

January 2012 Trestle Board

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

The Master's Message

Brethren,

Greetings from the East! I am looking forward to a fantastic 2012 and I am excited to begin our work for the coming year.

Let me begin by expressing my sincere and heartfelt thanks to the Brethren of St. John's Lodge for electing me. I assure you that I will perform the duties of Master to the best of my abilities over the next 12 months.

For those of you who were unable to attend the Installation, you missed a great event. The Installation Team was skillfully led by RW William Sawyer. We had a number of family members and friends in attendance and afterwards we all enjoyed the fine refreshments provided by our master chef, Worshipful Phil Frazier who was assisted by a number of brothers from The Scythe of Time Chapter of The Widow's Sons. Thank you to all the brethren who played a roll in making our Installation such a success.

In 2012, we will continue to do those things we've done well in the past – focus on performing the highest quality degree work possible, raising new Master Masons, and contributing as liberally as possible to the relief of others. Our biggest event of the year will be our Out of Hibernation 5k Road Race for the benefit of The Seacoast Family Food Pantry.

The Road Race has grown every year, as has our contribution to The Pantry. This year, my goal is to hit the \$10,000 mark. This will be a stretch, but I believe we can achieve it. Work on the race will begin in earnest in January.

In the coming year, I also plan on having programs presented at as many of our stated communications as possible. Although we must certainly perform the business functions of the lodge, we must also attend to our Masonic Formation - the ever continuing process of spiritual and intellectual growth that we must all undergo to improve ourselves in Masonry. This is the process of fitting the rough ashlar of our imperfect being into the perfect ashlar fit for the divine temple.

I am fascinated by the ideas and concepts that I believe attracted men like Benjamin Franklin and George Washington to join the craft - subjects like symbolism, ritual, metaphysics, philosophy, art, the ideas of the enlightenment, and the true Tenets of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth.

These are some of the topics I'd like to see presented in Lodge, but I'm certainly open to suggestions. Brethren, if any of you have other Masonic concepts you'd be interested in learning more about, please let me know. Also, if

Continue at right.....

January 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	31				

Stated Communication (Open in EA)

Wednesday, January 4, 2012

(Dinner 6:00, Open 7:00)

Dinner—Shepard's Pie (\$8.00)

Officer dress—White tie and tails

Special Communication

Fellow Craft Degree

Randy Bernard Carter, Jamey Ray Beland,

Michael Larson, Jeffrey Matthew Robidoux

Wednesday, January 18, 2012

(Dinner 6:00, Open 7:00)

Dinner—Spaghetti with Meatballs & Sausage (\$8.00)

Officer dress—White tie and tails

any of you would be interested in presenting a topic over the next year, please let me know that as well!

Finally, I would like to express my personal thanks to Worshipful Stolworthy for leading us in such a successful 275th year. He has served our lodge faithfully as Worshipful Master and has strengthened St. Johns in many, many ways. Please join me in thanking our brother personally the next time you see him!

Fraternally Yours,

Wor Gil Palmer

St. John's Lodge

Historical Sketch

John Beahan

A stiff hat is called a 'tile' and in a Masonic Lodge, the Worshipful Master typically wears one in recognition of the rank and dignity of his office. It's a tradition that dates back many centuries and alludes to the crown that adorned the head of King Solomon. While the styles of Masonic hats differ around the world, they are all visible symbols of the Master's authority, and as such, reflect a respectful, classic or traditional style. In St. John's Lodge, the Master traditionally wears a silk top hat.

A person whose occupation is the manufacture, selling, or repair of hats is called a Hatter. In the 18th and 19th centuries, many of the world's great Hatters worked in England and Ireland. In those days, mercury was used in the production of felt, which was used in the manufacturing of hats common at the time. Regrettably, the Hatters who worked in the hat factories were exposed daily to trace amounts of the metal, which accumulated within their bodies over time, causing some of them to develop dementia caused by mercury poisoning. The phrase 'Mad as a Hatter' became popular around that time as a way to refer to someone who was thought to be insane.

The character of the **Mad Hatter** was invented by the famous English author Charles Lutwidge Dodgson, better known by the pseudonym Lewis Carroll, in 1864 for his classic book, "**Alice's Adventures in Wonderland.**" Johnny Depp portrayed the Mad Hatter in Tim Burton's movie *Alice in Wonderland* (2010). In the movie, the Mad Hatter recites a portion of Lewis Carroll's famous poem, 'Jabberwocky', to Alice. The poem is reprinted at the bottom of this article for those who would like to read it again.

