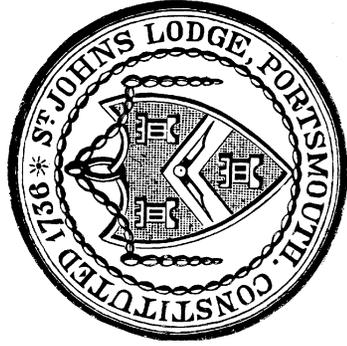
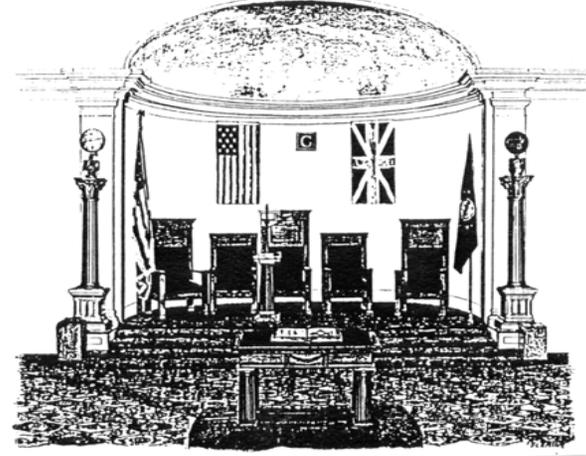


St. John's Lodge, No. 1, F&AM
280 Bayside Rd
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May 2013



May 2013 Trestle Board

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

The Master's Message

Greetings Brethren!

It is hard to believe that we are almost midway through our Masonic year. It has been a busy and eventful one at that! I am pleased to say that our EA degree at the Pitt Tavern went extremely well. Rod MacDonald did a great job in the oriental chair. I would like to extend a warm thank you to the brothers from the Scythe of Time for their participation in that event.

If any officers are planning to attend the Grand Lodge Annual Communication, please remember to bring the regalia of your office. We are excited to be receiving the Grand Master's Award and the Mark Twain Award. Dress is Business attire for non Grand Lodge Officers. Please be sure you have a current dues card.

Rod has requested a new group photo for the website, so I am arranging for a photographer to join us at our May stated. If he is not available we will do it in June.

There will be a FC degree on the 22nd of May. Their MM degree will be performed during Past Master's Night this summer on June 19.

Other events coming in the next few months will include:

- Scholarship Night (June Stated)
- St. John's Sunday (June 23rd)
- Joint Veterans Program (July, date TBD)

Thank you for making it a great year so far,

Fraternally Yours,

Wor Jonathan Neihart

Contact
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Gib Palmer
Secretary
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Memorial Day

LEST WE FORGET
MEMORIAL DAY—May 30, 2011

“Who more than self their country lov'd”

Frist celebrated in 1868 and founded largely through the efforts of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) in remembrance of their members who had fought so valiantly in a long and bloody Civil War. Also to decorate the graves of their comrades who had fallen in battle. In the Southern States, similar respects were paid to the fallen members of the Confederate Army.

In Portsmouth, the GAR was represented by Storer Post No. 1, Department of New Hampshire, Grand Army of the Republic, founded in 1867. In 1893, the Post published a book, authored by Joseph Foster, Paymaster, US Navy, designating the gravesites of veterans of the Revolution, War of 1812, Mexican War and Civil War buried in Portsmouth, Greenland, New Castle, Newington and Rye. For over 60 years, they not only decorated the graves of their deceased comrades but also those veterans of the Revolution, War of 1812, Mexican War, Spanish-American War, Philippine Insurrection and World War I.

Since the demise of the GAR, our country has been involved in many conflicts, including World War II, Korea and Vietnam. Servicemen's organizations to include The American Legion, The Veterans of Foreign Wars and The Marine Corps League, decorate the graves of their deceased members. The hallowed graves of the many veterans from the Revolution through World War I are, for the most part, forgotten.

This year, when you decorate the grave of a loved one for Memorial Day, should there be nearby a grave (or even two) undecorated, marking the final resting place of a long forgotten hero, would you please take the time to place a small American flag adjacent to the marker on his gravesite and, by this small act, make it known that Americans do not forget those who served in the armed forces of the original 13 colonies and the United States of America and to whom we owe everything.

Robert E. Buffum
St. John's Lodge No. 1
Master—1965

Historical Sketch

High School and at the time of his death was active in the school's Alumni Association. He was an electrical engineer on the staff of the American Woolen Co. in Lawrence, MA, and, like his father-in-law, had previously worked for the New Hampshire Gas and Electric Company. He and his wife Helen and their 14 year old son, Richard, lived at 208 Willard Avenue. Bradley was also a very active citizen of the City. He enjoyed membership in the Portsmouth Lions Club and was a football and wrestling coach at Portsmouth High School.

Now for the connection to Freemasonry: In addition to all of his other interests and activities, **William French Tilton, Sr.** was also an active member of the Masonic Fraternity. He was Raised a Master Mason in St. John's Lodge on March 10, 1915, and in 1938, served as our Worshipful Master. His son **William French Tilton, Jr.** and son-in-law **Bradley Marston Clark** were also active Freemasons – both men were Raised in St. John's Lodge on the same evening – July 11, 1945.

As for the Rockingham Hotel – the two faces that look out over State Street from the top façade of the building – **Bro. Woodbury Langdon** and **Bro. Frank Jones** were both distinguished Masons. Bro. Woodbury Langdon was Raised in our Lodge on February 11, 1761 and Bro. Frank Jones was Raised in our Lodge on June 9, 1854.

