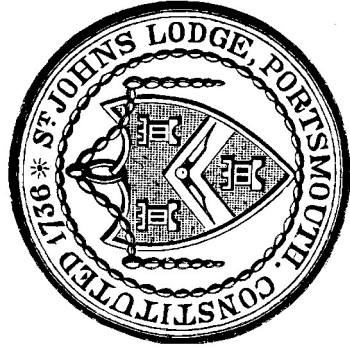
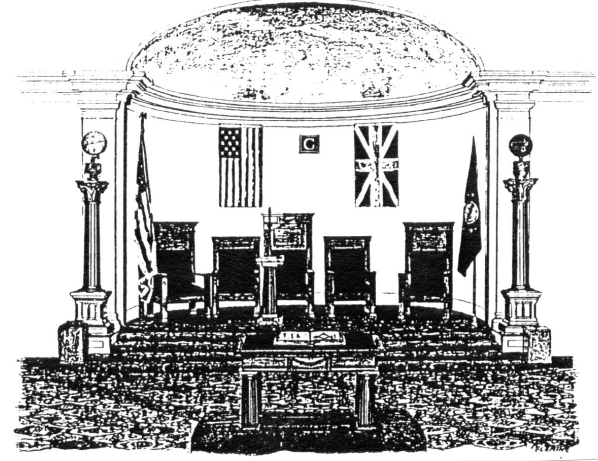


St. John's Lodge, No. 1, F&AM
351 Middle St
Portsmouth, NH 03801



Stamp

November 2023



November 2023 Trestle Board

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

Fellow Craft Degree



Pictured above, the officers that performed the FC degree for Brother Brian Jude White left to right, Josh Nixon JD, Michael Hudson SD, Wor. Peter Splaine JW pro-tem, Brother Brian Jude White, Alan D. Ammann WM pro-tem, RW William Sawyer SS pro-tem, Alan P. Ammann SW pro-tem, Gregg Annis Chaplain, Jonathan Townes JS



Brother Alan D. Ammann congratulates **Brother Brian Jude White** on becoming our newest Fellow Craft.

Be sure to attend the November MM degree to support our brother

**Contact
Information:**

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

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

Unique to Mason City

- In 1912, Mason City shipped the largest freight tonnage in the state of Iowa and produced more brick and tile and more Portland cement than any city in the world.
- At one time there were 9 brick and tile companies in Mason City.
- The Colby car was manufactured in Mason City in 1911.
- The Mason City Municipal Airport was dedicated in 1928. Charles Lindberg attended the ceremony prior to his flight over the Atlantic.
- In 1954, a new breed of horse was introduced in Mason City. The Pony of America came to be known as a gentle, easy to train breed of horse that was extremely well suited for the young rider.
- The only remaining hotel in the world designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, known as The Park Inn Hotel, is in Mason City.
- The First National Bank was robbed by John Dillinger and his gang on March 13, 1934. They escaped with \$52,000 despite the fact the bank actually had more than \$300,000 on hand that day.
- Mason City is the hometown of Meredith Willson, well-known musician and composer who is best remembered for his long running stage and screen musical, "The Music Man". Mason City is the "River City" featured in Willson's "The Music Man." Meredith Willson also wrote the musical "The Unsinkable Molly Brown" and composed the song "It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas."
- Mason City is the boyhood home of Bil Baird, master puppeteer. The largest collections of his work, including the puppets featured in "The Sound of Music", are on display at the Charles H. MacNider Art Museum.
- The first North Iowa Band Festival was held in 1928 in observance of Mason City's 75th Anniversary. Mason City stills hosts this annual event, honoring its musical culture.
- Mason City is home to the only remaining electric freight-hauling railroad in the entire United States. Visitors can see this one of kind train in operation on almost any weekday while traveling on 19th St. SW / County Rd B 35 which runs parallel to the Iowa Terminal electric railroad.

Mason City, IA

Did you know that there is a town in IA that was founded by and named for Masons?

Mason City, IA was founded by several Masons in the mid-1800's.

The rivers and woods in North Central Iowa were originally home to the Winnebago and Sioux Indians tribes but by the middle 1800's the push West by Europeans was underway.

In 1853, John Long and John Bilford came from Illinois to claim timber and prairie land along the Winnebago River. John Long named the densely wooded area **Masonic Grove** in honor of the Order of Free Masons.

That same year Long, Joseph Hewitt and George Brentner laid out a town on the same site renaming it **Shibboleth**.

En route from Illinois with his family, Long's son, Mason, died. When he returned to **Shibboleth**, the town was renamed **Masonville**, in honor of his son.

In the fall of 1853, John L. MacMillian and James Jenkinson built the first log cabin for MacMillian's family.

When the first post office was erected, there were two towns in Iowa named **Masonville**, thus the present-day name of **Mason City** came into being.

With an area of only one square mile, **Mason City**, Iowa became incorporated in 1870 with Darius B. Mason elected as the first mayor.

Today, there are two Masonic Lodges in Mason City.

