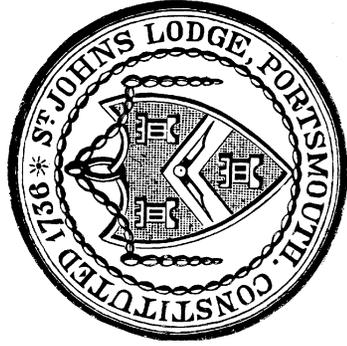
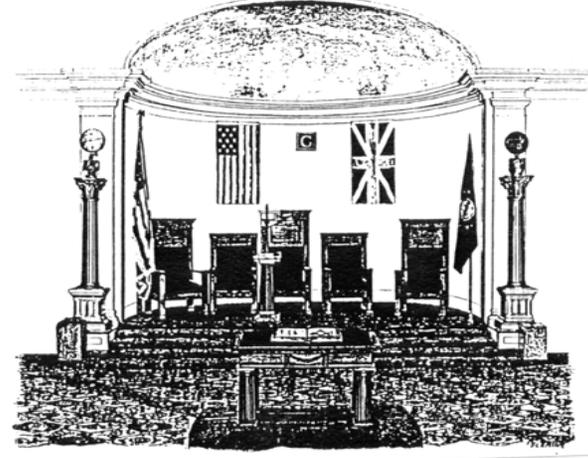


St. John's Lodge, No. 1, F&AM  
280 Bayside Rd  
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November 2012



# November 2012 Trestle Board

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

# The Master's Message

Greetings from The East, Brethren!

October was a busy month for our Lodge.

In addition to our Stated Communication and an EA Degree, we participated in the statewide open house on October 20<sup>th</sup>. Brethren from both St. Andrews and St. Johns Lodge were on hand throughout the day to greet the public. Although the purpose of this event is to increase Masonic Awareness throughout the community, a secondary benefit is that we attract new potential Masons. I believe that we will receive several petitions as a result of the event as will St. Andrews.

We also participated in the Strawberry Banke Halloween Festivities. This was a huge success for us. We had a great group of brethren assist in decorating the Pitt Tavern and then dress up in spooky costumes and "haunt the tavern" for 2 nights. We greeted hundreds kids and parents over the course of the event and received numerous comments on what a great job we did. I look forward to making this an annual event for the Lodge and have no doubt that we will become the major attraction for the event in future years.

I'd like to thank all the brethren who participated in the Open House and the Halloween Event. If you haven't gotten involved in any Lodge activities lately, I encourage you to do so. Not only are they fun, but they help improve Masonry's awareness in the community and to improve the overall health of our fraternity.

This month we will be having a Rusty Brother night at our stated communication. Any brother who has not attended lodge in the last 6 months will receive a free dinner. If you regularly attend lodge, call a brother you haven't seen in awhile and invite them to join you at the stated. If you haven't been to Lodge in awhile, please join us! Worshipful Brother Rod MacDonald will also be presenting the final installment of his Freemasonry during the Civil War program. Don't miss it! We will also be having an FC Degree on November 14<sup>th</sup>.

Finally, we will be submitting our application for the Mark Twain Award by the end of the month and we will keep you apprised of any response we receive. Have a Wonderful Month and Happy Thanksgiving.

Fraternally Yours,

*Wor Gib Palmer*

# Masonic License Plates



Thirty-nine states offer at least one style of specialty license plates related to Freemasonry. In thirty-six states, the plates are adorned with the Square and Compasses logo, with an accompanying caption, "FREEMASON", "MASONIC FAMILY", "MASONIC FRATERNITY", "MASTER MASON", or "BLUE LODGE" on the plate.

Eleven states offer a license plate referencing Prince Hall Masonry. Eleven states offer specialty plates for Shriners. Seven states have plates for Eastern Star and Maryland offers a Scottish Rite license plate.

So, what do we have in New England? Unfortunately, New Hampshire and Maine do not offer Masonic license plates. Rhode Island does not, but Vermont, Massachusetts and Connecticut all offer plates with the Square and Compasses.



Maryland offers the most choices, eight different designs.

cious words” is one of his most famous.

Rev. Richards was a good and decent man of God. He was also a good husband and father, an American patriot, and, of course, a brilliant and imaginative writer and orator. If you guessed that he was also a Freemason, then you are correct!

There is so much more to know about this great man, including his Masonic history, and I’ll share some of it with you next month; but for now you should know that Reverend Brother George Richards was a member of St. John’s Lodge No. 1 in Portsmouth, having affiliated with us on March 1, 1801.

**Alan Robinson  
Historian**



## 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.

This is going to be a busy stated meeting with a lot on our plate. We will have a report of the Finance Committee of its annual budget, and elect or reelect one member to the Committee.

