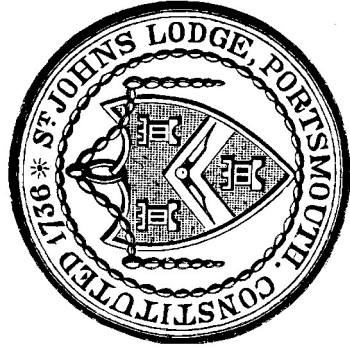
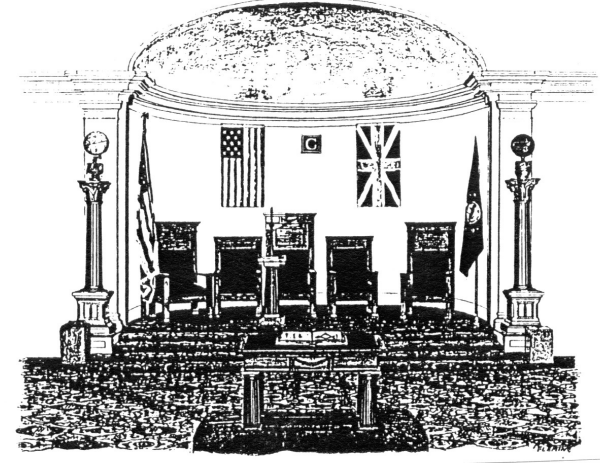


St. John's Lodge, No. 1, F&AM
351 Middle St
Portsmouth, NH 03801



Stamp

August 2023



August 2023 Trestle Board

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

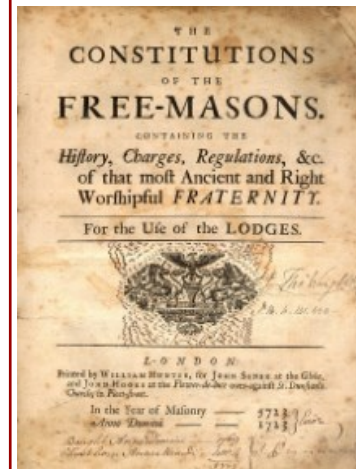
Electrician's Scholarship



Pictured above is our 2023 Ramsdell Electrician Scholarship recipient, Stephan Phillips (second from left) with the President of the Local IBEW, Eric Batchelor. Flanking our guests is Worshipful Peter Splaine (left) and Senior Deacon Alan D Amman (right)



The program for the Stated Communication is **Masonic Jeopardy**. Worshipful Master Daniel Stolworthy will act as the host for the game. For those of you not around the last time we played this game, it's an electronic version of Jeopardy, complete with the game boards, the Jeopardy music, single and double Jeopardy rounds, final Jeopardy, etc. Prizes will be awarded to the winning team members



Anderson's Constitutions was the original guide for Freemasons who were part of the Grand Lodge of England. The original Anderson's Constitutions was published in 1723. It was written by James Anderson, a Presbyterian clergyman, at the request of John Theophilus Desaguliers, the third Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of England. There are three sections to Anderson's Constitutions, the history of Freemasonry, the Charges or general rules to be followed by Freemasons and Payne's Regulations.

The history section of Anderson's Constitutions, is largely written by Anderson who interpreted previous available histories. He provided the most extensive history of Freemasonry. In his history Freemasons were cast as Noahides, followers of the Seven Laws of Noah.

The Seven Laws of Noah include:

- Do not deny God.
- Do not blaspheme God.
- Do not murder.
- Do not engage in incest, adultery, pederasty or bestiality.
- Do not steal.
- Do not eat of a live animal.
- Establish courts/legal system to ensure obedience to the law.

The Charges section includes various standards for the Freemason, both inside and outside the lodge. This includes such things as how to behave during a meal and a section on how to view a brother who has decided to rebel against the government of his nation.

The final section was written by George Payne who was the second Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of England. He was Desaguliers' predecessor and successor running for a second term in 1720. In his 1720 term he wrote the regulations appearing in Anderson's Constitutions. Some of the regulations included how to constitute a new lodge. Anderson's Constitutions has been compared in places to the United States Constitution. In it, as far as the regulation of lodges, there are clear comparisons with freedom of speech and the right of the citizenry, or in the case of a lodge membership, to vote.

