October 2012
Trestle Board

St. John’s Lodge No. 1
Portsmouth, NH
Greetings from The East, Brethren!

In addition to our Stated Communication and an EA Degree in October, we have 2 other important dates that you should be aware of.

All New Hampshire Lodges will be holding an open house on **October 20th from 9 AM - 3PM**, and St. Johns #1 is no exception. The Lodge will be open to the public during this time for tours of the Hackett House and the Lodge. It is important that we have a number of brothers on hand during these hours to greet our visitors. This is one of the few times during the year when we open our doors to the public and, although this event is not designed to "sell Freemasonry", it is a great opportunity for us to demonstrate who we are and what we do. The first step in this process is having someone at the door to greet our visitors. Please make an effort to spend a couple of hours at the Lodge on this date.

On **October 26th and 27th**, we will be participating in the Strawberry Banke Halloween Festivities. From **6PM to 8PM** on both nights we will be hosting a "Haunted Lodge" at The William Pitt Tavern. I took my kids to this event last year. There were hundreds of children and families in attendance and we had a great time. This year, we will be decorating the Lodge Room at the Pitt Tavern in spooky Halloween style and distributing candy. If you're interested in participating (helping with decorations, dressing up in costume or otherwise assisting), please contact me or another of your Lodge Officers. Once again, I think this will be a fun event and help to increase Masonic Awareness in the community.

Just to keep you up to date on other Lodge plans, your officers and I met last month to discuss plans for the remainder of 2012. We will be having a Rusty Brother night at the November Stated. If you know of a brother who hasn't attended Lodge in awhile, make the effort to reach out and invite them to join us. Any brother who hasn't been to Lodge in 6 months will get dinner on the house!

We will also be having either a game night in October or possibly a Monday Night Football event in December if we can arrange a joint event with St. Andrews.

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**From the Secretary's Desk**

Brethren:

We’re heading into the end of the year and, pretty soon, you’ll see the dues notices for 2013. If you haven’t paid your 2012 dues, please do so as soon as possible. As always, if you need assistance with your 2012 or 2013 dues, talk to the Master or the Secretary and we’ll make arrangements to help.

Sincerely yours,

Robert L. Sutherland, Jr.

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**1st District Visitations**

Visitations are scheduled at the following lodges in October:

- Gideon Lodge, No. 84, Kingston - October 16
- Strafford Lodge No. 29, Dover - October 24
- Tucker Lodge, No. 99, Raymond - October 30

The format for the visitations will be as follows:

Supper 6:30
Lodge opens at 7:15 full form MM
Lodge will close by 9:00PM (or earlier)

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**Contact Information:**

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HISTORICAL SKETCH ..........Continued from page 5

County, PA on February 16, 2004. It seems fitting that the man who made a huge improvement to the efficiency of the Rumford Fireplace was also a member of the Masonic Fraternity. But is it possible that like Brother Benjamin Thompson this good man was also a member of St. John’s Lodge? Yes; Brother Filmore Oliver Frye was a member of St. John’s Lodge No. 1 in Portsmouth and was Raised in our Lodge on September 26, 1944.

Alan Robinson
Historian

MASTER’S MESSAGE ..........Continued from page 2

Discussions have also begun about 2013 Officers. If you're interested in getting more directly involved in an Officer's role or participating on a committee, please reach out to myself or Br. SW Jon Neihart. As our DDGM, RW Sutherland is fond of saying, "You get out of Masonry what you put into it." I wholeheartedly agree. Becoming an Officer or getting on a committee is one of the most direct ways to get more involved and have an impact on where we go as a Lodge and as a Fraternity, not to mention that you will grow as a man and as a Mason as a result. If you've considered raising your hand in the past but haven't done so for one reason or another, I encourage you to do so now.

Finally, Brethren, lest you think it's a misprint in the calendar, Br. Mark Furber will be presenting his talk on the History of Masonic Ritual at the October Stated. We had planned to have him join us last month, but due to unforeseen circumstances, he was unable to attend. His has graciously agreed to join us this month instead. This promises to be a fascinating lecture. Don't miss it!

I look forward to seeing you at Lodge or one of our other activities in October, Brethren. Have a great month.

Fraternally Yours,

Wor Gil Palmer

October 2012

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Stated Communication
Wednesday, October 3, 2012
(Dinner 6:00, Open 7:00)
Program—Brother Mark Furber will present a talk on the History of Masonic Ritual.
Dinner—Beef Stew
Officer dress—White tie and tails

Special Communication—Entered Apprentice Degree
Wednesday, October 17, 2012
(Dinner 6:00, Open 7:00)
Dinner—Filipino Spaghetti
Officer dress—White tie and tails

Masonic Lodge Statewide Open House
Saturday, October 20, 2012
9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Haunted House at William Pitt Tavern
Friday, Saturday, October 26 & 27, 2012
6:00 PM to 8:00 PM
The other day I looked at my fireplace and chimney and recalled the story of Benjamin Thompson.

Also known as Count Rumford, Benjamin Thompson invented the Rumford fireplace in 1796. He was born in nearby Woburn, Massachusetts in 1753 and was a member of St. John’s Lodge in Portsmouth. In recognition of his work on the nature of heat, Brother Benjamin was knighted by King George III, and given the title of Imperial Count of the Holy Roman Empire by the Bavarian government for whom he worked for many years. His simple fireplace design offered a solution to the smoking chimneys of London.

For hundreds of years fireplaces and stoves were used as the only source of residential heat. In modern times with the advent of electric heat and oil and gas-fired furnaces, the traditional fireplace was built more for appearance than function. Count Rumford’s fireplace design, while attractive and effective at controlling exhaust smoke, is still grossly inefficient even after more than 200 years.

In order to function efficiently a fireplace requires a substantial draft. In typical fireplaces sufficient draft is achieved by providing a flue having a large cross sectional area. To prevent the loss of heated room air when the fireplace is not in use a manual damper is used. A problem with this system is that unless the damper is manually closed after the fire dies out heated room air is drawn up the flue and lost out the chimney. In fact, most of the heat generated by a fireplace goes up the flue with the exhaust gasses.

Today, with the rising cost of fossil fuels and a movement toward energy conservation, there is renewed interest in the fireplace and stove as sources of residential heat. The key is to make them efficient.

Looking at the top of my chimney you can see a damper cap that I had mounted there several years ago as part of a flue system for a propane fireplace insert. This modern fireplace/stove design works great and substantially improves the efficiency of the heating system. It’s a pretty simple concept and includes a heat exchanger through which forced air travels and carries warm air into my living room, while exhaust gasses travel up the flue and out through a special damper cap on the top of the chimney. I’m sure our Brother Benjamin, the old Count, would be impressed with this modern enhancement to his original fireplace design.

While there are actually several variations on the modern design, the best that I’ve seen was invented on February 17, 1981 and is recorded in the United Stated Patent and Trademark Office with Patent 4,250,868. The Patent was awarded to a man named Filmore O. Frye who lived at 42 West Blaine Street in McAdoo, Pennsylvania.

Filmore Oliver Frye was born in Shamokin, PA on July 30, 1919. He graduated from Lehigh University with the Class of 1941 earning a degree in Business Administration. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II and performed advanced military work as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Officer Reserve Corps, the forerunner of the Army Reserve.

In college, he was a member of the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity and the archery club. In September 1940, he married his wife of 61 years, Miss Elsie E. Oliver, and together they had one daughter, Nancy.

Filmore Frye died at home in the town of McAdoo, in Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania.