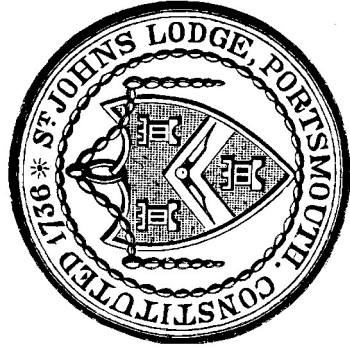
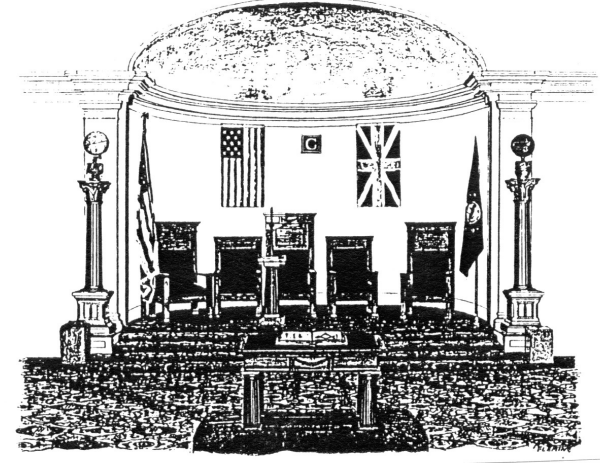


St. John's Lodge, No. 1, F&AM
351 Middle St
Portsmouth, NH 03801



Stamp

June 2023



June 2023 Trestle Board

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

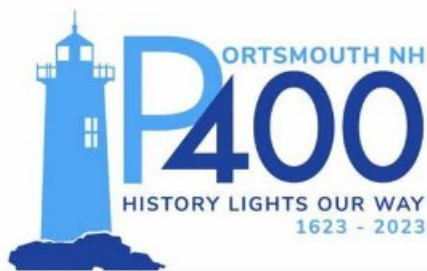


The Grand Master, Most Worshipful David Scott Collins, came to St. John's Lodge No. 1 and presented **Worshipful Alan Marston Robinson** the Jeremy Ladd Cross medal—the highest award in Masonry—for his contributions to Masonry over the last 45 years.

Pictured with Alan and Most Worshipful Collins are Worshipful Master Peter Splaine and DDGM RW Steve Welch.



Senior Deacon, Brother Alan Denison Amman, presided over the Fellow Craft Degree in May. Pictured to the right are Brother Amman, Worshipful Brother Timothy Lavelle and Brother Keith Allen Hoyt (Gideon Lodge) with Brother Andrew Arthur Towne, Brother Kevin Arthur Jolin and Worshipful Peter Splaine.



On **Saturday, June 3rd**, St. John's Lodge, along with the 1st Masonic District, will have a float in the Portsmouth 400th Anniversary parade. Brothers from around the district will be marching in the parade alongside the float, including members of the Bektash Shriners of New Hampshire. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. We will assemble at the Temple at 9:00. The parade starts at 11:00AM. Officers should wear white tie and tails. Other brothers should be dressed in business suits.

to Most Worshipful Thomas H. Desmond of Connecticut.

On July 8, 1989, New Hampshire and Connecticut both celebrated their bicentennials with special communications. One Connecticut Past Grand Master chose to come to New Hampshire. Armed with his father's Jeremy Ladd Cross Medal, Most Worshipful James M. Desmond (GM 1978) missed Connecticut's celebration so that he could attend the celebration in New Hampshire and return his father's prestigious medal to New Hampshire that it might be preserved with the archives of the Grand Lodge. Along with the medal was a biography of Jeremy Ladd Cross completed by the late James Royal Case (Grand Historian of Connecticut 1953-1987), who had passed away almost two years earlier. This exceedingly thoughtful gesture by Most Worshipful James Desmond and the Grand Lodge of Connecticut was graciously accepted by Most Worshipful Phillip L. Hall, Grand Master of New Hampshire, who reciprocated by awarding Most Worshipful James Desmond the Jeremy Ladd Cross Medal.

