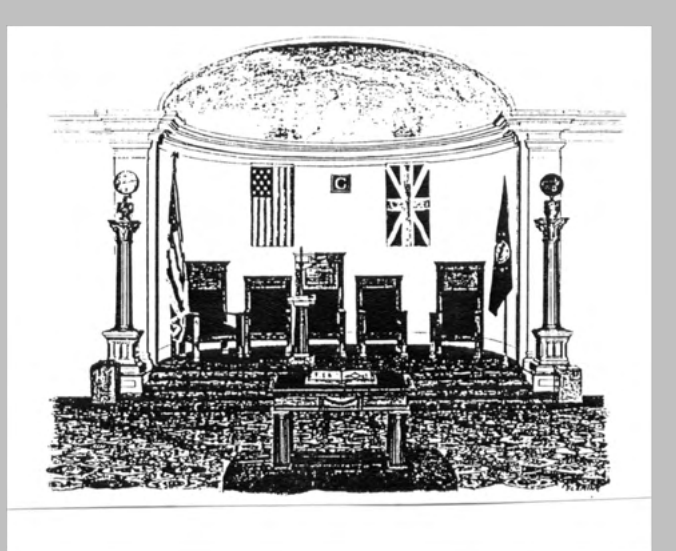
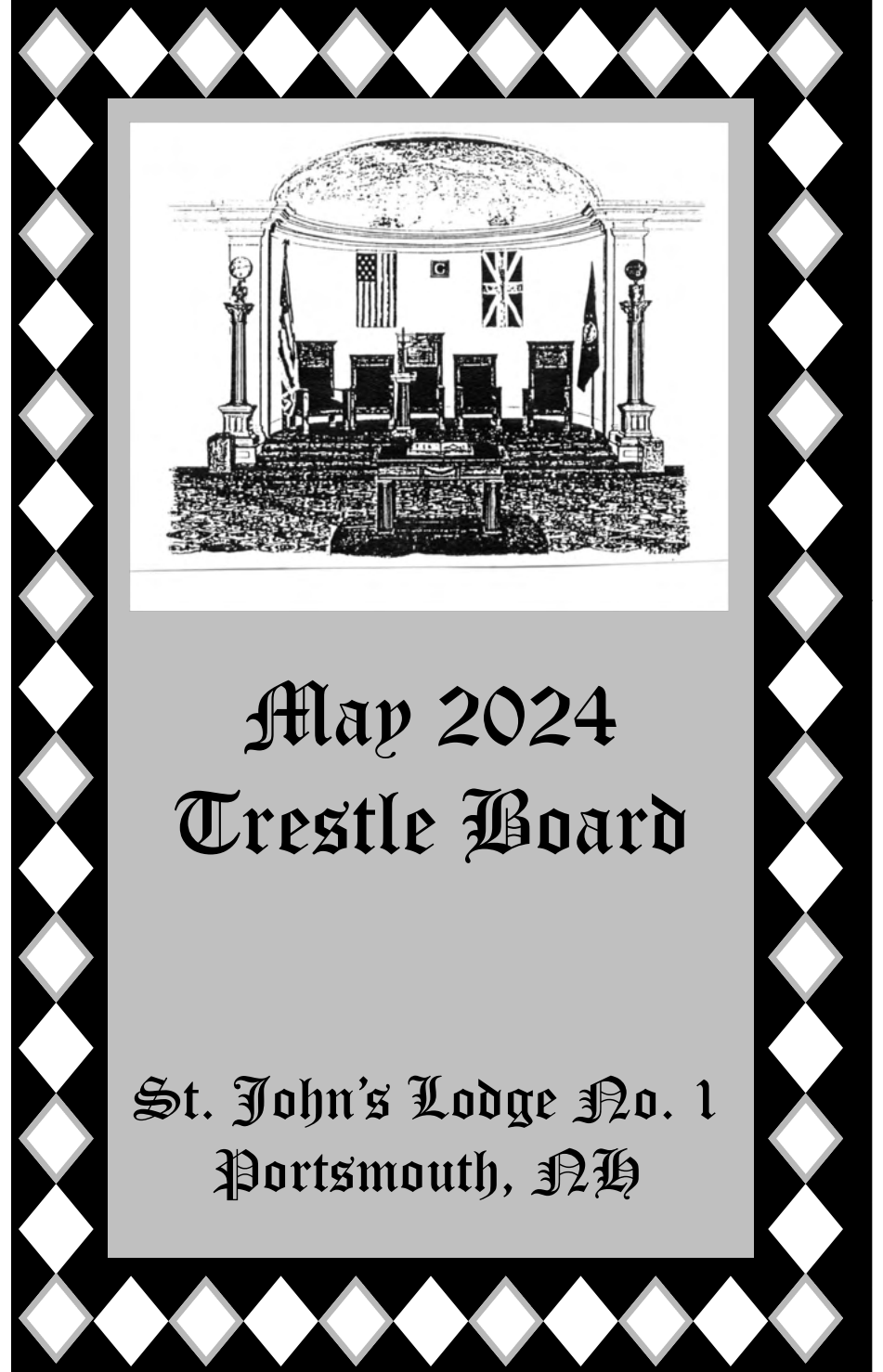


