Warm Fraternal Greetings Brethren,

I trust this communication finds you all well as we endure this roller coaster ride of weather in New England. One day we’re nearly 60 degrees and the next, -10 degree with the wind chill. All part of the game, am I right? We actually had a full Stated Communication in February! It was brought to my attention that this was the first February Stated Communication that had not been affected by inclement weather in many years.

I thought our February Stated was a success with the typical business of the evening being completed. I then had the honor and privilege, with the help of Worshipful Jack Hartman and Brother Peter Tarlton, to bring out the original charter of St. John’s Lodge #1 dating back to 1736. We also displayed two leather bound books of meeting minutes dating back to 1739, one of which had the handwritten By-Laws from the early years. Quite an interesting and impactful meeting demonstrating our long history. Thanks to all who were in attendance.

Worshipful Brother Joe Rella, of St. Andrews Lodge, and I had a unique opportunity to meet with Worshipful Brother John Barnes of Friendship Lodge #7 of Chepachet RI, along with 13 other brothers from Rhode Island and their wives. Worshipful Barnes reached out to me to arrange a tour of the Hackett House and see our Lodge. Worshipful Rella and I obliged and went a little further with an additional tour of the William Pitt Tavern. Thanks again Right Worshipful Rod Macdonald for your help with the experience. Our brothers from Rhode Island were impressed and very thankful. We just might find ourselves returning the favor in making a trip to Chepachet in the near future and experience some of their history.

As an update; the Most Worshipful Grand Master, John E. Lobdell will be holding a Town Hall Meeting in our District on March 28, 2019 at 6:30pm. Light refreshments will be served, this meeting will be held at St. James Lodge #102 in Hampton. This is our opportunity to address the Grand Master and his line officer in an unofficial manner. Please mark your calendars and let’s have a big showing from St. John’s #1!

We hear the phrase “cowans and eavesdroppers” at every meeting. While we understand the meaning, what exactly is a “cowan” and how is that different from an “eavesdropper”?

“Cowan” is purely a Masonic term. While “eavesdropper” refers to somebody who spies on the Lodge, a “cowan” is an intruder. Cowan is a term of contempt and applies to one who does the work of a Mason but has not been regularly bred and one who is unacquainted with the secrets of Freemasonry.

The origin of the word cowan is unknown but it may be early Scotch. It was used of a man who practiced Masonry, usually of the roughest character as in the building of walls, who had not been regularly trained and initiated. Corresponding in some sense to “scab” as used by labor unions. If a man has learned the work by some illegal method, he is a cowan. An eavesdropper is one who spies on the Lodge and may be such without having learned anything about it before.

In the second edition of Anderson’s Constitutions, published in 1738, we find the word in use among the English Freemasons. Page 146

“But Free and Accepted Masons shall not allow cowans to work with them; not shall they be employed by cowans without an urgent necessary; and even in that case they must not reach cowans, but must have a separate communication”

In short, an eavesdropper is somebody who attempts to listen to the secrets of Masonry, while a cowan is a man who attempts to pass himself off as a Mason but has not received the degrees of Masonry.

Applications for the 2019 Ward/Day Education Foundation are now being accepted. The deadline is April 17, 2019.

The application can be found on the lodge website, www.portsmouthfreemasons.org
Master’s Message continued from page 2

Lastly, April will be upon us very soon and that means so too will our annual Out of Hibernation 5k Road Race. There is a great deal of work to make this race happen and we are behind in my opinion. Any and all help with regards to fund raising, marketing ideas and logistics are welcome. Please feel free to contact me should you have any suggestions to make this race a success. Lydia’s House of Hope will be the charity benefiting from our efforts, so let’s make this race happen like we have done in the past.

Sincerely and Fraternally,

Worshipful Gregg W. Annis

13th Annual
Out of Hibernation Road Race
Saturday, April 13th
There are a lot of jobs to do between now and race day

Sponsors—We need brothers to help solicit sponsors for the race, particularly from other lodges in the area.
Registrations—We also need brothers to help with registrations the night before the race (Friday, April 13th from 5:00—8:00) and again Saturday morning before the race, starting at 7:00AM.
Race Day—Lastly, we need brothers to help with the race, guiding runners, manning water tables, setting up food and drinks for the runners, etc.

Your dinner can be free!
Each meeting, we will draw the name of a brother for a free dinner. In order to qualify, you MUST have made a reservation for that night’s dinner.

