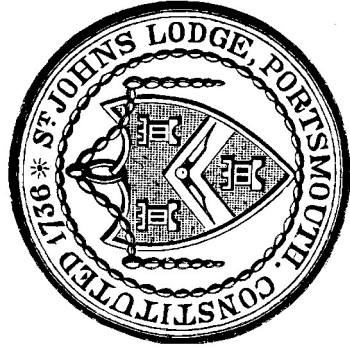
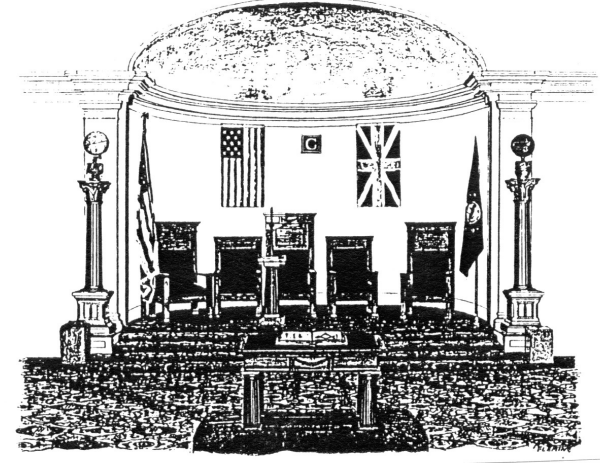


St. John's Lodge, No. 1, F&AM
351 Middle St
Portsmouth, NH 03801



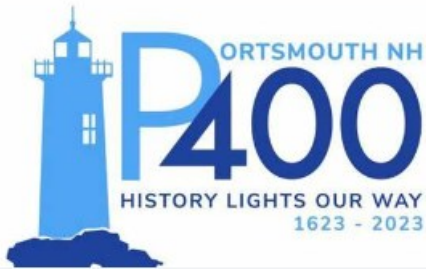
Stamp

March 2023



March 2023 Trestle Board

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



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 the Master know.



We are accepting applications for the **Ward / Day Education Scholarship** from now until April 19th

Applications can be found at portsmouthfreemasons.org and can be mailed to the lodge at

351 Middle Street, Portsmouth, NH 03801.



From the Secretary's Desk

Brethren – Your \$140.00 2023 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.

Note—we are unable to take electronic payments for the remainder of this year.

Thank you.
Brother Thomas W. Haslam
Secretary



There have been 14 US Presidents who were Masons, from George Washington to Gerald Ford.

Here is a quick summary of the first seven. We'll review the next seven in next month's Trestle Board.

George Washington became a Mason in Fredericksburg in 1752. He is quoted as saying, "The object of Freemasonry is to promote the happiness of the human race."

James Monroe was initiated in 1775—before he was 18 years old. He eventually became a member of Mason's Lodge in Williamsburg, VA.

Andrew Jackson is one of two Presidents who became Grand Master. He was a member of Harmony Lodge No. 1 in TN. Harmony Lodge began as No. 29 under a charter from NC and later named No. 1 under the TN Grand Lodge in 1913. He served as Grand Master in TN from 1822 to 1823.

James Polk was a member of Columbia Lodge No. 31 in Columbia, TN and exalted a Royal Arch Mason in La Fayette Chapter No. 4. Brother Polk assisted in laying the cornerstone for the Smithsonian.

James Buchanan was a member of Lancaster Lodge No. 43 in Lancaster, PA. He served as Master of his Lodge in 1825 and as Deputy District Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of PA

Andrew Johnson was a member of Greeneville Lodge in Greeneville, TN and joined the York Rite in 1859 and received the Scottish Rite degrees in 1867.

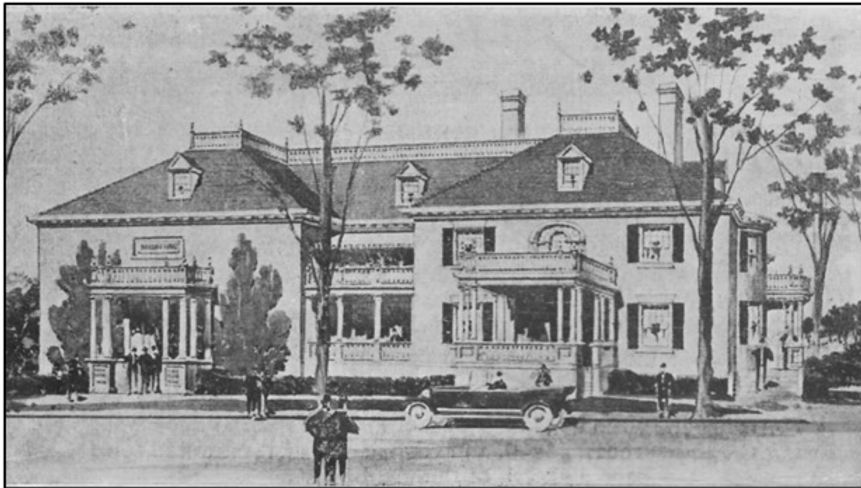
James Garfield was a member of Magnolia Lodge in Columbus Lodge No. 30 in Columbus, OH and affiliated with Garrettsville Lodge, No. 246 in 1866 and Pentalpha Lodge No. 23 in Washington D.C. as a charter member in 1869.

