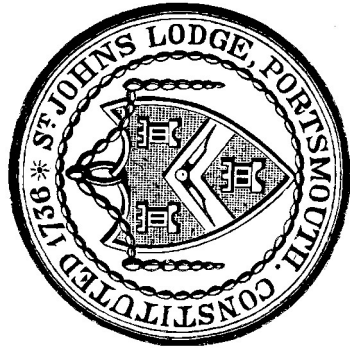
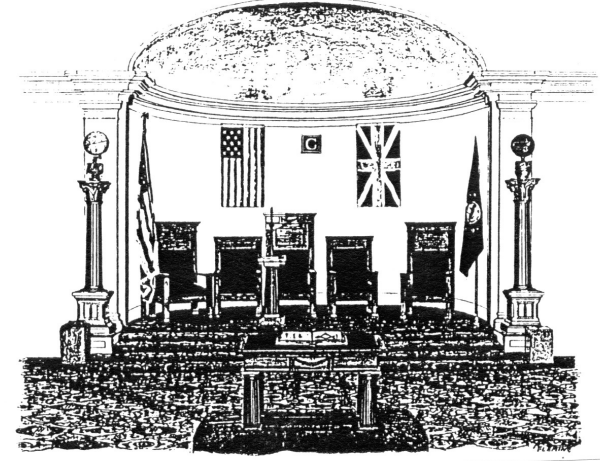


St. John's Lodge, No. 1, F&AM  
351 Middle St  
Portsmouth, NH 03801



Stamp

January 2023



# January 2023 Trestle Board

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

## 2023 Installation of Officers



Worshipful Brother Peter Splaine and the other officers for St. John's Lodge for 2023. (Left to right: Ian McDonald, Joshua Nixon, Michael Hudson, Alan Amman, Greg Annis, William Sawyer, Jonathan Townes, Thomas Haslam, Steven Goodrow, Rod McDonald, Nicholas Kane and David Scamman)  
Not pictured, Karl Searl, Daniel Stolworthy, Floyd Caren and Robert Johnson



For many years after her husband's passing from labor to refreshment, Shirley H. Alden continued to be a strong, dedicated and caring supporter of the Masonic family, especially the Order of Eastern Star, the Order of the Rainbow for Girls, and St. John's Lodge. She served for 25 years as Special Advisor to the Master of St. John's Lodge for its Special Ladies reunions and programs. She loved life, had a wonderful sense of humor, and graciously touched the lives of everyone that she met, including mine. Every year on St. John's Sunday in June, she dedicated a beautiful arrangement of flowers on the altar at St. John's Church to her beloved husband John. She died Tuesday, December 13, 2011 at the age of 86 years and is buried with John at the cemetery in Eliot.

This month we remember two amazing citizens and wonderful members of our Masonic family, John and Shirley Alden, on the 50th Anniversary of his passing. And in their memory, we say once again, if you or someone you know is having difficulty and needs assistance, there is help available. Let one of your brothers know and we'll respond with a helping hand of brotherly love.

**Alan M. Robinson, PM  
Historian**



The International Order of the  
**Rainbow for Girls**  
NEW HAMPSHIRE

The International Order of the Rainbow for Girls New Hampshire will be conducting their installation of officers for 2023 in St. John's Lodge on Sunday, January 22, 2023 at 1:00PM.

They will be honoring their past, present and future of Rainbow with a special recognition of Beverly Splaine (our Worshipful Master's mom).

All are invited to attend.

.....Continued from page 5

I don't know this for certain, but as I understand it, at about this time, John was diagnosed with a very serious, late stage health issue that was very painful. The situation, at least in his mind, was intolerable and beyond hope. On Tuesday morning, January 30, 1973, he drove to the top of the southbound lane of the newly opened high-level bridge that carries Route 95 over the Piscataqua River and parked his car in the breakdown lane. With the car still running, he made his way over to the catwalk and in a final act of desperation, jumped into the Piscataqua River 135 feet below. This terribly sad and tragic end was witnessed by David Cole, an Eliot resident on Woodbine Avenue who immediately summoned help. Coast Guard and local/state police rescue and recovery vessels were dispatched and they searched relentlessly for several days to no avail.

John's death at the age of 47 years was a heart-wrenching loss for his loving family, his dear friends and co-workers, and his brothers and sisters of the Masonic family who immediately surrounded his wife Shirley and their daughters with love and care. On Saturday, February 10, 1973 at 2:00 pm, a Memorial Service was conducted at the Portsmouth Masonic Temple by Rev. Brother John N. Feaster, minister of the North Church of Portsmouth and grand chaplain of the Grand Lodge of New Hampshire along with The Rev. W. Charles Hodgins, rector of St. John's Church. 500 mourners attended the service including a large delegation from the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard; the First National Bank of Portsmouth where Shirley was a teller; and the Masonic family that was led by Most Worshipful Robert Danielson, Grand Master of New Hampshire and Wor. Alvin C. Bissell, Master of St. John's Lodge. The Masonic family included the leaders and members of the Scottish Rite of New Hampshire; Bektash Temple Shrine; Order of Eastern Star of Maine and New Hampshire, and the Order of the Rainbow for Girls with representatives of a dozens of Assemblies from Portsmouth to Portland. The officers and brethren of St. John's Lodge and St. Andrews Lodge were present in large numbers, including 16 past masters of St. John's Lodge. Following the Memorial Service, John's immediate family returned to the Piscataqua River's edge and in a solemn and private ceremony, cast floral tributes upon the waters in loving memory of a wonderful husband and dear father.