John Beahan was a real life Hatter. He learned the trade in his native Ireland where he was born in 1785. In 1809, at the age of 24, he immigrated to America and settled in Portsmouth where he continued to make hats. He was a good man who was very happy living in Portsmouth. Not much else is known about him except that he lived here for only seven years before he died at the young age of 31 years on July 31, 1816. He is buried in Portsmouth's North Cemetery. His grave is marked with a stone similar to most of the others in this very historic cemetery. The gravestone was hand carved by Samuel Treat; and it reads:

*Here rests in peace
the Body of
John Beahan
A native of Ireland
who emigrated to this happy land*

A.D. 1809. died July 31, 1816

Æt 31

Stranger; Brother; Companions Gone

To join the Royal Arch above

On the top of the gravestone, Samuel Treat engraved a circle with the initials H T W S S T K S around the perimeter, and in the center of the circle, there's a small symbol and the words 'Washington Chapter.' Those of you who are Royal Arch Masons will recognize this engraved circle as John Beahan's 'Mark.' Indeed, Companion Beahan was a member of Washington Chapter, No. 3, Royal Arch Masons located here in Portsmouth. And yes; Brother John Beahan was a Master Mason having been Raised in St. John's Lodge, No. 1 on July 7, 1813

Alan Robinson
Historian

Jabberwocky by Lewis Carroll

**`Twas brillig, and the slithy toves
Did gyre and gimble in the wabe;
All mimsy were the borogoves,
And the mome raths outgrabe.**

**`Beware the Jabberwock, my son!
The jaws that bite, the claws that catch!
Beware the Jujub bird, and shun
The frumious Bandersnatch!**

**He took his vorpal sword in hand:
Long time the manxome foe he sought --
So rested he by the Tumtum tree,
And stood awhile in thought.**

**And as in uffish thought he stood,
The Jabberwock, with eyes of flame,
Came whiffing through the tulgey wook,
And burbled as it came!**

**One, two! One, two! And through and through
The vorpal blade went snicker-snack!
He left it dead, and with its head
He went galumphing back.**

Continued on next page.....



From the Secretary's Desk

Brethren:

It came to my attention that many that receive our TB are not aware that our by-laws of both the Lodge and the Association require that after the annual meeting of the Association that the Annual report and the approved budget for the next year be printed in the December TB. Hence there is NO commingling of information as it is required by BOTH by-laws that all the members are informed. For those of you that are not members, I hope you enjoyed the extra reading materials.

There is good news from the Sectary. The Lodge has been very busy over the last year and in my report, as of the beginning of December, we had a gain in membership of nine (9) members for the year! The dues are coming in fairly well and I am pleased to report the sale of our first two Life Memberships! There are still a few members that owe some back dues, but the dues are coming in well. One brother even paid his 2013 dues so he would not get behind again!

To all of our 50 year members that are so wonderful to our lodge and keep sending in their dues as a donation to the operation of the Lodge, we thank you so very much for your never ending support of St John's Lodge No. 1. It is Brothers such as yourselves that prove what Masonry is all about. THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH FOR ALL YOUR HELP.

To all the brothers, visitors and our Special Ladies I wish you all a very happy New Year.

Sincerely yours,

Robert L. Sutherland, Jr.

District Deputy Grand Master, 1st Masonic District

Jabberwocky by Lewis Carroll

Continued from previous page.....

And has thou slain the Jabberwock?
Come to my arms, my beamish boy!
O frabjous day! Callooh! Callay!
He chortled in his joy.

'Twas brillig, and the slithy toves
Did gyre and gimble in the wabe;
All mimsy were the borogoves,
And the mome raths outgrabe.

Cowans and Evesdroppers

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; nor 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.

Contact
Information:

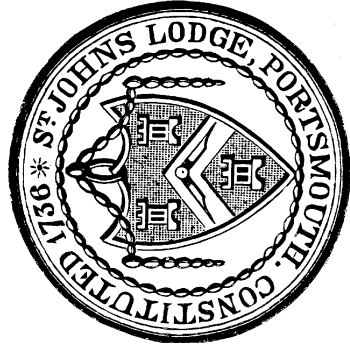
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