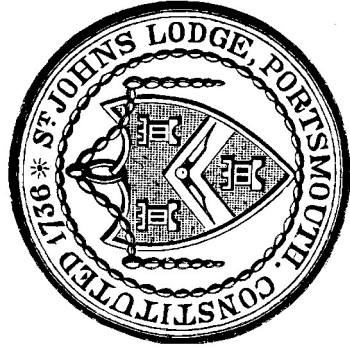
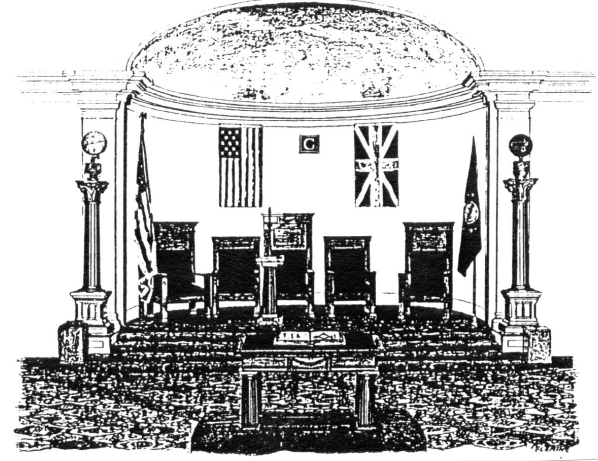


St. John's Lodge, No. 1, F&AM
351 Middle St
Portsmouth, NH 03801



Stamp

January 2024



January 2024 Trestle Board

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

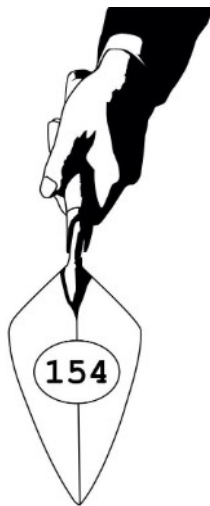
The Master's Message

Warm Holiday Greetings Brethren!

Thank you all for the confidence you have expressed in me by electing me as the 154th Master of St. John's Lodge #1. It is truly the honor of a lifetime, and I'm deeply grateful and humbled. We had a beautiful installation ceremony led by our Right Worshipful Brother Treasurer, William Sawyer. Thank you Right Worshipful! Congratulations and thank you to the rest of my fellow officers installed that day — the lodge couldn't operate without you. I would also like to thank those Brethren who joined me to sing the first chorus of "Eine Kleine Freimaurer-Cantate", a choral piece Brother Mozart composed to celebrate the dedication of his Vienna lodge's new temple building.

I've chosen the trowel as my emblem this year as it symbolizes two things that I'd like to emphasize during my time in the East: ritual and harmony. With respect to ritual, Right Worshipful Rob Johnson has graciously made himself available to assist any of our Brethren who enjoy performing ritual with earning points toward the Grand Lodge Ritual Excellence Award. This is especially exciting because there are opportunities for both officers and those on the sidelines to earn points, and, once earned, those points never go away. There are very manageable bits of ritual — such as presenting a single emblem from the Master Mason history — that any Brother can perform for points, and it's my hope that many of you will begin to accumulate points such that, in time, a cohort from St. John's is eligible to receive the award every year.

Harmony as a goal is somewhat more ephemeral. It's easy when we are having fun together. But occasionally disputes arise, tempers flare or a Brother behaves



badly. Since we as Brothers are naturally inclined — and rightly so — toward affability, instances of disharmony can too easily be ignored and go unresolved, and thus everyone “goes away dissatisfied”. Fortunately, we have our ritual to guide us; when we adhere to its precepts, harmony flows from ritual. The formula “judge with candor, admonish with friendship, and reprehend with justice” comes to mind. It is my hope that, in addition to having a lot of fun, our lodge this year will enjoy the deep harmony that results from the wisdom of our ritual and the grace of God. So mote it be.

