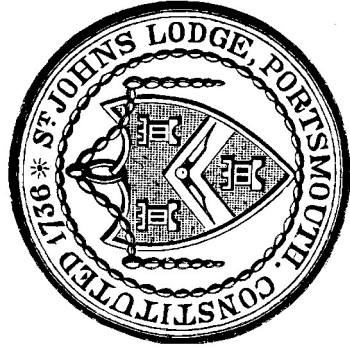
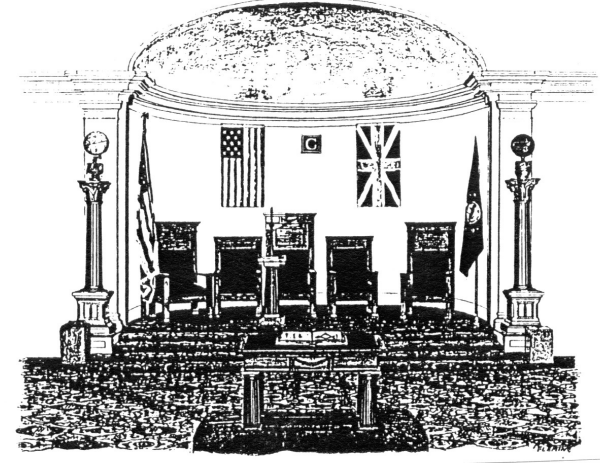


St. John's Lodge, No. 1, F&AM
351 Middle St
Portsmouth, NH 03801



Stamp

October 2023

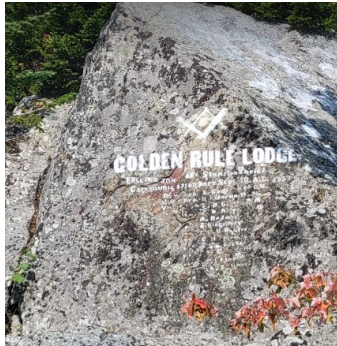


October 2023 Trestle Board

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



Golden Rule Lodge No. 5—Owl's Head Outdoor Degree



More Pictures from Own's Head

.....continued from page 5

closed during the anti-Masonic era of the early 1830s and when Cryptic Masonry was restored in Portsmouth in 1864, the council was named Davenport Council, No. 5, Royal and Select Masters of Portsmouth in honor of our distinguished brother.

Worshipful John Davenport passed from labor to refreshment on March 28, 1842; he was 90 years old. He is buried at the Saint Johns Churchyard Cemetery in Portsmouth with Elizabeth and Sally.

Next time you're attending a meeting of Davenport Council, No. 5, R&SM or traveling on Court Street in Portsmouth and you see the Davenport Inn, remember our worthy brother, John Davenport, the 23rd Master of St. John's Lodge.

**Alan M. Robinson, PM
Historian**



October 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, October 4, 2023

(4:45—SJMA Meeting)
(Dinner 6:00, Meeting 7:00)

Dinner—Meatloaf
Officer dress—White tie and tails
Collation to follow

Special Communication
Fellow Craft Degree
Brother Bryan Jude White
Wednesday, October 18, 2023
(Dinner 6:00, Meeting 7:00)
Dinner—Poor Richard Stew
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

John Davenport

A newly restored inn has opened in historic downtown Portsmouth; it's called The Davenport Inn and is located at 70 Court Street. It's a beautiful 265 year old building and its namesake is someone we know.

The story starts with Mary Kelley who was born in 1711 in New Castle, New Hampshire, the second daughter of Captain William Kelley and Lydia Bragdon. As a young girl, Mary learned to sew and spent her youth mending nets for local fishermen and altering clothing for the island residents of her hometown. When she was in her mid-teens, her charming smile attracted the attention of Charles Treadwell, an Ipswich, Massachusetts hairdresser. Charles and Mary were married in 1727 in New Castle; he was 20 years old and she was 16. After they were married, Charles obtained a 999-year lease on two Portsmouth lots of glebe land totaling 12-acres with the stipulation that he pay 15 shillings to the parish wardens. He paid the fee and he and Mary built a home on their land on Congress Street and started a family.