Since its first award in 1939, there have only been 227 Jeremy Ladd Cross Medals awarded with 73 of them presented to worthy recipients outside of New Hampshire. The nine recipients from St. John's Lodge are: 1951: Reginald E. Goldsmith; 1954: Thomas B. Ruxton; 1965: George B. Ward; 1966: Gerald D. Foss; 2011: William S. Sawyer; 2013: Robert L. Sutherland, Jr.; 2014: Verne S. Anderson, Jr.; 2015: Nelson D. Hersey; and 2023: Alan M. Robinson.

I was rendered speechless on the evening of May 4, 2023 when our Most Worshipful Grand Master, David S. Collins, invited me to the East of St. John's Lodge and in a completely unexpected ceremony, awarded me the Jeremy Ladd Cross Medal. I am grateful beyond measure for this extraordinary honor and while entirely humbled, I am especially thankful for the thoughtfulness and kind words that he shared on that special occasion.

**Alan M. Robinson, PM
Historian**

helped educate Masons on the history, traditions and rituals of the Fraternity, as well as the proper methods of exemplifying the work and degrees of the order. He was also granted the authority to establish numerous Councils of Royal and Select Masters around the country. During these years, he wrote a book called *The True Masonic Chart, or Hieroglyphic Monitor* which he published in 1819 and sold for \$2 a copy. He also wrote *The Templar Chart*, published in 1820, which provided detailed instructions for the Knight Templar orders. A later edition of that particular monitor included instructions and illustrations for the degrees of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite. He continued to travel extensively lecturing and promoting his very popular books on Masonry, and made a comfortable living doing so. Near the end of his career, he published *The Masonic Text Book* which contained information and instructions on all of the degrees: Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, Master Mason, Mark Master, Past Master, Most Excellent Master, Royal Arch, Royal and Select Master, Order of Knights of the Red Cross, Knights Templar and Knights of Malta. Like his previous books, this one was beautifully printed and profusely embellished with fine engravings. *The Masonic Text Book* was intended to be a pocket companion. In one advertisement in a Nashville, Tennessee newspaper, were these words: "Mr. Cross is a favorite and standard author with Masons, and this book will be hailed by the craft as one of the most useful additions which has ever been made to Masonic literature."

After many years of traveling as a highly sought after Masonic lecturer, Rite Wor. Jeremy retired in 1855 and returned to his family home in Haverhill. He died there of stomach cancer on January 26, 1860 at the age of 76 years.

Earlier I mentioned that the Grand Lodge of New Hampshire was established on July 8, 1789 with John Sullivan as its first Grand Master. There were actually two Grand Lodges congregated on that day; the other was the Grand Lodge of Connecticut with Pierpont Edwards as its first Grand Master. At the 150th anniversary celebration of the Grand Lodge of New Hampshire in 1939, Most Worshipful Thomas Henry Desmond, Grand Master of Connecticut, attended the New Hampshire ceremonies and then quickly returned to Connecticut that same day for its 150th anniversary celebration. Later that fall, the 150th anniversary banquet in Connecticut was attended by Most Worshipful Warren H. Tucker, Grand Master of New Hampshire, who presented the first Jeremy Ladd Cross medal

June 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	

Stated Communication

Wednesday, June 7, 2023

(Dinner 6:00, Meeting 7:00)

Dinner—Beef Fried Rice and Peas

Meeting is semi-public for the purpose
of presenting checks to our scholarship recipients

Officer dress—White tie and tails

Collation to follow

Special Communication

Master Mason Degree

Andrew Arthur Towne and Kevin Arthur Jolin

Wednesday, June 21, 2023

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

Dinner—Prime Rib

Officer dress—White tie and tails

Special Communication

St. John's Sunday

Sunday, June 25, 2023

Assemble at Pitt Tavern at 8:00AM

Step off to St. John's Church at 8:50AM

Coffee and Donuts provided at Pitt Tavern

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

Historical Sketch

Jeremy Ladd Cross Medal

In 1939, when Most Worshipful Warren H. Tucker of Gideon Lodge, No. 84 in Kingston was Grand Master of New Hampshire, the Grand Lodge initiated the use of two medals to recognize and honor distinguished Masons. One is named after the first Grand Master of New Hampshire; the other is named after a preeminent Masonic author and Grand Lecturer.