Fraternally,

Worshipful Alan D. Ammann
Worshipful Master



The 2024 officers of St. John's Lodge pose for a picture immediately after the Installation. From left to right; SD Josh Nixon, Assistant Treasurer Ian McDonald, Secretary Wor. Thomas Haslam, Treasurer RW William Sawyer, SW Michael Hudson, **Worshipful Master Alan D. Ammann**, JW Cliff Hodgdon, Assistant Secretary and Marshal, Wor. Daniel Stolworthy, Electrician Howard Kalet, Chaplain Gregg Annis, Tyler Jeffrey Hatch and JD Jason Dubrow/



The Brothers and guests at the installation were treated to a vocal rendition of “Laut verkunde Unser Freude” (Loudly Proclaim Our Joy) by members of the New Hampshire Gentlemen—accompanied by some of the Brothers from St. John's Lodge.

The New Hampshire Gentlemen is an a cappella group founded at UNH in 1979. Pictured above are members Nate Amsden, Marc Laliberte, Peter Keene, Paul Murphy and Matt Mello with Worshipful Brother Alan Ammann.

St. John's Brothers above include Owen Ammann, Worshipful Peter Splaine, Michael Hudson, and Brandon Gray.

where they raised four daughters - Georgianna Hawley Duncan, Helen Louise Duncan, Priscilla Mayhew Duncan, and Harriet Duncan. He retired from the business in 1961 when he was 90 years old and died that same year on May 16, 1961. The jewelry business continued to prosper under the same name and under the management of Arthur's daughter Harriet and her husband Charles Paisley. After Charles died in 1967, Harriet continued to run Duncan's until October 12, 1971 when she sold the business to A. E. Alie and Sons, a well established family run jewelry business in Dover, NH. Harriet died in 1983.

Albert Ernest Alie was born in Biddeford, ME on November 7, 1893 to Eugene and Fresilda (Lamarre) Alie. He married Paula Alma Spenard and they had four boys – Robert, Normand, Raymond and Leopold. Albert founded his popular jewelry store in downtown Dover in 1914 (it closed in 2022). A. E. Alie died on March 10, 1968 while on a business trip to Boston; he was 74 years old. In 1971 when his company bought Arthur B. Duncan and Co. in Portsmouth, Alie's was being run by Albert's sons – Normand Raoul Alie and his brother, Leopold (Leo) Albert Alie. Leo died on September 10, 2004 and Normand died on June 21, 2016. Normand and his wife Bernadine Alice O'Kane raised seven children including Stephen R. Alie. Stephen is, and has been, the manager of Alie's Jewelry store in Portsmouth for many years and continues the tradition of excellence that they have offered continuously for more than 206 years.

Not suprisingly, the man who started this story in 1817, John W. Abbott, was Raised a Master Mason in St. John's Lodge, No. 1 in Portsmouth on October 6, 1819. And perhaps the most familiar name in this story is Arthur B. Duncan. Arthur was president of the Portsmouth Athenaeum, a charter member of the Portsmouth Rotary Club, and a very active 50-year member of Masonic fraternity. He was Raised in Rockland Lodge, No. 79, in Rockland, ME, and affiliated with St. John's Lodge on June 3, 1903. He was also very active in the Scottish and York Rites of Freemasonry in Portsmouth, and member of Pyramid Temple, Mystic Shrine, of Bridgeport. He is buried in the South Cemetery in Portsmouth in the Duncan family plot.

Next time you're in Market Square in Portsmouth, take a walk into Alie's and say Hi to Stephen, and sense the history that he continues to preserve in our wonderful city.

**Alan M. Robinson, PM
Historian**

January 2024

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, January 3, 2024

(Dinner 6:00, Meeting 7:00)

Dinner—Country fried steak with white gravy and biscuits

Officer dress—white tie and tails

Collation to follow

**Contact
Information:**

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Secretary
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Worshipful Brother Peter Splaine
and RW Brother William Sawyer
congratulate **Brother Brian Jude
White** on becoming our newest
Master Mason

St. John's Lodge

Historical Sketch

John W. Abbott and Arthur B. Duncan

Located at 1 Market Street in downtown Portsmouth is a jewelry store called A. E. Alie and Sons. Alie's offers fine jewelry and gifts, beautifully displayed and visible through their large windows that look out onto Market Square. Once inside the store, friendly staff offer just the right amount of excellent customer service which has been their hallmark since the silversmith John Abbot established the firm in 1817.