The SJMA will be holding its Annual Meeting at 7:30 PM. They will present their annual budget, the annual report, and hold the election of officers and trustees for the next year.

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*

**Gib Palmer  
Worshipful Master**

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**Robert Sutherland Jr.  
Secretary**

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## November 2012

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	

**Stated Communication—Open in MM  
Wednesday, November 7, 2012**

**Rusty Brother Night**—Any brother who has not attended a meeting in six months get free dinner!

**Program**—Worshipful Brother Rod MacDonald will be presenting the conclusion of his program, “Freemasonry during the Civil War”

**Dinner**—Turkey Dinner with all of the fixings  
(Dinner 6:00, Open 7:00)

**Officer dress— White tie and tails**

**St. John’s Masonic Association  
Annual Meeting**

**Wednesday, November 7, 2012  
(7:30 PM)**

Presentation of annual budget, annual report and election of officers and trustees

**Special Communication—Fellow Craft Degree  
Chris Brown**

**Wednesday, November 14, 2012  
(Dinner 6:00, Open 7:00)**

Dinner—Fish Chowder

**Officer dress— White tie and tails**

## St. John's Lodge

## Historical Sketch

### Rev. George Richards

When President and Brother George Washington died on the evening of December 14, 1799, his doctor stopped the clock at the President's bedside and disabled it from ever working again. I was fortunate to see that famous clock, permanently recording the time 10:20, on prominent display at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial in Alexandria, Virginia a couple weeks ago. If you haven't been to the Memorial, it's well worth the trip.

At the news of the passing of the Father of our Country, great sadness spread across the land. Here in Portsmouth, the wardens of the Universalist Church implored their minister, Reverend George Richards to prepare a commemorative address to honor the President. Rev. Richards, a gifted writer, historian and theologian, responded with a lengthy two-part "Historical Discourse on the Death of General Washington" which he dedicated to the "greatly beloved, virtuous and amiable" widow Mrs. Washington. The address was published along with a Masonic Hymn and Solemn Dirge that Rev. Richards personally composed and sang at St. John's Episcopal Church in Portsmouth on New Year's Eve 1799, 17 days after the President's death. The words of the Masonic Hymn are an example of many beautifully written odes published by Rev. Richards:

*At God's imperial, high decree, Our Master sleeps in dust;  
His Brethren bend the prostrate knee; – Thy Will, O God! is just.*

*That Will, Grand Master, Most Sublime, Lent Him to guide our way;  
When darkness wrapp'd Columbia's clime, and veil'd the light of day.*

*That will beyond the storm of war, Our Master's steps convey'd;  
Our Brother left his trophi'd car, and fought Mount Vernon's shade.*

*In War, in Peace; in War again, Columbia's voice he heard;  
A Master, Brother, cried Amen, and bow'd to Adams' word.*

*His God-like course of glory run – Heav'n's Royal Arch sublime;  
'Mid morn's bright star, and Light's full sun, enthrone His soul divine.*

*Immortal Master, Brother, Hail! Adieu, farewell, adieu;  
The Cassia Sprig, on Glory's vale, is bath'd in Virtue's dew*

George Richards was born near Newport, RI around the year 1755. He was one of three children born to David Richards, a Quaker and lawyer. In his young life, George was taught the common curriculum of the day including reading, writing and arithmetic, as well as some of the higher branches of learning including French and Latin, under the private tuition of a clergyman in Newport who is credited with helping young George develop his life-long interest in verse writing.

After completing his own school years, George worked as a very successful private school teacher in Rhode Island. On May 2, 1774 he took out an advertisement in the local newspaper, the Newport Mercury, that read, "GEORGE RICHARDS, Hereby informs the public, THAT he has opened a SCHOOL, at the House directly opposite to Mr. John G. Wanton's, in Broad street, where reading, writing, arithmetic, the Latin and French tongues, are taught: All who please to favor him with the care of their children, may depend upon the strictest fidelity, in discharging the trust reposed in him."

In the mid 1780's, after several years of teaching school in Boston and serving as a Purser and Chaplain onboard several Navy warships, George was called by God to minister in the Faith. He commenced preaching in the fledgling Universalist Church in America founded by John Murray in Gloucester, Massachusetts, in 1774.

Rev. Richards served as the first regular minister of the Universalist Church in Boston in a meeting house that stood at the corner of Hanover and North Bennet Streets. He later served the Church in Philadelphia and then was the first ordained minister to be called to the Universalist Church in Portsmouth. He served the Portsmouth church with great distinction from 1793 - 1809.

From his seat in Portsmouth, Rev. Richards edited the Universalist Hymnal Book. It contained 49 of his original hymns. In 1801 he published another collection of hymns which contained six more of his hymns, and then in 1806, he published a second edition of that same hymnal with another 26 of his hymns. The hymn "O Christ, what gra-