Contact Information:
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Worshipful Master
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Thomas W. Haslam, PM
Secretary
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603-498-7205

March 2019

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Stated Communication
Wednesday, March 6, 2019
(Dinner 6:00, Meeting 7:00)
Dinner—Roast Pork ($10)
Reservation link— http://evite.me/xdEWJf19Vv
Officer dress—White tie, gloves and tails

MM Rehearsal
Wednesday, March 13, 2019
6:30PM

Special Communication
Wednesday, March 20, 2019
(Dinner 6:00, Meeting 7:00)
Dinner—Shrimp and Chicken Alfredo ($10)
Reservation link— http://evite.me/ngVgxe5sU6
Officer dress—White tie, gloves and tails

Masters Class
Wednesday, March 27, 2019
Star in the East Lodge—Exeter
No dinner, 7:00-9:00PM

Grand Lodge Town Hall Meeting
Thursday, March 28, 2019
St. James Lodge # 102, Hampton
Light Refreshments, 6:30PM
Donald Everard Vaughan was born in Penacook, NH on January 4, 1907, the middle child of Raymon Sanderson and Mary Wilson (Smith) Vaughan. His older sister, Dorothy, was born a few years earlier in 1904 and his younger brother Oscar was born a year after him in 1908. In 1916, when Don was nine years old, the Vaughan family moved to Portsmouth and they lived first on State Street and then at 202 Summer Street, the home in which Don lived for the rest of his life.

In 1922, while going to school in Portsmouth, Don became a charter member of Portsmouth Chapter, Order of DeMolay. In 1924 when George Ward was Master Councilor of Portsmouth Chapter, Don held the office of organist. In that same year, he was active in the Alfred Gooding Guild, a young people's religious union of South Church. He graduated from Portsmouth High School with the class of 1926 and then continued his education at Ithaca Conservatory of Music in Ithaca, NY. He was granted a Bachelor of Arts degree in music from the University of New Hampshire in 1940.

Don began his professional career teaching music in the Eliot, ME school system. During that time and for many years, he was the organist at St. Andrew's-by-the-Sea, an historic Episcopal summer chapel on Church Road in Rye, NH. He was also employed by Austin Organs, Inc. a manufacturer of pipe organs based in Hartford, CT.

Over the years, Don played piano on cruise ships of the Grace Steamship Line. The Grace Line which operated from 1882 until 1969 was established by William Russell Grace and his firm W. R. Grace & Co. out of New York. Grace steamships offered passenger service between New York and Seattle via the Panama Canal, and also served several ports in the Caribbean and South America. In December 1937, he set sail on a cruise from New York on a steamship of the Holland-America Line serving as pianist with the ship’s orchestra.

For twenty-five years, Don was the esteemed organist and choirmaster at St. John’s Episcopal Church in Portsmouth. Over the years he was also the organist and choir director of the Baptist Church of Dover, Christ Church of Exeter, Community Church of Durham, and the Federated Church of Greenland. At the time of his death in 1976, he was serving as organist at St. Catherine’s Church (Corpus Christi Parish) in Portsmouth.

In 1943, during World War II, CPL Vaughan enlisted in the U. S. Army Air Force. He graduated from the Parent Radio School of the Army Air Force Technical Training Command at Scott Field, Illinois and was deployed overseas, serving principally in Italy as an assistant chaplain and organist.

Don regularly played piano and organ for recitals, concerts, programs and other events throughout the seacoast. He accompanied many choral groups and numerous soloists, sometimes broadcasting live over the radio from WHEB in Portsmouth. He regularly played the organ in the Rockingham Hotel and at The Capri restaurant in North Hampton, and on Wednesday evenings, he played with his band called the Don Vaughan Combo for the Grille Dance at the Legion Hall. Every year during their Christmas Festival he would set up his organ and play Christmas music from the decorated mezzanine at Newberry’s department store in downtown Portsmouth.

In addition to being a long-time communicant of St. John’s Episcopal Church in Portsmouth, he was also an active member of the Portsmouth Rotary Club and Frank E. Booma Post 6, American Legion. He also served on the Board of Directors of the American Federation of Musicians, Local 376.

Don died on March 26, 1976 at the Portsmouth Hospital after a brief illness; he was only sixty-nine years old. He is buried in the Vaughan family plot in the Woodlawn Cemetery in Penacook.

Donald was a good man and a highly regarded and admired citizen of the seacoast. It shouldn’t be a surprise to learn that he was also a Freemason. That’s right; Brother Don was Raised a Master Mason in St. John’s Lodge, No. 1, on March 10, 1937 and at the time of his passing from labor to refreshment he was serving as the organist for St. John’s Lodge.

By the way, you may have recognized the name of Donald’s sister – Dorothy. That’s right; Dorothy Vaughan was the long-serving head librarian at the Portsmouth Public Library, a preeminent and nationally recognized historian, and the founder of Strawbery Banke. She died July 14, 2004 at the age of ninety-nine and is buried with her brothers and parents in Penacook.

Alan M. Robinson, PM
Historian

Stated Communication
Reservation link—http://evite.me/xdEWJf19Vy

Special Communication
Reservation link—http://evite.me/ngVgxe5sU6