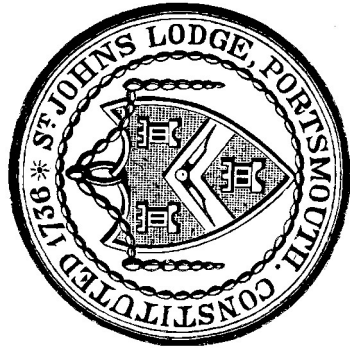
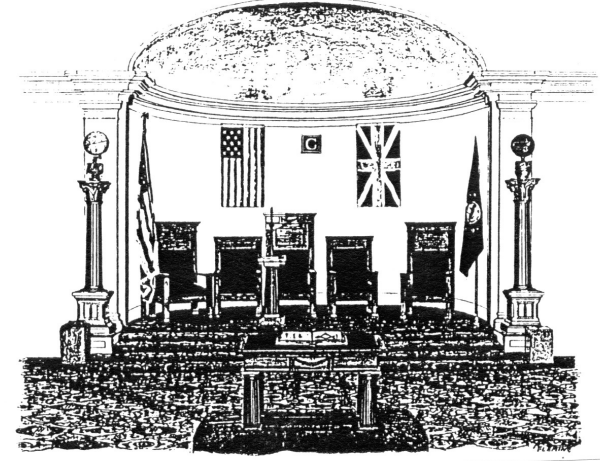


St. John's Lodge, No. 1, F&AM
351 Middle St
Portsmouth, NH 03801



Stamp

February 2023



February 2023 Trestle Board

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



This year, the City of Portsmouth celebrates its' 400th anniversary. There are many celebrations scheduled throughout the summer, including the Grand Parade on June 3rd.

St. John's Lodge will be entering a parade float and we need your creativity and craftsmanship!

The Worshipful Master is putting together a parade committee. We need a committee of at least eight. If you're interested in helping design, build or participate in the parade, please let us know.



In December, we conducted a fellowcraft degree for a candidate from Federal Lodge No. 5 in Dover.

Pictured above (l to r) is the Master of Federal Lodge, Worshipful Orman W. Hall, Worshipful Master Peter Splaine, John Paul Thomas II, and Federal Lodge Chaplain, Right Worshipful, Michael Steward



2023 Worshipful Master, Peter Splaine, presented outgoing Worshipful Master, Daniel Stolworthy, with a gift for his year of service in the East—a hand-woven lawn chair. Here's to summer days enjoying time relaxing in the sun.



In January, we welcomed our two newest Entered Apprentices, Jared Caleb Splaine and Mark Richard Roberts—pictured above with Worshipful Master Peter Splaine.

the judges of the Court of Sessions. The Court of Sessions was the body that granted licenses to innholders and retailers who wanted to serve liquor.

On October 29, 1807, when he was 25 years old, James Ladd married 19 year old Lucy Sellars of Portsmouth. They were married by clergyman Caleb H. Sherman of the First Parish Church of Dover. The happy couple lived in Portsmouth and had eight children: James, Sophia, Lucy, Charles, Frances, Cecelia, Cecelia and Ruth. The first Cecelia died when she was just 15 months old. She is buried in the North Cemetery in Portsmouth. Her headstone reads: *Erected to the memory of Cecelia Elouisa Ladd daughter of James & Lucy Ladd died August 29, 1820 at 15 mo. Sweet babe no more, but seraph now; Before the Throne behold her bow; Her soul enlarg'd to angel size, Joins in the triumph of the skies.* Cecelia's sister with the same name was born a couple years later in 1823.

That year 1823 has some significance – it was 200 years ago and it was the 200th Anniversary year of the city of Portsmouth. In that year, James Ladd was 41 years old and was not only serving as a great husband and father; not only was he serving as Deputy Collector, a highly respected U.S. Customs Service official in Portsmouth; he was also serving as the 25th Worshipful Master of St. John's Lodge, No. 1 in Portsmouth. That year, while serving as Master, he represented St. John's Lodge in the official commemorations of the 200th Anniversary of the city of Portsmouth.

Wor. James Ladd was Raised a Master Mason in 1803 in Massachusetts and became a member of St. John's Lodge on December 2, 1807 soon after moving to Portsmouth. He died on September 20, 1873 at his home at Salisbury Point, Massachusetts. He is buried with his wife Lucy at the Newton Cemetery in Newton, Massachusetts. A short obituary in The New England Farmer newspaper read that James Ladd was a man of strict integrity and considerable ability; and at age 91, he was a 70-year member of the Masonic fraternity and was said to have been one of the longest serving Freemasons in the country at that time.

