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 20th. 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 Strawbery 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 14th.

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 state 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.
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

---

Alan Robinson
Historian

---

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

---

Contact Information:
Gib Palmer
Worshipful Master
Gilbert.Palmer@assurant.com
(603) 601-2294

Robert Sutherland Jr.
Secretary
Robert7615@aol.com
(603) 436-1095
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;<br>His Brethren bend the prostrate knee; – Thy Will, O God! is just.

That Will, Grand Master, Most Sublime, Lent Him to guide our way;<br>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;<br>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;<br>A Master, Brother, cried Amen, and bow’d to Adams’ word.

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