This sad story continued for a few more months until May 30, 1973 when John's body was finally found near Great Bay Marina in Newington. A private committal service was held on Saturday, June 2, 1973, at the family lot in Mount Pleasant Cemetery in Eliot. The Rev. Brother John Feaster of the North Church of Portsmouth conducted the service.

## January 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
29	30	31				

### Stated Communication Wednesday, January 4, 2023

(4:45—SJMA Meeting)

(Dinner 6:00, Meeting 7:00)

**Dinner—Pot Roast with Veggies**  
**Officer dress—White tie and tails**  
**Collation to follow**

### Special Communication

**Entered Apprentice Degree**

**Wednesday, January 18, 2023**

(Dinner 6:00PM, Open 7:00PM)

**Dinner—Chinese New Year Dinner**  
**Officer dress—White tie and tails**

### Contact Information:

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**Worshipful Master**  
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**Secretary**  
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603-498-7205



**John Francis Alden**

This month's article recounts a terrible tragedy in our Lodge involving the loss of one of our brothers by suicide. If you or someone you know is struggling, please know that there is help available. All of us have promised to help, aid and assist a distressed brother Master Mason, and we will. You can reach out to the worshipful master, secretary or any of the brethren, including me, and we will be there to help you...anytime.

John Francis Alden was born in Manchester, New Hampshire, on April 19, 1925, the younger of two sons of Joseph Russell and Florence Mabel (Wheeler) Alden. John attended Manchester Central High School and graduated from Goffstown High School with the class of 1942.

On October 30, 1942, less than a year after the attack on Pearl Harbor and America's entry into World War II, 17-year old John Alden enlisted in the U. S. Navy. On May 28, 1943, after completing basic training and a Navy electrician's course, he reported to the commissioning crew of the destroyer USS Erben (DD 631) at Bath Iron Works in Bath, Maine. For the next four years, he served as a petty officer (second class) with the rate of Interior Communications Electrician (IC2) aboard USS Erben which was then forward deployed to the South Pacific. Following World War II, he returned home to New Hampshire and on November 25, 1945, he married his high school sweetheart, Shirley Stella Hill, in Manchester. They had two daughters, Priscilla (born in 1946) and Linda Gale (born in 1948), and they lived very happily together at 12 Leach Road in Eliot, Maine.

In 1950, John was recalled to active duty in the U. S. Navy during the Korean Conflict. After two more years of heroic and exemplary service to our nation, he was honorably discharged from the military in May 1952 at the age of 27 years.

John attended school at the Consolidated Edison Company of New York and at the Sperry Gyroscope Company in Brooklyn, New York. Sperry Gyro was a major American equipment and electronics company that made navigation equipment. He also attended the New Hampshire Vocational Technical College and the University of New Hampshire. Beginning in 1952, he worked for twenty years at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard as a nuclear inspector and supervisor in the electrical engineering division of the Nuclear Engineering Department.

John was a great guy and had many friends and professional associates. He was a member of Boardman-Ellis Post No. 6977, Veterans of

Foreign Wars, in Cape Neddick, Maine, and a faithful parishioner at St. John's Episcopal Church in Portsmouth.

On May 1, 1957, John petitioned St. John's Lodge, No. 1 in Portsmouth with the recommendation of three brothers of the Lodge: Helmer Omer, George Currier and Elmer Smith. On July 17, 1957, he was made a Mason; on August 14, he passed to the degree of Fellowcraft; and on September 18, 1957, he was Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason, all in St. John's Lodge. He was very active in the Masonic family and enjoyed membership in the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry in the Valley of Portsmouth and Dover; Bektash Temple Shrine of Concord; and the Portsmouth Shrine Club. He and his wife Shirley were very active members of Piscataqua Chapter, Order of Eastern Star, and in support of their daughters, were on the Advisory Board of York Assembly, International Order of the Rainbow for Girls. He was also a permanent member of the state of Maine Grand Executive Board, International Order of the Rainbow for Girls.

Brother John was an active member of St. John's Lodge and served in several officer positions through the 1960s. At the annual meeting of the Lodge on December 3, 1969, he was elected Worshipful Master for the year 1970. On Saturday evening, December 13, 1969, the officers elected and appointed for the year 1970 were installed in a semi-public ceremony. The officers were installed by Wor. Robert E. Buffum and assisted by Wor. Wallace C. Caswell, chaplain; and Wor. Merwin R. Stanley, marshal. Following his installation, Wor. John Alden introduced his wife and daughters who presented him with a Masonic Bible and a gavel. Members of Portsmouth Chapter, Order of DeMolay, acted as ushers for the event, and the members of York Assembly, Order of the Rainbow, served refreshments to the 110 members and guests present.

The records of the Lodge show that Wor. John Alden had a very busy and successful term as master and in December 1970, he turned over the government of the Lodge to his friend and successor, Wor. Woodbury S. Adams.

In every way, the next few years continued to be very happy and successful for John and his family, including his career at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard where he was then a highly respected supervisor in the Nuclear Engineering Department. Then something awful happened.

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