**Alan M. Robinson, PM
Historian**

February 2023

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				

Stated Communication
Wednesday, February 1, 2023
 (4:45—SJMA Meeting)
 (Dinner 6:00, Meeting 7:00)
Dinner—Shepherd's Pie
Officer dress—White tie and tails
Collation to follow

Special Communication
Fellowcraft Degree
Wednesday, February 22, 2023
 (Dinner 6:00PM, Open 7:00PM)
Dinner—Rahmschnitzel
Officer dress—White tie and tails

**Contact
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Secretary
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 603-498-7205

James Ladd and the U.S. Customs Service

The U.S. Customs and Border Protection agency (CBP) is one of the world's largest law enforcement organizations. It is charged with keeping terrorists and their weapons out of the country while facilitating lawful international travel and trade. As early as the year 1665, the Customs Service was active in the port of Portsmouth collecting duties on imported goods as an agent of the British government. In 1675, Sampson Sheafe was named the first Collector of the Customs in Portsmouth.

On April 30, 1789, President George Washington was inaugurated on the balcony of Federal Hall in New York City. Federal Hall served as the seat of the federal government until 1790 when the capital was moved to Philadelphia and the building became a Customs House. It was in Federal Hall that President Washington signed the Fifth Act of Congress, creating the United States Customs Service. The president also signed several other Acts that established a system of tariffs on imported goods and merchandises and on the tonnage of ships, in order to help fund the new federal government.

President Washington established customs collection districts in 11 states, including the first one located here in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. He intended to appoint Pierse Long to the position of Collector of the Customs in Portsmouth but sadly, Pierse died of heart failure before he could do so. Instead, the president appointed Joseph Whipple, the brother of William Whipple who signed the Declaration of Independence, to be the first Collector of the Customs in the new nation. Joseph Whipple's office, the first Customs House in Portsmouth, was a small attachment to his large home located on State Street where the TD Bank building is today. To make way for the Portsmouth Savings Bank which was there before TD Bank, Whipple's beautiful home was moved in 1969 to its current location at 599 Middle Street. I remember watching the house come down Middle Street – it was quite a spectacle.

The Customs Service was responsible to record all imports and exports through the port of Portsmouth. For example, in 1790, the following was exported: 881 million board feet of pine boards and planks; 79 million board feet of oak boards and planks; 3 million feet of pine timber; 9 million feet of oak timber; 279 million staves and

headings; 31 million shingles; 10,551 quintals of dry fish (a quintal is a measure equal to 100 pounds); 284 barrels of pickled fish; 197 barrels of train oil (oil obtained from the blubber of a right whale); 566 barrels of beef; 258 horned cattle; 445 sheep; and 108 horses. That same year, the following was imported: 748 gallons of Madeira wine; 72,700 gallons of rum; 342 gallons of ale; 165,921 gallons of molasses; 11,933 pounds of coffee; 20,920 pounds of cocoa; 188,383 pounds of sugar; 288 pounds of cheese; and 33,954 bushels of salt.

The imported salt was used for curing fish that was later exported. The large quantities of sugar, rum, molasses, coffee and cocoa were not for local consumption but rather were used as barter by the merchants of Portsmouth who were doing business with customers in Europe. In 1802, the money collected in Portsmouth from duties on foreign goods, tonnage taxes on vessels, and other miscellaneous taxes was \$157,692. After paying salaries, reimbursing the local cod fishermen and the pickled fish exporters, and paying for expenses related to the Customs Service operated lighthouse at Fort Constitution, the Portsmouth office remitted \$111,141 to the U.S. Treasury.

The Customs Service moved from Joseph Whipple's house to a new Customs House and Post Office located in the brick building with a curved entrance at the corner of Penhallow and Daniel Street in downtown Portsmouth. The service operated there from 1817 to 1858 when it was relocated to the new Customs House and Post Office – the large granite building at the corner of State and Pleasant Streets. Today the Portsmouth office of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Service is located at 42 Airline Avenue at Pease International Tradeport and the office falls under the purview of William Ferrara, director of field operations, CBP, in Boston, Massachusetts.

On February 18, 1816, after about 25 years in the position, Joseph Whipple, the first Collector of the Customs in the country, died and his position was filled by Timothy Upham. Soon after his appointment, Mr. Upham named James Ladd to be Portsmouth's Surveyor of Customs, a senior position in the office.

James Ladd was born at Haverhill, Massachusetts, on July 6, 1782, the youngest of eight children of Ezekiel and Ruth (Hutchins) Ladd. His parents were innkeepers and tanners and his father served as a Haverhill selectman, city treasurer and a one of