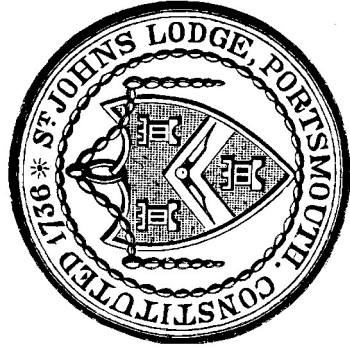
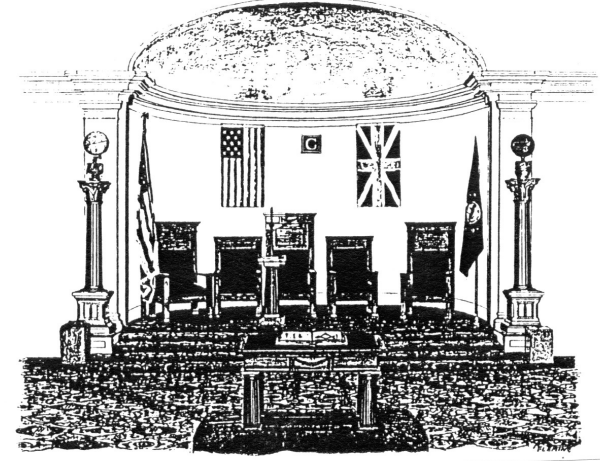


St. John's Lodge, No. 1, F&AM
351 Middle St
Portsmouth, NH 03801



Stamp

May 2023



May 2023 Trestle Board

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



Eight members of Gideon Lodge visited St. John's Lodge at our April Stated Communication and took home the traveling gavel.

★ Congratulations! ★



Congratulations Worshipful Robert Paul Johnson, Past Master 2018, being appointed as the **District Deputy Grand Lecturer (DDGL)** for the 1st Masonic District of NH!

Congratulations Brother Jeffrey Hatch on finishing the Boston Marathon—his 10th straight—with a time of 3:09!



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

Last month, we reviewed the first seven. Here are the last seven.

William McKinley became a Mason in Hiram Lodge No. 21 in Winchester, VA in 1865. He affiliated with Canton Lodge no. 60 in Canton, OH in 1867 and then became a charter member of Eagle Lodge No. 431 in Canton, OH—which later changed its name to William McKinley Lodge No. 431

Theodore Roosevelt became a member of Matinecock Lodge No. 806 in Oyster Bay, NY in 1901.

William Taft was made a Master Mason at sight in 1909 just a few weeks before his inauguration as President. More on that next month. He later affiliated with Kilwinning Lodge No. 356 in Cincinnati, OH.

Warren Harding was initially “black balled” when he applied to the degrees. He was later accepted and initiated in Marion Lodge No. 70 in Marion OH in 1901. However, he didn't receive his FC and MM degrees until 1920. He also joined the Knights Templar, Scottish Rite and Shrine in 1921.

Franklin Roosevelt was made a member of Holland Lodge No. 8 in New York City in 1911. He joined the Scottish Rite in 1929 and the Shrine in 1930.

Harry Truman became a member of Belton Lodge No 450 in Grandview, MO in 1909. He was the first member of the newly formed Grandview Lodge No. 618. He served as Grand Master of MO from 1940-1941.

Gerald Ford was initiated in Malta Lodge No. 465 in Grand Rapids, MI in 1949. He received his FC and MM degrees as a courtesy in Columbia Lodge no. 3 in Washington, DC in 1951.

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service. Following his retirement from the Shipyard, he worked as a carpenter at the Wentworth Hotel in New Castle. He was an active communicant of the Episcopal Church and together with his wife Edna M. (Billings) Hatch, they lived on Depot Road in Greenland. He died unexpectedly of a heart attack on January 6, 1964 while cutting a hole in the ice on Great Bay to go ice fishing; he was 54 years old. He is buried in Hillside Cemetery in Greenland.

Like their father, grandfather, great grandfather and uncles before them, Harris and Francis March Hatch were good men, good husbands, hardworking citizens and active outdoorsmen. And yes, both were Freemasons – Brother Harris Hatch was Raised a Master Mason on May 12, 1931 and Brother Francis March Hatch was Raised on May 16, 1945, both in St. John's Lodge, No. 1 in Portsmouth.