Alan Robinson
Historian



Out of Hibernation 5K

May 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 EA
Wednesday, May 1, 2013

Picture Night!

Dinner—Tex Mex

(Dinner 6:00, Open 7:00)

Officer dress— White tie and tails

Charity Committee Meeting

Thursday, May 16, 2013

Meeting 6:00, FC Rehearsal 7:00

No Dinner

Grand Lodge Annual Communication

Saturday, May 18, 2013

9:30 AM Open

Business attire and regalia of office

Special Communication—Fellow Craft Degree

Samuel Reed Kraft

Don Scheurle

William Rocha

Wednesday, May 22, 2013

(Dinner 6:30, Open 7:30)

Dinner—Barbeque chicken

St. John's Lodge

Historical Sketch

The front page of the Portsmouth Herald on Saturday, November 13, 1948 had some important news.

The Rockingham Hotel on State Street was changing owners. A corporation headed by Mr. James Barker Smith, manager of the Wentworth Hotel in New Castle, was bringing the two hotels under the same ownership for the first time since their former celebrated owner, Frank Jones.

In the article, Jim Smith indicated that the two hotels would be working together to attract larger conventions to Portsmouth. He commented that he would be improving the beverage services at the hotel and that the famous Langdon Room would remain intact. He also announced that the so-called Corner Room adjacent to the Langdon Room would be re-decorated as a ship's tavern in keeping with the city's seaport history.

The hotel property was originally owned by **Woodbury Langdon**, a Portsmouth merchant, statesman and Justice of the NH Superior Court. He was also the brother of Governor John Langdon. In 1785, Woodbury built a large neo-classical mansion on his property. At the time it was one of the most beautiful brick homes in New England. In 1830, he sold the property to Thomas Coburn whose company converted the mansion into an inn. The Rockingham House was opened to the public on November 1, 1833. In 1870, the Rockingham House was bought by **Frank Jones** the very wealthy master brewer and ale-maker. He remodeled and enlarged the property and opened it as the city's most fashionable hotel. In the great fire of 1884, the hotel was nearly destroyed except for Woodbury Langdon's octagonal dining room. The following year, sparing no expense, Frank Jones rebuilt the hotel around the Langdon Room. It is said that his payroll for the project was more than the payroll of the Portsmouth Navy Yard. The dining room ceiling was made by master woodworking artisans from the Pullman Palace Car Company. The hotel mirrors were imported from France and lined with silver. The interior wall panels were hand-carved Spanish mahogany. The lighting fixtures, inlaid with semi-precious stones, were made by Shreve, Crump and Low of Boston. And the floors were all Italian marble. Frank Jones' personal symbol was a lion and he placed two of them at each entrance. Between the third and fourth floors on the front façade he put terra cotta sculptures depicting the Four Seasons of Man. And along the roof line, he installed two busts – the one on the left is Woodbury Langdon, and the other is Frank Jones.

The Hotel was sold to George Pettee of Washington, DC in 1906 and resold in 1919 to the Rockingham Hotel Company. The Portsmouth Hotel Company took it over in 1934 and then in 1944 it was purchased by Andrew Jarvis.

From 1948 until 1973, the Rockingham House was under the ownership and management of Jim Smith. Finally in 1973, the hotel was sold for renovation as luxury condominiums. During the renovation, much of the hotel's elegance and grandeur was retained, including its beautiful dining room which was carefully preserved. In 1975, a restaurant was opened that utilized the historic Langdon dining room and for more than 35 years now, the Library Restaurant has been one of Portsmouth's most valued landmarks.

The second piece of news on the front page of the newspaper wasn't so happy. The headline read – "William F. Tilton, 67, Dies; Was Kittery Utility Head."

William French Tilton was born in Deerfield, NH in 1881 the son of Frank and Lizzie (Tuxbury) Tilton. He went to local schools until he and his family moved to Amesbury, MA where he graduated from Amesbury High School. He was awarded a Degree from the Thayer School of Engineering at Dartmouth College. He worked a short time for the Amesbury Electric Light Co. and in 1902 joined the Rockingham County Light and Power Co. as a lineman. He served as distribution superintendent of the New Hampshire Gas and Electric Co. until 1940 when he was appointed manager of the Kittery Electric Co.

William Tilton was very active and highly regarded in the City of Portsmouth. He was a Past Noble Grand of Osgood Lodge No. 48, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, of Portsmouth; Past District Grand Master of the New Hampshire Grand Lodge, IOOF; President of the Osgood Lodge Building Association; member of the Strawberry Banke Encampment and Union Rebekah Lodge of Portsmouth; and Past President and Charter Member of the Portsmouth Lions Club.

William Tilton, Sr. was married to Nellie M. (Francis) Tilton and they had two children, **William French Tilton, Jr.** and Helen. Sadly, at the young age of 38 years, William Jr. passed away on December 2, 1947, 11 months before his father.

On the evening of November 14, 1948, two days after William Tilton, Sr. passed away, his daughter Helen and her husband Bradley were visiting Nellie at the family home at 39 Chauncey Street. They were making the final arrangements for the funeral service the following day. At 9 o'clock in the evening, Bradley was suddenly stricken with illness. He made it through the night but tragically, at 8:30 the next morning, he died right there at the house at the young age of 40 years.

Bradley Marston Clark was born November 7, 1908 in Portsmouth, the son of George and Ethel (Marston) Clark. He graduated from Portsmouth Senior