The Master’s Message

December 7th was a day of remembrance for our Country, thank you to all the members of the Armed Forces and their families, active and retired for your dedication and service to our country.

December 8th 2018 is a day I will never forget! Sincerely thank all the Grand Lodge Officers, current and past Officers of St. John’s Lodge #1, Brethren all, as well as all the family and friends that attended our 2019 Installation of Officers. The Installing Suite of Officers did a fantastic job delivering our ancient ritual; thank you RW William Sawyer for your hard work and organization to make the day outstanding. Special thanks to Most Worshipful John E. Lobdell for delivering the Charge; a memory to cherish. Words cannot express the gratitude I feel for the honor and confidence you all have entrusted to me with the governance of our Lodge moving forward into 2019 and beyond. While our Lodge is not perfect, I want you all to know my main goal is to bring the Brethren together in harmony and brotherhood to make every effort to have our future meetings inspiring, educational, and most importantly fun. To quote RW Michael V. Pettengill: “If we are not having fun, we are doing something wrong”.

Thank you to our newest Past Master of St. Johns Lodge #1 Worshipful Robert P Johnson for your assistance in preparing me for the annual transition and for all your future help, I will be calling, so keep your phone on! Worshipful, you had a successful year, I’m fairly sure it did not go exactly as you planned, but, I for one enjoyed my time as Senior Warden and with your help along the way, learned a great deal.

January will be busy with the Stated Communication on January 2, 2019 at which time we will be voting again for the Secretary and Assistant Secretary positions as we did not have a majority decision during the December meeting. A plurality was reached. However, based on our By-Laws, a majority is required. Please be sure to bring your 2019 dues card to present to the secretary as this will be the only way to receive a ballot to vote. Additionally, we will be going to refreshment during the Stated Meeting to allow the Association to open a special meeting to hold the final election of officers and trustees of St. John’s Masonic Association. Please make every effort to attend this Stated Meeting and support your Lodge for the future.

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Congratulations to the newly elected and appointed officers for 2019. I look forward to working with this inspiring group. I am proud of you all.
Master’s Message cont.

and I think we are ready to move forward in a positive direction and I look forward to the journey.
All the best of the holiday season to all Brethren and families.
Thank you all again for your continued help and support.

Sincerely and Fraternally,
Worshipful Gregg W. Annis

St. John’s Masonic Association

The St John's Masonic Association will be having the regularly scheduled Board meeting at 5 pm on January 2—the same day as our Stated Meeting. All those who are interested are invited to attend.

Two items of focus include our heating system and security alarms. With more information to follow.

The lodge stated meeting will go into recess for rescheduled 2019 Association elections. The elections will be open to all Brothers interested in a leadership position and the slate chosen by the nomination committee. Written ballots will be taken.

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Stated Communication
Wednesday, January 2, 2019
(Dinner 6:00, Meeting 7:00)
Dinner—Breakfast for Dinner ($10)
Reservation link— http://evite.me/6ZXa2pFzNc
Officer dress—White tie, gloves and tails

FC Rehearsal
Wednesday, January 9, 2019
6:30PM

Special Communication
Fellow Craft Degree
Brothers Jeff Vocell, Paul DiIorio,
George Gefrich, Jacob Reny
Wednesday, January 16, 2019
(Dinner 6:00, Meeting 7:00)
Dinner—Phil’s Famous Lasagna ($10)
Reservation link— http://evite.me/8dx1UwcTxt
Officer dress—White tie, gloves and tails

Master & Wardens
Thurs. 24, 2018 @ Star in the East
6:30 Supper 7:30 Meeting
Edgar Forrest Wood was born in Portsmouth on April 9, 1895, a son of Fred L. and Lizzie E. (Thompson) Wood. Along with his brothers Harold and Ralph, Edgar was educated in the Portsmouth public schools and graduated from Portsmouth High School with the class of 1914.

Edgar enlisted and served in the U.S. Naval Reserve Force as a Shipfitter Second Class (SF2) during World War I and in 1919, became a charter member of Frank E. Booma Post 6, American Legion. He attended Plymouth Business School and then in 1926, soon after his father died unexpectedly, he joined with his brother Harold in running the family plumbing business – the Fred L. Wood Co. located at 65 Bow Street in Portsmouth. Together, he and his brother ran the business for the next thirty-seven years, and during that time, he became Portsmouth’s plumbing inspector.

During World War II, Edgar served in the Portsmouth office of the Office of Price Administration (OPA). President Franklin Roosevelt had instituted this advisory commission within the Office for Emergency Management during the war. It had the power to place ceilings on all prices except agricultural commodities, and to ration scarce supplies of other items, including tires, automobiles, shoes, nylon, sugar, gasoline, fuel oil, coffee, meats and processed foods.

Edgar married a lovely young lady by the name of Marguerite Eldredge and they lived at 622 Middle Street in Portsmouth. In 1918, they had a daughter and named her Geraldine.

Edgar was a lifelong member of North Church of Portsmouth, and was also active in the New Hampshire Master Plumbers’ Association and the National Association of Plumbing and Heating Contractors. He joined the Portsmouth Rotary Club shortly after it was chartered in 1923 and was an active member of the club for the next 40 years. During the 1940s, he was elected and served with distinction on the Portsmouth City Council. He died on Sunday, November 3, 1963 at the Portsmouth Hospital after a brief illness. He was only sixty-eight years old. His funeral service at the North Church in downtown Portsmouth was conducted by Rev. John N. Feaster, D.D. and attended by nearly two hundred people. He is buried in the South Cemetery with his loving wife Marguerite who died in 1987 at the age of eighty-nine.

Edgar was a good man, a good husband and father, and highly regarded and respected citizen. He was also an active member of the Masonic fraternity. Brother Edgar Forrest Wood was Raised a Master Mason in St. John’s Lodge, No. 1, on June 13, 1928 and at the time of his passing from labor to refreshment, he was a thirty-five year Mason. The Lodge conducted a Masonic service for him led by our then Master, Worshipful Francis N. Bridge.

You might be interested to know that Edgar and Marguerite’s daughter, Geraldine, married a fella by the name of Bruce Lincoln Webber. That’s right, her name became Geraldine Wood Webber. She died in Portsmouth on December 11, 2012 at the age of 94. Her sizable estate was a matter of considerable controversy over the last several years; you may have read about her in the newspaper. She and Bruce are buried together with her parents in the Wood family plot in the South Cemetery.

Alan M. Robinson, PM Historian