St. John's Lodge, No. 1, F&AM
351 Middle St
Portsmouth, NH 03801

Stamp



May 2024



May 2024 Trestle Board

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

The Master's Message

Warm Fraternal Greetings from the East!

Mother Nature played a bit of an April Fools prank on us this year! After a fairly mild start to spring, a substantial winter storm blew in the evening of our April Stated Communication, and I thought it prudent to “cancel” our meeting. I say “cancel” in quotes because one of our great claims to fame has been the unbroken continuity of our meetings since 1736, and consequently a few of us did indeed show up at the appointed hour in order to open and close the lodge. Thank you to those who came out — we kept the streak going!

Of course, no business was conducted, and the lodge was open only as long as it took to gavel it open and closed. But what that act represented is truly remarkable: Nothing, not storms, pandemics, nor world wars, can cause St. John's Lodge #1 to go dark.

This continuity is all the more remarkable given our numbers. Our lodge has around 230 members, and in keeping with the usual ten percent active participation rate of organizations in general, we have a couple dozen Brothers who regularly attend meetings. Of those regulars, about a third are officers. So in truth, at any particular time, just a handful of Brothers keep that flame lit.

The next time you are in lodge, I invite you to look around the room at the assembled Brethren and think “at this moment we are it — we are the ones keeping that nearly three hundred year old flame going”. For me personally, this exercise makes me appreciate everyone present, even those with whom I have perhaps disagreed. Despite whatever challenges our lodge faces now or in the future, we have a job to do and we all need to keep showing up. So mote it be.

Fraternally,

Worshipful Alan D. Ammann
Worshipful Master



Congratulations Right Worshipful Rob Johnson who was named **Grand Lecturer** for the Grand Lodge of New Hampshire!

Masonic Travels



Worshipful Alan D. Ammann and Brother Daniel Silverman were both in Alabama in March and took some time to visit the local Lodges. Brother Silverman stopped for a selfie in Decatur while Worshipful Brother Ammann stopped for a selfie in Montgomery and was joined by a Brother who happened to be passing by.

Brotherhood Night



In case you don't know, when Brother Daniel Silverman plays the keyboards for a degree, the Lodge pays him \$75. Dan has instructed the Treasurer to set that money aside into a “Brotherhood” fund. In March, about ten Brothers enjoyed dinner at a local restaurant and then tickets to a UNH hockey game. A great night for all in attendance!



Congratulations Brother Jeffrey Hatch for completing the Boston Marathon in 3:26:38!

Warrington's adoption of Grace's daughter Marion P. Fife and granted her name change to Marion Parker Moulton. Then on April 8, 1905, Grace and Warrington welcomed their last child, a son Edward John Moulton.

Warrington was a good father and good citizen, and like other good men, joined the Masonic fraternity, being Raised in St. John's Lodge on November 6, 1907. Sadly, he died in Portsmouth on April 27, 1911 at the young age of 50 years. He is buried in the Moulton family plot at the South Cemetery in Portsmouth alongside his parents and siblings.

Now widowed for a second time, Grace continued to live on Austin Street with her four children, and for the next several years supplemented her income with \$3 per week received from the Lodge to care for the two Root children who made this their permanent home.

Grace married for a third time to Edward J. Moulton of Oakland, California, on July 14, 1920. Isn't that an interesting coincidence – not only that she would marry a Moulton, but that he had the same name as her then six year old son. She died on January 29, 1939 in Modesto, California; she was 68 years old. She is buried at Gardenia Terrace in the Columbarium of Protection located in Glendale, California, next to her third husband, Edward, who died July 12, 1946 at the age of 71.

**Alan M. Robinson, PM
Historian**

<i>May 2024</i>						
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, May 1, 2024
 (Dinner 6:00, Meeting 7:00)
Dinner—Breakfast for Dinner
Officer dress—white tie and tails
Collation to follow

Special Communication
Master Mason Degree
Wednesday, May 8, 2024—6:00PM
Brother William Blake Greene
Brother Alexander Eric Roberts
 (Dinner 6:00, Meeting 7:00)
Dinner—Stuffed Chicken Thighs
Officer dress—white tie and tails

Grand Lodge Annual Communication
Saturday, May 18, 2024
 (Registration 9:00, GL Opening 9:30)
Dress—Business Suit
 Coffee and doughnuts until opening, luncheon after closing.

