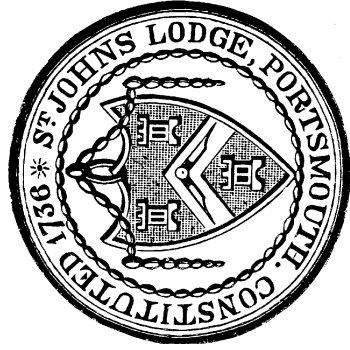
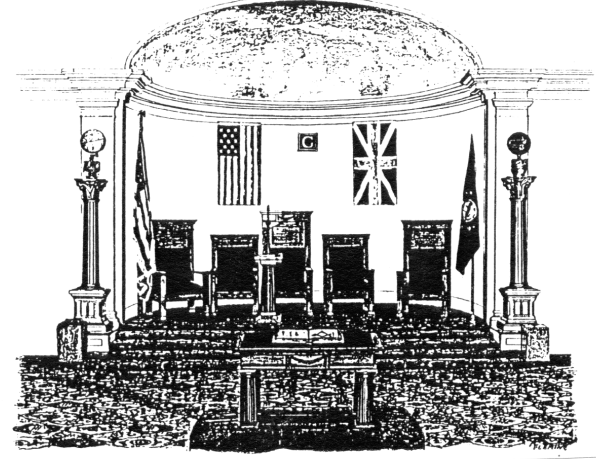


St. John's Lodge, No. 1, F&AM
351 Middle St
Portsmouth, NH 03801



Stamp

April 2024



April 2024 Trestle Board

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

The Master's Message

Warm Fraternal Greetings from the East!

The Mosaic Pavement – a Masonic Ornament that reminds us human life is checkered with good and evil – probably best represents the month of March this year for St. John's Lodge as we have had both sad news and glad tidings.

First, our Secretary, Worshipful Brother Tom Haslam, lost his stepson Jeremy to cancer. Our sincerest condolences go out to him, his wife Marcie, and the rest of his family.

We also laid our Brother Robert Bishop to rest with a beautiful graveside Masonic Service in Portsmouth led by Worshipful Brother Alan Robinson. The family was quite moved and appreciative, and I thank all of the officers and Brethren who braved the cold to attend.

For glad tidings, I'm delighted to report that I had the great privilege of presenting our chef, Worshipful Brother Phil Fraser, with a dues card and Grand Lodge Certificate showing that he is now an Honorary Member of St. John's Lodge. Over the years Worshipful Brother Fraser has supported our lodge in many ways, but in particular he has cooked us hundreds of delicious meals – and our meals together have been a great opportunity for Brotherhood. Further, he has done all this work despite significant health challenges, an undertaking that at times has been nothing short of heroic. Thank you Chef Phil!

I'm also delighted to report that our candidate, Brother Alex Roberts, continues his Masonic journey apace and with great enthusiasm. In keeping with custom, our Senior Warden, Brother Mike Hudson, will be the presiding Master for the degree. Thank you Brother Hudson! Thank you also Worshipful Brother Ammann (the elder) for sitting in the East for the opening and closing. Our Senior Deacon, Brother Josh Nixon, will debut his rendition of the Middle Chamber Lecture – congratulations Brother Nixon!

On another happy note, our April Stated Communication promises to be quite interesting as Worshipful Brother Cliff Hodgdon will give a presentation he calls "A Tale of Two Lodges" concerning the formation of the second lodge in New Hampshire and its relationship to St. John's Lodge. I invite everyone to attend, especially those we haven't seen in a while.

Finally, as we stand together amidst all the black and white tiles of life, let's always remember the Indented Tessel that surrounds us, and the manifold blessings and comforts it represents. So mote it be.

Fraternally,

Worshipful Alan D. Ammann



Chef Phil Frasier was officially made an honorary member of **St. John's Lodge No. 1.**

Worshipful Master Alan D. Ammann presents Worshipful Brother Frasier with a certificate commemorating his status as an honorary member of our Lodge.
Congratulations Brother Frasier!



We are accepting applications for the **Ward / Day Education Scholarship** from now until April 19th

Applications can be found at portsmouthfreemasons.org and can be mailed to the lodge at

351 Middle Street, Portsmouth, NH 03801.

THE GRAND LODGE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS

Daniel R. Hotchkiss
GRAND MASTER
1505 Elm Street
PO Box 120
Manchester, NH 03105-0120
Grand Lodge Office Phone: 603-554-1723
Email: mwgm@nhgrandlodge.org



As in prior years, Town Hall meetings will be held for each District. The Town Hall meetings are an excellent opportunity for the Brethren to meet with the Grand Master and the Line Officers and speak with them in an informal setting. For 2024, Grand Lodge has scheduled the Town Hall meeting dates and locations for the month of April.