It was on August 9, 1817, when 27-year old John Abbot announced in the Portsmouth Oracle, a local newspaper of the day, that he had opened a shop in a vacant store on Daniel Street and was dealing in gold and silver goods, looking glasses, and other fine products. He was successful from the start and almost three years later, on April 22, 1820, he announced that he was moving his popular store to a more suitable location closer to the center of downtown at what is now 10 Market Square. At that time, the Old Court House, formally the New Hampshire State House, was still located in the middle of Market Square, right in front of North Church. John's new store was modest in its appearance but he continued to provide excellent customer service and was quite prosperous, attracting and keeping loyal customers for years.

John Abbot was born in Portsmouth on June 6, 1790, the oldest of six children of John and Sarah (Seaward) Abbot. He married twice, first to 19-year old Frances Mary Plaisted in 1813 with whom he had six children. After Frances' death on July 11, 1827 at age 33 years, he married Sophia Franklin Davenport McCleary on July 13, 1828. John and his family lived at 24 Court Street in Portsmouth. In order to distinguish himself from other John Abbots in Portsmouth at the time, including his father, he legally changed his name to John William Abbott in 1828, adding a middle name and an extra t. He was a lifelong member of the North Church of Portsmouth and enjoyed membership in the Howard Benevolent Society; Rockingham Tent, No. 84, Independent Order of Redmen; and the Associated Mechanics and Manufacturers of the State of New Hampshire. He was also a longtime member of the Mechanic Fire Society of Portsmouth. As a relatively young man in his 50's, John's health started to decline. He sold the jewelry business to Charles T. Emery in the spring of 1850 and sadly, a few months later, he died on July 9, 1850. He is buried in the South Cemetery alongside both of his wives.

Charles Thatcher Emery was the second owner of the jewelry store. He was born in Portsmouth on July 19, 1830, one of six children of

Thatcher and Elizabeth (Wood) Emery. He married Mary Elizabeth Pickering, the daughter of Judge James and Ruth Augusta (Miller) Pickering of Newington, and they had three children. Under his proprietorship, the jewelry store was modernized and continued to flourish. In March 1868, after running the business for 18 years, he sold it to Hutchinson and Rowell from St. Johnsbury, VT.

John Holt Hutchinson (1838-1897) was born in Nelson, NH, and was living in St. Johnsbury where he married his wife, Mary Emma Graham (1840-1908). He served in the Civil War as a lieutenant in the Third Vermont Infantry. He ran his newly acquired jewelry store in partnership with Alfred Dana Rowell who was born in Deering, NH on February 9, 1839 and died in St. Johnsbury on June 17, 1893. A. D. Rowell was a highly skilled watchmaker and jeweler but while he and Hutchinson owned the business, things didn't go as well as they had planned. After two years in partnership, John Hutchinson bought out A. D. Rowell's share of the business. John then hired James Robert Connell (1848-1906), a very experienced watchmaker from Wells River, VT. John and James worked together very well and over the next three years, business greatly improved. In 1873, the two formed a partnership under the name Hutchinson and Connell and the store did very well over the next three years. In 1876, James Connell left the business and John Hutchinson ran it himself.

Seventeen years later, on November 1, 1893, John Hutchinson moved the store across the street to its present location at 1 Market Street and renamed the business – J. H. Hutchinson and Co. He had in his employ his daughter Mattie Noyes Hutchinson and Samuel Kingsbury. John died on June 7, 1897 and his daughter Mattie took charge of the store and continued to run it until November 24, 1902 when 31-year old Arthur Duncan arrived from Bridgeport, CT and bought the store.

Arthur Bailey Duncan greatly improved the store with up-to-date furnishings and elegant window displays and it became as complete a store as any in Portsmouth. He renamed the store Arthur B. Duncan and Co. For the next 59 years, Arthur continued the very popular business, keeping its traditional atmosphere and beautiful paneled showcases and wallcases which were the admiration of customers near and far. It was reported in a 1975 article in the Portsmouth Herald that "his standards and service of 'the old school' combined with integrity and courtesy have earned a fine reputation in this area as a store of fine quality and dependability."

Arthur was born March 14, 1871 in Bath, ME, to Horatio Allen and Georgianna Griffin (Mayhew) Duncan. He married Harriet Burr Hawley of Bridgeport and they lived at 587 Union Street in Portsmouth