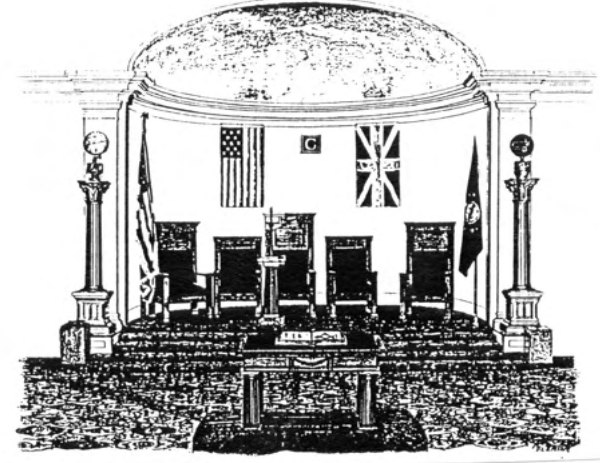


St. John's Lodge, No. 1, F&AM
351 Middle St
Portsmouth, NH 03801

Stamp



July 2023

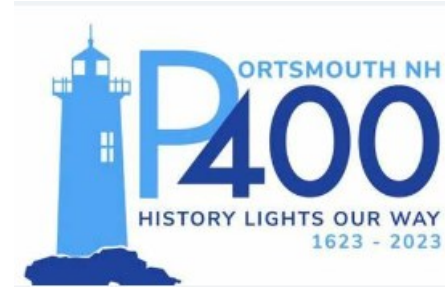


July 2023 Trestle Board

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



At our June Stated, Brother Daniel Silverman and the WM Peter Splaine, presented scholarship checks to six high school students. Pictured above are all six, with their families. Congratulations to all and thank you Brother Silverman for all of the hard work that went in to selecting the candidates.



On June 3, members of the First Masonic District participated in the Portsmouth 400th Anniversary parade. The float was built by WM Peter Splaine and WM Verne Anderson sat in the Master's chair during the parade.



On June 6th, Brother Daniel Silverman and Worshipful Brother Daniel Stolworthy hosted the women of Lydia's House of Hope for a college experience day at UNH. The all-day seminar included lectures on excel, negotiation, and personal finance. The women were given UNH t-shirts and provided with free lunch at the dining hall.



**Golden Rule Lodge No. 5—Owl's Head
Outdoor Degree
Saturday, September 23, 2023**

our sister lodge in Portsmouth in 1866. He was also a very active York Rite Mason and member of DeWitt Clinton Commandery, Knights Templar. Sam's son in-law, Arthur Gilman Brewster, was Raised a Master Mason in St. John's Lodge on September 14, 1887; and even Charles J. Colcord, the owner of the furniture store in the mid 1800s, was Raised a Master Mason in St. John's Lodge on February 1, 1843.

Next month I'll continue this story and tell you about Fletcher & Tanton's successor, Oliver W. Ham, and also Oliver's successor in the furniture and funeral business, Albion Thurston Parker, both of whom were members of St. John's Lodge.

**Alan M. Robinson, PM
Historian**



July 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, July 5, 2023
Hawaiian Shirt Night
 (Dinner 6:00, Meeting 7:00)
Dinner—Miso Salmon
Officer dress—Hawaiian Shirts
Collation to follow



Special Communication
Entered Apprentice Degree
Wednesday, July 19, 2023
 (Dinner 6:00PM, Open 7:00PM)
Dinner—Hamburgers and Hot Dogs
Officer dress—White tie and tails

Special Communication
Veteran's Program
Sunday, July 30, 2023
 Program 3:00 PM followed by heavy Hors D'oeuvres
Officer dress—Business Suit

**Contact
Information:**

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 (603) 812-8835

Thomas W. Haslam, PM
Secretary
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 603-498-7205

St. John's Lodge

Historical Sketch

Samuel S. Fletcher

Samuel Swett Fletcher was born on April 22, 1834 in Kittery Point, Maine, one of three children of Sea Captain Samuel and Eunice (Gunnesson) Fletcher. Sam grew up in Kittery and was trained to be a house carpenter. He eventually became a very skilled fine cabinetry and furniture maker.

Sam went into business with Harry Green Tanton. Harry was born on October 19, 1831 in Prince Edward Island, Canada, and immigrated to America when he was eighteen years old in 1849. In 1872, Harry and Sam acquired a furniture store at 60 Market Street in Portsmouth. That furniture store had been in existence since around the year 1800 and had had several proprietors over the years, including the most recent proprietor (from 1847-1872), Charles J. Colcord. Sam and Harry named their firm Fletcher & Tanton.

The Fletcher & Tanton store was in a spacious, three-story brick building on Market Street in downtown Portsmouth where the Portsmouth Brewery is today. The showrooms were tastefully fitted up with beautiful home furniture displays. They carried a large assortment of fine and library furniture, including plain and upholstered sofas, chairs and lounges; as well as parlor, library, dining-room and bedroom suites of the latest and most fashionable designs. The firm specialized in upholstering furniture and house decorating in the highest style of workmanship known in the trade. They were also known for having the most reasonable prices. They did fine custom work and their repair and re-upholstering line of work received the most careful attention. The house attained wide-spread popularity for the excellence of its productions and the honorable business methods that the partners adhered to.

It was common in those days for the best cabinetmakers to also be undertakers and embalmers, and the firm Fletcher & Tanton was no exception. In addition to their full-line furniture business, they carried a full and complete assortment of funeral requisites and furnished everything required for burials. They had coffins, robes

and caskets on-hand, or if you preferred, they would make everything to order. They took charge of funerals and gave particular attention to embalming. They were prompt and reliable, and they were personable and popular in the community.

Samuel Fletcher married Mary Angeline Rice on September 7, 1856 in Portsmouth. They lived at 42 Daniel Street and they had a daughter, Angeline Eunice Fletcher who was born on April 15, 1866. Angeline, who went by Annie, married Arthur Gilman Brewster (1864-1934), the son of Lewis G. Brewster. Arthur and Lewis had a printing establishment at the corner of State and Pleasant Streets in Portsmouth and from that location, published a newspaper called The Portsmouth Journal. In 1877-78, Samuel was the chief engineer (now called fire chief) for the Portsmouth Fire Department and in 1887-89, he served as a Portsmouth alderman from Ward 2. He was an active member of Portsmouth Lodge, No. 97, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and was a member of the Mechanic Fire Society in Portsmouth.

Sam and Harry had numerous fine craftsmen working for them, as well as furniture dealers and clerks in the store. One of their best employees was Oliver W. Ham. When Harry Tanton died on August 29, 1887 at the age of 55 years, Oliver took over the furniture side of the business; then, when Samuel Fletcher died on November 22, 1894, Oliver took over the rest of the business. Samuel and Harry are buried in their respective family plots in the South Cemetery in Portsmouth.

Samuel Fletcher and Harry Tanton were good men; they were highly respected business leaders and revered members of the seacoast community. They were also very active members of the Masonic fraternity. Samuel Swett Fletcher was Raised a Master Mason in St. John's Lodge, No. 1 in Portsmouth on November 11, 1856 and served as Worshipful Master of our lodge for the years 1868-69. He also served as a District Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of New Hampshire and was a very active member of DeWitt Clinton Commandery, Knights Templar. Harry Green Tanton was a member of St. Andrews Lodge, No. 56, and served as Worshipful Master of