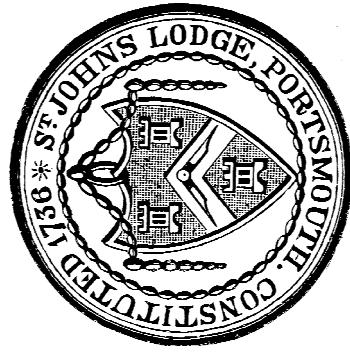
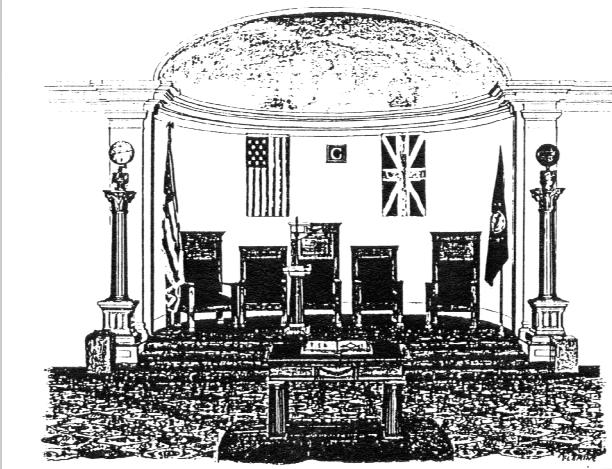


St. John's Lodge, No. 1, F&AM
351 Middle St
Portsmouth, NH 03801

Stamp



January 2021



January 2021 Trestle Board

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

The Master's Message

Greetings Brethren,

I certainly did not expect to be writing another Master's message when I departed the Oriental Chair 7 years ago, but here I am, happily. It is with equal surprise that I am writing during a pandemic, in case you haven't heard. We are all tired of it and equally exhausted of the complaints surrounding it. With that said, we will be pushing through this year to the best of our abilities while following the protocols and guidelines set forth by the Grand Lodge of the state of New Hampshire.

Many of you will not be making it to Lodge due to the risks associated with Covid-19. No Mason should feel compelled to be there during this time. We are thinking of you brethren, and hope you are able to join us soon. For those of you that are comfortable, I have laid out some goals for the year which I hope you will be pleased with.

1. Ritual Excellence- by the end of my term here, it is my goal to return St. Johns to the gold standard. We have rehearsed and I am feeling confident we will achieve this.

2. Keep it Interesting- As long as we have candidates, we will always be in the business of making Masons. I am putting together a lecture series and programs for 2021 on a variety of topics that I think you will love. I have asked the William Whipple Military Lodge to spearhead the committee to keep these lectures and programs flowing throughout the year.

This month's program is a lecture brought to you by Worshipful Chris Derosa who will be speaking on the topic of Pre-Columbian voyages to North America, the Sinclairs, and other evidence that suggests that everything you learned in school about this topic is wrong.

3. Keep it simple and transparent- We have enough secrets. My agenda is clear and without hidden motives. If I aim to do something I will tell anyone who cares to listen. I expect the same respect from my brothers. The Trestle Board will be my sounding board to alert the brethren of any changes.

Let's get to work!

Happy New Year

Fraternally,

***Worshipful Jonathan Neihart
Worshipful Master***

2021 OFFICERS

Worshipful Master.....	Wor. Jonathan Neihart
Senior Warden.....	Wor. Daniel Stolworthy
Junior Warden.....	Peter Splaine
Secretary.....	Wor. Thomas W. Haslam
Assistant Secretary.....	Wor. Peter Preteroti
Treasurer.....	R.W. William S. Sawyer
Assistant Treasurer.....	R.W. Robert R. Sutherland Jr.
Senior Deacon.....	Brandon Gray
Junior Deacon.....	Karl Searl
Senior Steward.....	Michael Hudson
Junior Steward.....	Nathan Barkis
Chaplain.....	Wor. Gregg Annis
Marshal.....	Timothy Neihart
Tyler.....	Dale Sprague
Electrician.....	Howard Kalet
Musician.....	Dan Silverman
Historian.....	Wor. Alan M. Robinson
Web Master.....	R.W Rod MacDonald
Grand Lodge Representative.....	Nathan Barkis



From the Secretary's Desk

Brethren – Your \$130.00 2021 dues notice was sent out in late October and were due by December 31. To date, more than half of the members have paid their dues and we appreciate it.

If you haven't paid them yet, please send the payment now.

Thank you.

***Brother Thomas W. Haslam
Secretary***

.....Continued from page 5

In 1844, he was elected Master of Solar Lodge, No. 14 of Bath, Maine, and the following year, he served as Grand Steward of the Grand Lodge of Maine (1845-48). Throughout all these years, he was also a very active member of the York Rite of Freemasonry in Maine and New Hampshire.

