chair was presented to both Arthur Tibbetts and Oscar Gibson, the Tylers of St. John's and St. Andrew's Lodges and then placed outside the door where it still resides. The election of officers was then held and Bro. Martin W. Curtis was elected Master of the Lodge for the year 1989. Before closing the Lodge, I thanked everyone, especially the officers, for their dedication and great support and recounted the many wonderful things we had done this very active year. I presented Wor. Arthur Tibbetts with a small tribute for traveling around the district with me and attending every one of the Lodge Visitations. And finally, I presented the Lodge with a framed print of that great photo that was taken in the Athenaeum.

On December 10th, Wor. Martin Curtis was installed Master of our great Lodge, continuing the tradition that had been started 252 years earlier. Following the installation ceremony, Wor. Rodney Robinson was invited to present me with a Past Master's Jewel. To my great surprise and incredible honor, he presented me with his Past Master's Jewel from his pocket. That very special jewel was first engraved and presented to his father, Wor. Leon A. Robinson, in December 1932. It was next engraved and presented to Wor. Rodney in December 1985. Today, along with my father and grandfather, my name is engraved on 'our' jewel, and it is my greatest privilege and honor to wear it.

Before we closed the Lodge, Wor. Roland Ripley arose and presented me with one final honor. He placed in my pocket an invisible Past Master's Jewel and explained to the crowded lodge room that it was in recognition of me being the youngest Master in the history of our Lodge.

And now, as we wrap up this review of 1988, there is one more important item to mention. You will recall that Wor. Rodney Robinson gave his Past Master's Jewel to me, but you should know that his pocket didn't remain empty for long. For you see, our Chaplain and dear brother, Wor. Charlie Nutter, who passed from labor to refreshment earlier in the year, asked that his Jewel be returned to the Lodge. His beautiful Jewel was presented to Wor. Rodney, who, to this day, wears it with great honor and appreciation.

Alan Robinson
Historian

March 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						

St. Andrew's Stated Communication

St. Andrew's will complete a degree for our candidate. Our brothers should make a special effort to attend and help as necessary
(Dinner 6:00, Open 7:00)

Stated Communication—Open in EA Wednesday, March 6, 2013

Special Meeting—St. John's Masonic Association

To discuss and vote to give the Association authority to get bids and select the best company to replace the heating system for the building

Dinner—Corned Beef and Cabbage
(Dinner 6:00, Open 7:00)

Officer dress— White tie and tails

Officer's Meeting

Wednesday, March 13, 2013—6:00PM

Dress—casual for all

We will be discussing plans for the rest of the year. Committees are encouraged to meet this night to get business done while we are all under the same roof. To be followed by FC rehearsal (if necessary)

Special Communication—Fellow Craft Degree Brother Colin Wyatt

Wednesday, February 20, 2013
(Dinner 6:00, Open 7:00)

Dinner—Ham and Bean Supper
Officer dress— White tie and tails

Remembering 1988 – Part 3

This month's article is the last of a three-part series in which we are reviewing the activities of our Lodge during the year 1988. Last month we finished up through August.

The September 7, 1988 Stated meeting was attended by 28 brethren. At this meeting we enjoyed another program of interesting anecdotes from our Lodge minutes and then on September 14th, we conferred the Entered Apprentice Degree. At the October 5th stated meeting we heard an informative and very interesting program regarding the various pieces of furniture in the Lodge, including a little bit about each person who donated the funds for them. The program included the story of how we came to have our exceptionally nice Allen organ.

On October 12th, we opened the Lodge in one of its previous meeting locations – upstairs in the Portsmouth Athenaeum in Market Square. 40 brethren joined us that evening. We read the minutes from the last time we were there and our Historians, R.W. Gerald Foss and Bro. Joseph Frost spoke about the Lodge during the 19th Century. In their talk they included some interesting connections between Masonry and the Athenaeum. We offered three toasts that evening with Harvey's Bristol Cream sherry served in specially designed commemorative glasses donated for the event. The toasts were to the members of our Lodge in the 1800's, to the current membership, and to the future members of our Lodge. We closed the Lodge and then had an opportunity to roam around the Athenaeum, drink cider, and eat donuts and cheese. We also had a group photograph taken. Many of the brethren in that photo have passed on, but that great photo still hangs today in the Lodge office on the second floor of the Temple. Every time I see it I remember the wonderful time that we had that evening. The photo captured everyone there except for one, the photographer – Wor. Rodney Robinson.

On October 19th, we hosted a Past Master's Night with the Past Masters of our Lodge conferring the Fellowcraft Degree. We dedicated the night to Arthur Tibbetts, who had been serving as our Tyler since 1961 and who in 1985 was made an Honorary Past Master of our Lodge. On that night, I asked him to join me in the East and sit in the Master's chair. At the end of the night, he closed the Lodge to the great delight and applause of the 43 brethren present.

On October 23rd, we hosted our Special Ladies Fall Reunion with a full auditorium of members and guests. The event was organized by the faithful team of Wor. Jack Hartman and Wor. Edgar Anderson. We honored those two brethren at the stated meeting on November 2nd. Also at the Stated meeting in No-

vember, Wor. Roland Ripley unveiled the bronze plaque that we had commissioned to honor the memory of Bro. Norm Clark who had been so instrumental in the restoration of the William Pitt Tavern and who had passed from labor to refreshment on St. John's Sunday. The following day the plaque was installed at the back entrance to the Tavern.

On November 16th with the Lodge room at capacity, we received R.W. Richard Schanda, the District Deputy Grand Master for the First Masonic District, and R.W. Jeremy J. Sawyer, our District Deputy Grand Lecturer. R.W. Schanda had a suite of 42 distinguished brethren. We conferred the Entered Apprentice Degree on two candidates that evening for our official visitation. On that very special occasion, when it was time to present the records of the Lodge for examination, I presented R.W. Schanda with the current book of minutes as well as our oldest book of records containing the minutes from our first meeting in 1736. I then uncovered the pew behind our Secretary, Wor. Ray Bemis, on which was displayed all of the 252 years of records of the Lodge. It was a most impressive moment.

On November 23rd, we conferred the Master Mason Degree. And then, with less than one month remaining in the term, we pulled out all the stops. On December 3rd, we hosted a special Table Lodge. The brethren of Morrison Lodge, No. 90 of Northwood catered the event with a seven course banquet. We toasted in the traditional manner holding commemorative glasses made special for the event. At the end of the evening following the final toast, we sang a chorus of Auld Lang Syne with Wor. Rodney Robinson accompanying on the piano.

As we approached Christmas, we decorated the Temple building. Wor. Roland Ripley and I found the perfect Christmas Trees out in Greenland. We cut them down and then decorated them – one inside in the front living room, and the other on the porch roof facing Lafayette Road. We placed candles in all the windows and brought in a dozen large beautiful poinsettias which were donated and placed on the tables and mantles all around the living quarters.

The Annual Meeting of the Lodge was on December 7th. It was a very fine meeting and the first thing we did after opening the Lodge was to invite Mrs. Shirley Alden, Mrs. Marjorie Ripley, Mrs. Roxy Hartman, Mrs. Kay Sutherland, Mrs. Barbara Bemis, and Mrs. Barbara Robinson into the Lodge room. We thanked these ladies for the dedicated support and great work they had done for us this year. We presented each of them with a lovely poinsettia. We announced that we were also giving poinsettias to the widows of each our Past Masters. Wor. Roland Ripley spoke about the finalization of the Grace Estate which he and others had been working on for more than a year. In accordance with the wishes of their father, a member of our Lodge, the Grace Sisters had left their entire estate to the Lodge. The estate included their