Mary (Kelley) Treadwell was an enthusiastic entrepreneur and operated a grocery, dry goods and hardware store from their home in downtown Portsmouth. Over the years, she was so successful that eventually she was able to build several other fine homes for their adult children. She built her fourth house in 1758 for their son Nathaniel. It was a large, gambrel-style home at the northeast corner of Fleet and State Street where M&T Bank is located today and where First National Bank of Portsmouth was located for many years. Nathaniel lived there with his family.

The Nathaniel Treadwell House was sold to John Davenport and his second wife, Elizabeth Welch (Pendexter), in the 1790s. John was a talented silversmith and for a time, served as a Portsmouth constable. While living at the Nathaniel Treadwell House, he purchased a building at the corner of Ark Street (now Penhallow Street) and State Street and operated a silversmith shop where he made shoe buckles. When shoe laces became popular and the shoe buckle business became unprofitable, he converted the building to a very popular public house called The Ark Tavern.

In 1810, John converted The Nathaniel Treadwell House, into what he called, the Davenport Hotel. Then on December 22, 1813 there came a great fire in Portsmouth. It started on State Street near where the Unitarian-Universalist Church is today. The fire was just a few properties away from the Davenport Hotel but traveled with the wind down State Street toward the Piscataqua River where the entire area was consumed in the fire, even the wharfs. 108 homes, 64 stores, and 100 barns were destroyed by the flames. Fortunately, the Davenport Hotel

city that the British were going to attack Portsmouth. To defend the valuable seaport, 5,000 militiamen were stationed throughout the city under the command of Governor John Taylor Gilman. Governor Gilman made his headquarters at the Davenport Inn.

After the British threat was over, John reopened the inn and hung a large sign picturing Noah's Ark at the front entrance of the relocated Ark Tavern. The inn and tavern were favorite stopping points for judges, attorneys and other officers of the nearby Portsmouth Courthouse. John owned it until his death in 1842 when the property passed to Jeremiah Mathes who lived there with his family through the Civil War. Successive owners included the Rundlett family and Dr. Jeremiah Hall. After the death of Dr. Hall, the house was sold to Benjamin F. Mugridge who lived there with his family. Miss Belle L. Donnell acquired the property and operated it as an inn for several years in the early 1900s. Miss Donnell passed the property to the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) of Portsmouth who used it as their home from 1920 to 1949.

On May 15, 1955, to make way for the First National Bank of Portsmouth, the vacant Nathaniel Treadwell House was purchased by the law practice of Waldron, Boynton and Waldron for \$1 and moved to its current location at 70 Court Street. The land where the house was moved was originally a part of the lawn and extensive garden of the Dr. Thomas W. Luce House located next door at 82 Court Street. The Waldron Boynton law practice had been located at 45 Pleasant Street in Portsmouth for 22 years and relocated to the beautifully renovated Nathaniel Treadwell House in August 1956. The three attorneys practiced in the offices on the first floor, and the accounting offices of Philip W. Hodgdon were on the second floor. Then and now, the majestic old staircase and intricate moldings were painstakingly preserved.

The Nathaniel Treadwell House continued to serve as offices for the attorneys at Boynton, Waldron, Doleac, Woodman & Scott until recently when the property was sold to John Samonas and Cricket Prevost who fully renovated the historic home and reopened it as a luxury inn in the heart of scenic and vibrant downtown Portsmouth.

John Davenport for whom the inn is named was big in Masonic circles in New Hampshire. He was born on August 4, 1752 in Boston, the son of James and Mary (Walker) Davenport. As a young man he moved to Portsmouth. He married first to Elizabeth Hull of Portsmouth; second, to the widow, Elizabeth Welch Pendexter on June 21, 1780; and third, to Sarah "Sally" Bradley of Haverhill, Massachusetts. He was initiated in Federal Lodge, No. 5, F&AM of Dover, New Hampshire, on June 20, 1796 and Raised in St. John's Lodge, No. 1 on January 10, 1797. He served as Master of St. John's Lodge in 1815-16, Treasurer in 1811-13 and 1817-21; Grand