Attire is casual, no suits or ties.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| District 7—Tuesday, April 2 | Meridian Lodge No. 60
58 S Main St, Franklin |
| District 4—Tuesday, April 9 | Blazing Star Eureka No. 11
53 Iron Works Rd, Concord |
| District 2 & 3—Friday, April 12 | Benevolent No. 7
30 Mount Vernon St, Milford |
| District 6—Tuesday, April 16 | Mount Lebanon No. 32
63 Court St, Laconia |
| District 1&5—Wednesday, April 17 | St. John's No. 1
351 Middle St, Portsmouth |
| District 8—Friday, April 26 | Gorham-Sabatis No. 73
Town Bldg 20 Park St, Gorham |

All will begin at **7:00PM**, light refreshments served at **6:30PM**

Topics to be discussed:

- HB 1001 Status and Related Impact
- Lodge Finances Overview
- Membership, including a review of the membership inquiry and lead process
- Open Forum

Brothers are welcome to attend any meeting

April 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				

Stated Communication

Wednesday, April 3, 2024

(Dinner 6:00, Meeting 7:00)

Dinner—BBQ Steak and Chicken

Officer dress—white tie and tails

Collation to follow

Grand Lodge Town Hall Meeting

Wednesday, April 17, 2024

(Light Refreshments 6:30, Meeting 7:00)

Casual attire—no suits or ties

Brotherhood Night

Wednesday, April 17, 2024—6:00PM

Exeter Bowling Lanes and

Shooters Sports Pub

6 Columbus Ave. Exeter

The bowling alley also includes a pizzeria for dinner before bowling

Contact Information:

Alan D. Ammann
Worshipful Master
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Thomas W. Haslam, PM
Secretary
stjohnstom@comcast.net
603-498-7205

St. John's Lodge

Historical Sketch

The Root Children - continued from last month.....

There was another occasional contributor to the Care of the Root Children Fund... once in a while, a note would arrive in the mail postmarked Newark, New Jersey, and addressed to the Lodge with \$5 or even \$10 enclosed. It was from Rose, the grateful mother of the children. I wish I could tell you that Rose recovered and lived a happy life; alas, I cannot. I can say with certainty though that for the remainder of her life, she rested a little easier knowing that St. John's Lodge was looking after her children. I have been unable to find any additional information on her including when and where she died.

Whenever the kids needed medical care, it was generously provided at no cost by Fred S. Towle, MD of Portsmouth. Dr. Towle was a great man, a great doctor and great Freemason. His story is an amazing one and worthy of repeating which we will do in an upcoming trestleboard.

Both of the Root children had a happy and successful upbringing, and both graduated from Portsmouth High School – Mabel in 1923 and Clyde in 1927.

In 1929 when he was 21 years old, Clyde left for New York where he leased a room on West 70th Street in Manhattan. He worked as a bank clerk at the Guarantee Trust Company, an investment bank in New York City. He soon after met 18 year old Marie Marguerite Amirault who was born in 1912 in Plympton, Nova Scotia. They were married on October 7, 1930 in Jersey City, NJ, and they lived at 287 Linden Boulevard in Brooklyn. In the mid-1930s, he started work as a mechanic at Seversky Aircraft Company (Republic Aviation) in Farmingdale, NY out on Long Island. Marguerite was a housewife and on August 9, 1937, she became a naturalized U.S. citizen. She then took a job as an airplane assembler at the same company where Clyde worked. In their retirement years, they lived at Lake Ronkonkoma, NY. Clyde died on September 8, 1987 at the age of 78 years; and Marguerite died the following year on October 29, 1988; she was 75 years old. They are buried together at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Coram, NY, a short distance from where they lived in the center of Long Island.

After graduating from high school, Clyde's sister Mabel continued her education at Colby College in Waterville, ME, where she graduated with a bachelor's degree in 1927. She was a teacher, and she married a teacher, Clarence Warren Holmes on March 25, 1931 in Richmond, NY. When they got married, Mabel was 26 years old and Clarence was 52 years old. He had three children from his first marriage to Winifred B. (Dorr) Holmes. Winnie died in 1912 when she was just 27 years old. Clarence was a very good man, a wonderful husband and father, and a highly regarded teacher who also served during the Spanish American War in the First NH Regiment of the U.S. Army Infantry. He was a Freemason and was Raised in Mumford River Lodge, AF&AM in East Douglas, MA, on June 28, 1920 and served that lodge as Worshipful Master in 1927-28. He died on March 22, 1977 at the age of 99 years and is buried at North Newport Cemetery in Newport, NH, not far from

where he and Mable lived. Mable remained in Newport and was a much loved citizen of the town and member of the South Congregational Church. She died on October 21, 1997 at the Woodlawn Nursing Home in Newport; she was 93 years old. She is buried with her husband Clarence at the North Newport Cemetery. Shortly after her passing, we were able to make contact with one of her friends through Wor. Robert E. Buffum. She mentioned that for many years, Mabel would often mention with happy gratitude the help and care she and her brother received from St. John's Lodge when she was young.

It was in the 1980s when I was working my way through the chairs of St. John's Lodge, that I first heard the name Mabel Root Holmes. From the East, I read a note of appreciation sent to the Lodge by Mabel that included a contribution to our charity fund. I remember thinking, what wonderful and thoughtful gifts... hers to us; and more importantly, ours to her and her brother Clyde.

On that fateful winter's day in 1913, things did indeed get very dark and difficult for the Root family... but then St. John's Lodge and the Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons turned on a light.

**Alan M. Robinson, PM
Historian**



Photos: Clyde T. and Mable V. Root in December 1913 when they became wards of St. John's Lodge. Also, Miss Mabel Victoria Root upon graduating from Colby College in 1927.