Benevolence Lodge No. 145 meets on the 2nd Monday.
Harding Lodge No. 649 meets on the 2nd Wednesday.

November 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, November 1, 2023

St. John's Masonic Association Annual Meeting

(Dinner 6:00, Meeting 7:00)

Association Annual Meeting starts 7:30PM

Dinner—Turkey with all the fixins

Officer dress—White tie and tails

Collation to follow

MM Rehearsal

All Officers are requested to attend

Wednesday, November 15, 2023—6:00PM

Wednesday, November 22, 2023—6:00PM

Special Communication

Grand Lodge Inspection

Master Mason Degree

Brother Bryan Jude White

Wednesday, November 29, 2023

(Dinner 6:00, Meeting 7:00)

Dinner—Pork loin with apple sauce

Officer dress—White tie and tails

St. John's Lodge

Historical Sketch

Raymond E. Penn, Sr.

USS S-13 (SS-118) was a submarine of the United States Navy. Her keel was laid down on February 14, 1920 by the Portsmouth Navy Yard in Kittery, Maine, and she was launched on October 20, 1921. She was commissioned on July 14, 1923 and primarily served a mission of harbor and coastal defense along the eastern seaboard of the United States down to the Panama Canal region. She was 231 feet long with a beam of 21 feet. 231 feet is relatively small compared to a modern Block V Virginia Class submarine that is 460 feet long with a beam of 34 feet. Using her 2,000 hp diesel electric engine and twin propellers, she could travel at 15 kts on the surface, and when submerged on battery power, she could travel at 11 kts. She was armed with five 21-inch torpedo tubes: four installed in the bow and one installed in the stern, and she carried fourteen torpedoes. On her deck, forward of her conning tower, she had one 4-inch/50 caliber deck gun. Her crew consisted of 4 officers and 34 enlisted men. One member of the crew was Petty Officer Ray Penn.

Raymond Edward Penn was born in Liverpool, New York, on February 7, 1901, the son of James and Maude (Hudson) Penn. Along with his younger brothers Clarence and William, Ray grew up in the small town of Salina, a northern suburb of Syracuse. On April 30, 1919, at the age of 18 years, he enlisted in Company C, Second Infantry, New York Guard Service with the rank of private. His first duty was attending Aviation Mechanics' School in Great Lakes, Illinois. In 1922, he converted from the National Guard to active duty with the United States Navy and was assigned as a petty officer with the crew of USS S-13 at the Portsmouth Navy Yard.

After relocating to the seacoast, Ray lived at 79 Bridge Street in downtown Portsmouth and met Laura M. Ramsdell, the daughter of Perley and Elmira (Hanscom) Ramsdell who lived with her parents downtown. On October 9, 1924, Ray and Laura were married in Greenland; she was 21 years old at the time. For many years, Ray and Laura lived with her parents at the family home located at 58 Hanover Street which is now the location of the High-Hanover parking garage. On April 7, 1942, Ray and Laura welcomed a son, Raymond E. Penn, Jr.

Raymond Sr. retired from the Navy Yard in 1950 as a quartermaster or foreman supervisor in the Rigging Shop. In later years, he and Laura lived in an apartment at 19 Pearl Street in Portsmouth. He was a longtime active member of the First United Methodist Church in Portsmouth. He was also a dedicated member and past chancellor of

Damon Lodge, No. 9, Knights of Pythias and a very active member of the Masonic fraternity.

Brother Ray was Raised a Master Mason in St. John's Lodge, No. 1 in Portsmouth on March 12, 1941. The following year, Wor. Raymond E. Bemis, appointed him to the position of Tyler. He served as Tyler of the Lodge for many years and in 1967 was awarded the Major General John Sullivan Award for distinguished service to the Lodge. Brother Ray sought more light in Masonry through the Scottish Rite and York Rite of Freemasonry. He was an active Sir Knight of DeWitt Clinton Commandery, Knights Templar; a member of Rivermouth Chapter, Order of Eastern Star; and he enjoyed membership in Bektash Temple, Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine and the Portsmouth Shrine Club.

Brother Ray suffered a serious heart attack on July 14, 1967. He was in the process of recovering when he took a turn for the worse in early September. He passed from labor to refreshment on Wednesday, September 13, 1967 at Portsmouth Hospital; he was only 66 years old. His funeral service was held on the following Saturday at Buckminster Chapel and conducted by Rev. Norman Barrett of the First United Methodist Church of Portsmouth. A Masonic Service was conducted by St. John's Lodge on Friday evening, September 15, 1967 at the J. Verne Wood funeral home. It was led by the master, Wor. Calvin C. Wilder, with the assistance of the chaplain, Wor. Charles C. Nutter, and 30 members of the Lodge. Brother Ray is buried with his wife, Laura, in the Ramsdell Family plot at Mount Pleasant Cemetery in Eliot, Maine.

He was a good man.

**Alan M. Robinson, PM
Historian**

USS S-13 (SS-118) at Portsmouth Navy Yard