Anderson's constitutions was reprinted in several countries and in different languages. With each printing items, particularly related to the history of Freemasonry, were taken away or added. A pocket version of the constitutions was also published, which Anderson himself did not like.

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Church and the Advent Christian Church in Portsmouth. He was a good man, a good husband and father, and a successful and well-known businessman in Portsmouth. His pleasant demeanor endeared him to all he came in contact with, especially his many friends and acquaintances. He was also an active and generous Freemason having been Raised a Master Mason in St. John's Lodge, No. 1 in Portsmouth on March 3, 1886. Like many of his contemporaries, he was also an active York Rite Mason and member of DeWitt Clinton Commandery, Knights Templar, in Portsmouth. He died on February 14, 1925 at his home located at 1 Raynes Avenue in Portsmouth after a lingering illness related to arteriosclerosis; he was 74 years old. He is buried with wife and son, and his wife's sister, Lizzie Hunter, in the family plot in the South Cemetery in Portsmouth. Lizzie died of Consumption (Tuberculosis) at the age of 31 years in October 1889, a month after her sister Mary had died presumably of the same dreadful disease which was the leading cause of death in the United States at the time. In the photo of his memorial stone, notice the square and compass.

Alan M. Robinson, PM
Historian



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

August 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, August 2, 2023
Program—Jeopardy Game
(Dinner 6:00, Meeting 7:00)
Dinner—Pork Chops and Applesauce
Officer dress—White tie and tails
Collation to follow

**Contact
Information:**

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

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

Oliver W. Ham

Last month I told you about two past masters – Samuel Fletcher and Harry Tanton. They were partners in the firm Fletcher & Tanton, a very successful combined furniture store and funeral home located at 60 Market Street in Portsmouth. When Harry Tanton died on August 29, 1887, his company's number one employee, Oliver Ham, took over the furniture side of the business; and when Samuel Fletcher died on November 22, 1894, Oliver took over the funeral side of the business.

Oliver William Ham was born in Portsmouth on October 16, 1850, one of eight children of Oliver Wormwood and Mary Jane (Frost) Ham. On November 1, 1865, when he was 15 years old, his father died at the young age of 39 years. Young Oliver left school and became the principle support for his mother and his five surviving siblings. He worked for Frederick S. Rogers at his wood-yard and Commercial House on Elm Street (now Maplewood Avenue) near the railroad tracks in Portsmouth. He worked for Mr. Rogers for four years, getting up every morning at 4:30 to milk twelve cows and tend to 100 hogs. Next he was employed for seven years by Horton D. Walker at his soap and tallow factory. For three of those years, he served as superintendent of the factory, called Samuel Cleaves & Son, which manufactured soap, candles and tallow at 3 Elm Street in Portsmouth, near the railroad depot. By the way, tallow soap is made by mixing animal fat with sodium hydroxide, more commonly known as lye. It is incredibly nourishing for your skin and has been used in skincare products for a very long time. After Mr. Walker died in 1872, Oliver worked in his own teaming business tending to horses, and became a highly regarded furniture salesman and assistant undertaker in the firm Fletcher & Tanton. After the deaths of Fletcher and Tanton, he owned and operated the furniture and funeral business for the next 21 years, serving as Portsmouth's leading undertaker. On January 1, 1916, at the age of 65 years, he sold the business to A. Thurston Parker. Now semi-retired, Oliver remained in the funeral business as Mr. Parker's assistant. Sadly, the following year, Thurston Parker died on August 26, 1917, and Oliver reassumed ownership of the

company. In 1918, he sold the business again, this time to Albert Trottier.

On November 28, 1875, at the age of 25 years, Oliver married 22 year old Mary Hunter in Portsmouth. They lived on Dennett Street in Portsmouth and had one child, Oliver W. Ham, born on November 24, 1877. Little Oliver Jr. died when he was just



seven years old on June 14, 1885. His mother Mary died a few years later on September 15, 1889 at the age of 36 years. Both are buried in the O. W. Ham family plot at the South Cemetery in Portsmouth.

Oliver William Ham, Sr. was a member of the Portsmouth Fire Department and was attached to the Atlantic Handtub Co. which was located near the railroad tracks on Elm Street (Maplewood Avenue) in Portsmouth. He was a member of Damon Lodge, Knights of Pythias; Osgood Lodge, International Order of Odd Fellows; and was an active parishioner at North Congregational Church, Calvin Baptist

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