On July 8, 1789, five Freemasons from New Hampshire met at the William Pitt Tavern in Portsmouth to consider the creation of a Grand Lodge. Those in attendance were Hall Jackson, Joseph Bass, Nathaniel Folsom and Nathaniel Adams from St. John's Lodge in Portsmouth, and Alpheus Moore from Rising Sun Lodge in Keene. That day, they formed the Grand Lodge of New Hampshire and elected a prominent Mason, Revolutionary War general and the current governor of New Hampshire, John Sullivan, as the first Grand Master. There was only one problem, Bro. Sullivan, who was a member of St. John's Lodge, had never served as a Worshipful Master. Wor. Hall Jackson, the Master of St. John's Lodge that year, and the members of his Lodge quickly remedied that situation by arranging to elect Bro. Sullivan to the office of Worshipful Master at the annual meeting of the Lodge on December 3, 1789. Wor. Sullivan was subsequently installed the tenth Master of St. John's Lodge on December 28, 1789 for the year 1790. Then on April 8, 1790, a few months after being installed Master of his Lodge, he was duly installed as the first Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of New Hampshire.

Most Worshipful John Sullivan is one of the most prominent and illustrious men in New Hampshire history. The Distinguished Service Medal that bears his name and likeness, may be presented to a brother who in the judgement of the Grand Master has rendered unusual and distinguished service to his constituent lodge.

The second medal is the highest award given by the Grand Lodge of New Hampshire. This very special Masonic recognition may be given by the Grand Master, or by vote of the Grand Lodge, to any brother of any jurisdiction who distinguishes himself within the Fraternity. The recipients of this highly acclaimed award are often

exceptional examples of prominent Masons who exemplify our Masonic principles of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth. The award was named for the highly esteemed and nationally known Masonic author and Grand Lecturer, Rite Worshipful Jeremy Ladd Cross.

Jeremy Ladd Cross was born in Haverhill, New Hampshire, on June 27, 1783, one of five children, and the only son of William and Abigail Elizabeth (Ladd) Cross. He attended public schools in Haverhill, which is on the Vermont border north of Hanover. In the spring of 1807 when he was 23 year old, Jeremy moved to Portsmouth in order to help decide what he wanted to do with his life. He met Rev. George Richards, a teacher and Universalist minister, who was also a well-known writer and lecturer. Jeremy was inspired to write and lecture by Rev. Richards and soon discovered that his new friend was also a member of the Masonic fraternity and the Senior Warden of St. John's Lodge. In July 1807, shortly after becoming acquainted with the Masonic fraternity in Portsmouth, Jeremy mailed a letter to his father in Haverhill telling him that he was intending to petition for membership in St. John's Lodge. It is very likely that his father, William Cross, was delighted to read the news from his son since Bro. William himself was also a Freemason and was serving as secretary of Union Lodge, No. 10, at Haverhill. Incidentally, Bro. William Cross lived an unusually long life – he died in 1843 at the age of 100 years and 7 months. He is buried with his wife Abigail Ladd Cross in the Ladd Street Cemetery in Haverhill.

Jeremy's petition for the degrees of Freemasonry was received and favorably acted upon, and on September 12, 1807, he was initiated as an Entered Apprentice in St. John's Lodge. He was passed to the degree of Fellowcraft on April 6, 1808, and on July 6, 1808, he was Raised a Master Mason in St. John's Lodge by his friend, the Worshipful Master, Rev. Bro. George Richards. Wor. Richards encouraged Bro. Jeremy to take an active role in the Lodge and he did so, serving as Junior Deacon through 1809.

In 1810, Bro. Jeremy moved back home and for the next several years traveled all over New England and the eastern United States. He received the degrees of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite and was particularly fond of the York Rite of Freemasonry. From Massachusetts to Mississippi, and everywhere in between, he