Brother Thomas S. Bowles was a good man, a dedicated and loving husband and father, an artisan and master craftsman, and a very distinguished Master Mason. He died on July 24, 1851 in Wiscasset, Maine, and is buried in the Maple Grove Cemetery in Bath. On his gravestone is engraved a right hand with a finger pointing upward. You will recognize this symbol from our Masonic funeral service where after each of us deposits a sprig of evergreen in the casket, we individually raise our right hand above our head and point to heaven.

**Alan M. Robinson, PM
Historian**



Outgoing Master, Worshipful Brother Jason DeStasio, presents incoming Master, Worshipful Brother Jonathan Neihart with the traveling jewel at the installation in December.

January 2021

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

Wednesday, January 6, 2021

(4:45—SJMA Meeting)

(Dinner 6:00, Meeting 7:00)

Dinner—Chicken Parm (\$10)

Reservation link—<http://evite.me/6VX44zWY2k>

Officer dress—White Tie and Tails

Officer Rehearsal

Wednesday, January 20, 2020—6:30PM

Contact
Information:

**Jonathan Neihart, PM
Worshipful Master**
176@aubuchonhardware.com
(603) 300-9093

**Thomas W. Haslam, PM
Secretary**
stjohnstom@comcast.net
603-498-7205

St. John's Lodge

Historical Sketch

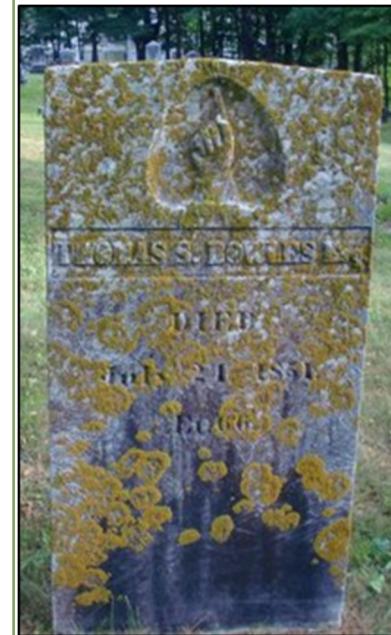
Thomas S. Bowles

A spyglass is a telescope that is about 12" long before you slide it open to reveal two hidden inside sections. When it's fully extended, it's about 29" long. In the early 1800's, a spyglass was required gear for every mariner, and there was a store in Portsmouth where you could buy one. In addition to spyglasses, the store made and sold brass and ebony sextants – navigation instruments used to measure the angle between a star and the horizon for the purposes of celestial navigation; and navigation quadrants – used in measuring the altitude of the sun or a star above the horizon to find a geographic position at sea. Also in the store were beautifully made compasses and precisely calibrated scales, calipers, gauging rods and board rules; as well as instrument cases and seamen's books. The proprietor of the store was Thomas S. Bowles.

Thomas Salter Bowles was born in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, on May 29, 1785, the son of Samuel and Hannah (Salter) Bowles. Thomas married a young lady by the name of Hannah Ham of Portsmouth on September 21, 1809 and they lived on Austin Street. Sadly, his young bride died during childbirth on June 5, 1811; she was just twenty-one years old. Their infant and unnamed son died two months later on August 16, 1811. Hannah and her infant son are buried together, alongside her parents, in the North Cemetery in Portsmouth. A couple years later, Thomas married for a second time to Abiah Emery Bradley on September 29, 1813 in Haverhill, Massachusetts, and they had six children, including: John D., Hiram A., Stephen B., Benjamin F., Moses E. and Thomas Bowles.

At his shop at 9 Daniel Street in Portsmouth, Thomas manufactured and sold mathematical, optical and surveying instruments including the beautiful and functional nautical instruments mentioned above. He also cleaned, repaired and calibrated this same equipment. In his workshop out back, he turned steel, iron, brass, ivory and wood for customers. He was quite the craftsman and artisan. He belonged to the Association of Mechanics and Manufacturers as well as the Mechanic Fire Society both located in Portsmouth.

Brother Thomas was a very active Freemason. He was Raised in St. John's Lodge, No. 1 in Portsmouth on November 4, 1807. He served as our Senior Warden (1810-1815) and Secretary (1816-1819). He was one of the petitioners for Pythagoras Lodge, No. 33 in Portsmouth in 1818 and served as its first Master in 1819. He served as



Grand Lecturer of the Grand Lodge of New Hampshire (1810-12), Junior Grand Deacon (1813-15), and Grand Secretary (1815). He returned to the position of Grand Lecturer in 1816 and then served as District Deputy Grand Master for the First Masonic District (1817-22), and District Deputy Grand Lecturer in 1823.

Brother Thomas assisted in the consecration of the Grand Lodge of Maine in 1820 and Strafford Lodge, No. 29 in Dover, New Hampshire in 1824. He moved to Portland, Maine in 1825 where he was elected an honorary member of Portland Lodge, No. 1 in September 1825. He moved to Gorham, Maine in 1828, Buxton, Maine in 1836 and Bath, Maine in 1840.

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