.....continued from page 5

Wor. Hackett sold his home, including some of its furnishings, to the lodge for the discounted price of \$18,500. Over the next several years, with the balance of funds that they had collected in pledges, the lodge proceeded to build its magnificent lodge room and banquet hall on the Miller Avenue side of the building.

Today, one hundred years later, the members of the fraternity continue to enjoy our magnificent Masonic Temple. We can thank the insightful, thoughtful and generous brethren of our lodge from the 1920s who collectively came up with the idea and who individually helped finance it; and we can acknowledge once again the generosity of Wor. Wallace Hackett who made it possible.

**Alan M. Robinson, PM
Historian**



March 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

EA Degree

Wednesday, March 1, 2023

(4:45—SJMA Meeting)

(Dinner 6:00, Meeting 7:00)

Dinner—French Onion Chicken

Officer dress—White tie and tails

Collation to follow

Special Communication

Master Mason Degree

Mark Robert Richards, Jared Caleb Splaine

Wednesday, March 22, 2023

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

Dinner—Corned Beef and Cabbage

Officer dress—White tie and tails

**Contact
Information:**

**Peter Splaine
Worshipful Master**
splaine20@gmail.com
(603) 812-8835

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

St. John's Lodge Masonic Home

Three years ago this month, I wrote an article for the Trestleboard about Wor. Wallace Hackett whose house was purchased by St. John's Lodge. Here are some details about the property and how it came to be our Masonic home.

In the spring of 1920, the Wallace Hackett House, located at the intersection of Middle Street and Miller Avenue in a beautiful residential section of Portsmouth, was listed for sale with an asking price of \$20,500. On June 2, 1920, at the Stated Communication of St. John's Lodge, the idea of purchasing the Hackett property was discussed informally, and the brethren resolved to form a Saint John's Lodge Holding Corporation, to be organized for the purpose of issuing shares to finance the purchase of the property, furnishing it for a Masonic Club, and holding the property as a whole until such time as the Lodge may desire to add a lodge room.

The striking corner lot is 150'x150' and at the time, it was said that there was no home in Portsmouth that could compare in beauty or construction. The first floor was 2,000 square feet of rooms, five fireplaces, a magnificent dining room, three large parlors and toilets. On the second floor, also 2,000 square feet in area, there were four finished rooms.

The brethren were enthusiastic over the idea of acquiring the property and at that June meeting, \$2,000 was pledged toward securing the property for the lodge. A committee was formed to provide detailed information about the idea and to solicit subscriptions from the members. The lodge's immediate intention was to secure the property, organize a St. John's Masonic Association, and run the place as a club for social and fraternal purposes where any Master Mason in good standing could become a member and pay nominal yearly dues. They intended to make it a club house until such time as the lodge was able to finance the building of a lodge room, banquet hall and ante-rooms large enough to accommodate all the Masonic bodies of the city that desired to occupy the building with St. John's Lodge.

An architect drew up plans for what the brethren desired ultimately to accomplish. It showed connected to the original home a 40'x60' lodge room above a 40'x48' banquet room that had a 21'x14' stage. Outside the banquet room door was a lovely entryway porch and on both floors, between the original home and the new structure, were two 17'x16' covered porches. The design showed a billiard room where the card room is today, a library room and a recreation room in the front two living rooms. Upstairs on the second floor of the house was to be a Ladies gathering room and a Commandery Room, both where the Whalley Museum and Library is today. They also planned for a large third floor addition between the buildings.

The information was sent to all members of the lodge along with a plea to contribute to the cause. In the plea the committee members wrote that they knew that "every member of our ancient and honorable lodge is a devout lover of the institution, and proud to hold membership therein." With that knowledge, they were confident that the members would generously come to the aid of the lodge to assist with their utmost financial ability in securing the home and achieving the glorious possibilities of the new design. The chairman of the building committee, Wor. Charles H. A. Amhoff, asked for donations and sent a pledge card to all members with the hope of averaging at least \$100 per member noting that the average amount collected so far had well exceeded that amount. He pointed out that an inability to contribute so great an amount need not debar any member from contributing a lesser sum, promising that each contributor, large or small, would be recognized on a scroll as one of the founders of St. John's Lodge Masonic Home. He closed his plea saying that St. John's Lodge, "with a history that is irreproachable, is worthy to receive from you something that will assist in adding to the lustre of the institution, by giving to it a dwelling place of which every member will be proud and for which future initiates will bless the donors."

The request for contributions was a huge success – the brethren contributed nearly \$120,000. On September 2, 1920,

Continued on page 6.....