**Contact
Information:**

Alan D. Ammann
Worshipful Master
 Ammann.alan@gmail.com
 (603) 781-2455

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

St. John's Lodge

Historical Sketch

In a recent Trestleboard article, I wrote about two young children, Clyde and Mable Root, who became the concern of the Lodge in 1913 when their father, Bro. John L. Root, abandoned them and his wife, Rose; and then subsequently disappeared. In the months that followed, Rose tried to care for her children but the strain of being abandoned was so great that she became mentally ill and had to be institutionalized. The responsibility for the care and well-being of the children was immediately taken up by St. John's Lodge with several individuals and families having important roles; the first being Fred C. Tucker.

Fred Cotton Tucker chaired the Lodge committee that oversaw the care of the Root children. He was personally involved in every detail of the children's upbringing, and faithfully managed the financial receipts and disbursements for their care. We know many of the particulars of their upbringing today because Fred regularly briefed the membership, and those details were recorded in the Lodge minutes.

Fred was born in Portsmouth on November 18, 1876, the son of Charles H. and Mary F. (Garland) Tucker. He grew up on New Castle Avenue and graduated from Portsmouth High School. He entered the U.S. Postal Service in Portsmouth as a clerk in November 1897 and worked his way up through the ranks to be a register clerk, and was also in charge of the postal savings bank. In 1912, he was promoted to the position of Superintendent of the Mails and was responsible for managing all aspects of the post office facility, including coordinating the processing and sorting of mail, ensuring delivery is accurate and timely, and maintaining the facility's overall efficiency.

On October 15, 1902, at the age of 25, Fred married 25 year old Ruth Amanda Pearce in Portsmouth and they lived for many years at 60 Wibird Street in Portsmouth. They had one son, Francis Pearce Tucker, on September 21, 1907. Fred joined St. John's Lodge as an Entered Apprentice on February 6, 1902, and he was Raised a Master Mason on April 2, 1902. He was very active in the Lodge and immediately joined the officer line. He was elected Master of the Lodge for the years 1907-08. In 1915, he was elected treasurer of the Lodge and served in that position until

March 20, 1932 when he died of heart disease at the young age of 55 years. He is buried in the Tucker family plot at the Newington Cemetery. His portrait is hanging in the front living room of the Masonic Temple in Portsmouth; check it out next time you're in there. By the way, Fred's son, Francis Pearce Tucker, was also a member of the Masonic fraternity and was Raised in St. John's Lodge on November 28, 1928. Francis' three grandsons, Tucker, Jeffrey and Bruce Barnaby were members of Portsmouth Chapter, Order of DeMolay many years ago with me.

Another instrumental family in the lives of the Root children were the Moultons. In the Fall of 1914, the children moved into the home of Mrs. Grace E. (Fife) Moulton on Austin Street in Portsmouth where she helped raise the kids as if they were her own, with the financial assistance of the Lodge. Grace Evelyn Parker was born in Portsmouth on September 3, 1870, the sixth child of Benjamin M. and Frances Susan (Norton) Parker. She was a talented dressmaker and on August 15, 1893, at the age of 22, she married a carpenter, George E. Fife in Greenfield, Massachusetts. The two were soon pregnant with their first daughter Marion Parker Fife who was born on June 1, 1894. Sadly, 18 days later, Grace's husband George died of phthisis, another name for tuberculosis, on June 19, 1894, a month after his 23rd birthday. He is buried in the Fife family plot at Old Fields Cemetery in South Berwick, Maine. A couple years later, on December 31, 1896, now 26 year old Grace married for a second time to 36 year old Warrington Moulton.

Warrington Moulton was born in Portsmouth on October 8, 1859, the son of Edward J. and Susan J. (Leach) Moulton. He worked as a letter carrier in Portsmouth and later ran the Cabot Street Grocery Store. He was a very hard working and popular citizen and served as City Messenger, a sort of municipal gofer for the members of the city council. He was active in local and county politics and was a delegate to several state conventions. He was a parishioner of the Universalist Church, a Past Noble Grand and treasurer of New Hampshire Lodge of Odd Fellows, No. 17, and a member of Alpha Council, Royal Arcanum. He and Grace lived at 37 Austin Street and on November 11, 1897, they welcomed a second daughter, Susie Warren Moulton, into their family. Edith Frances Moulton was welcomed next on January 9, 1899. On April 26, 1899 the Rockingham County probate court finalized