**Alan M. Robinson, PM
Historian**



Ronald Reagan has often been referred to as an honorary Mason but this is not correct. President Reagan was an honorary member of the Scottish Rite and of the Imperial Council of the Shrine. President Reagan was, on numerous occasions, involved in Shrine and Masonic functions throughout his career.

The confusion as to his membership arises from a ceremony held in the Oval Office of the White House on February 11th, 1988, when a group of Freemasons presented President Reagan with a certificate of honor from the Grand Lodge of Washington, D.C. He then was made an Honorary Scottish Rite Mason. The title of Freemason can only be conferred by a Grand Lodge. In President Reagan's case this was not done, probably because the ceremonies would have taken a full day to confer and the president's time was limited; therefore, President Reagan should only be referred to as an honorary Shriner or Scottish Rite Mason.

May 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, May 3, 2023

(4:45—SJMA Meeting)

(Dinner 6:00, Meeting 7:00)

Dinner—Tacos 3 Ways (pork, turkey, beef)

Officer dress—White tie and tails

Collation to follow

Special Communication

Fellow Craft Degree

Andrew Arthur Towns

Kevin Arthur Jolin

Wednesday, May 24, 2023

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

Dinner—Lasagna with garlic bread

Officer dress—White tie and tails

**Contact
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Secretary**
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The Hatch Family - continued

In recent articles I shared some information about members of the Hatch family who were active members of the Masonic fraternity and St. John's Lodge. You may have noticed an unfortunate similarity between the generations of these men.

The first story was about Wor. Albert Ruyter Hatch (1817 – 1882). Albert died of heart disease at the age of 64 years. Next were two of Albert's sons: Wor. John Harris Hatch (1849 – 1904) and Francis March Hatch (1852 – 1923). Both John and Francis died of heart disease at the relatively young ages of 55 and 70 years respectively.

Wor. John Harris Hatch's son, Rite Wor. John Knight Hatch (1877 – 1924), died of ... you guessed it ... heart disease at the age 47 years. His other son was Albert Ruyter Hatch (1882 – 1923). You may recall from last month's article that this Albert Ruyter Hatch was the grandson of the first Albert Ruyter Hatch. He was an athlete and sadly, died of ... a heart attack while playing handball in Portsmouth; he was only 40 years old.

The second Albert Ruyter Hatch was married to Rosaline F. (Littlefield) Hatch and they had two sons: Harris and Francis March Hatch (named after his great uncle). When their father died, Harris was a junior at Portsmouth High School; and Francis, was an eighth grade student at the Portsmouth Junior High School. So far, all of these Hatch men have suffered from heart disease and died relatively young; you may be wondering how Harris and Francis fared...

Harris Hatch was born on February 10, 1906 in Greenland, NH, the first son of Albert Ruyter and Rosaline F. (Littlefield) Hatch. He graduated from Portsmouth High School with the class of 1924 and from the University of New Hampshire with the class of 1928. He served as a Private First Class during World War II with the United States Army Ordnance Department, procuring and supplying Army combat units with weapons and ammunition. Following his military service, he was employed at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in the Supply Department, and later as an

insurance agent; clerk at Portsmouth Buick; and clerk at Eastern Auto Parts Co., Inc. at 68 State Street in Portsmouth. He served as a supervisor of the Checklist in Greenland, and as a Greenland town auditor. He married Mary Scammon Chase in 1929. Mary was a member of Orient Chapter, No. 22, Order of Eastern Star in Exeter. She contracted Scarlet Fever as a child which damaged her heart and she died in 1938 at the young age of 39 years. Harris married for a second time on May 30, 1941 to June R. Staples of Eliot, Maine. He died unexpectedly at their home on Portsmouth Avenue in Greenland of ... a heart attack on Saturday night, June 28, 1952; he was 46 years old. He is buried in Prospect Hill Cemetery in Greenland.

Harris' brother Francis March Hatch was born on March 2, 1909 in Greenland, the second son of Albert Ruyter and



Photos: Harris and his wife Mary Scammon (Chase) Hatch

Rosaline F. (Littlefield) Hatch. A 1927 graduate of Portsmouth High School, he attended The Holderness School, a private, college-preparatory school in Holderness, near Plymouth, NH, and graduated from Hobart College in Geneva, New York. Following college, he was employed as a machinist in Shop 31 at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. He was granted an early retirement from the Shipyard in October 1963 after 30 years of

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