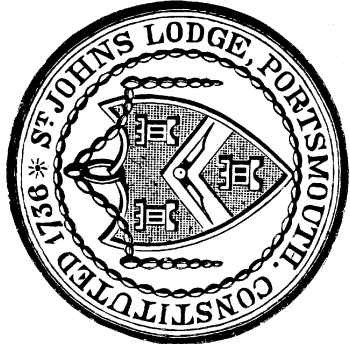
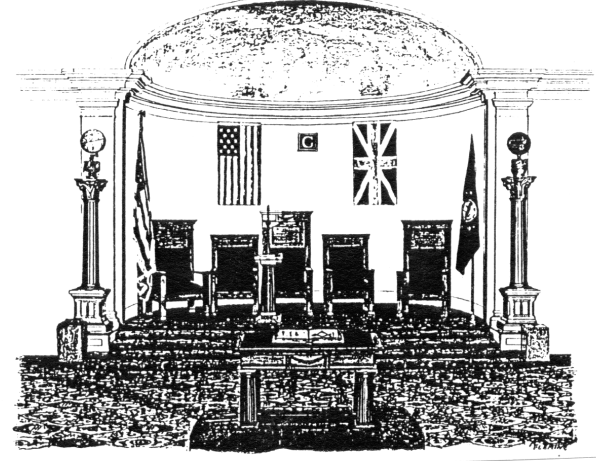


St. John's Lodge, No. 1, F&AM
351 Middle St
Portsmouth, NH 03801



Stamp

December 2024



December 2024 Trestle Board

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

The Master's Message

I can hardly believe it, but my year in the East is rapidly coming to a close, and this, dear Brethren, is my final message as the 154th installed Worshipful Master of St. John's Lodge #1. As such, it would be tempting to emulate our Worshipful Brother George Washington by composing a farewell address with the various prescriptions and admonishments I might have for the future of the Lodge. But, as I noted in one of my first messages, a good part of the magic of the Oriental Chair is that we take turns occupying it and experiencing in full the privileges and responsibilities that come with the office — and the next Worshipful Master deserves to assume his role unencumbered by the opinions of his predecessor. Consequently I'd rather focus on the gratitude I feel and offer my heartfelt thanks to everyone who worked with me this year.

First, thank you to the Lodge as a whole, and in particular to the Brethren who consistently attend on the sidelines. Our communications are not always exciting, and your attentive presence as we deliberate over the often mundane business of the Lodge is both vital and greatly appreciated.

Next, I would like to thank the officers of St. John's Lodge.

Thank you to our Stewards, Brothers Nick Kane and Jonathan Townes. While your evening work schedules sometimes kept you from attending as much as you might have liked, I sincerely appreciated the effort you made to come when you were able.

Thank you to our Deacons for your excellent attendance and preparation. Brother Jason Dubrow, I'm delighted you will be continuing on to Senior Deacon, and Brother Josh Nixon I wish you great success with your family insurance business in Missouri. Please stay in touch — you will be missed.

Thank you to our Wardens, WB Cliff Hodgdon and Brother Mike Hudson. WB Hodgdon, you graciously stepped in as Junior Warden to fill a gap in the line, and you were always ready with an encouraging word and amusing anecdote. Brother Hudson, in the happy event you are elected Worshipful Master for next year, the Lodge will be in great hands with you at the helm. Thank you for your enthusiasm and wise counsel throughout the year.

Thank you to our Secretary, WB Tom Haslam. It is no exaggeration to say that a good Secretary keeps a Lodge running smoothly, and WB Haslam, you have been an excellent Secretary. Thank you for your dry humor, diligence and quiet leadership.

Thank you to our Treasurer, RW Bill Sawyer and our Assistant Treasurer, Brother Ian Macdonald. RW Brother Sawyer, I always appreciated your wisdom and candor. Your commitment to the Craft is unparalleled. Brother Macdonald, thank you for the thought and care you have put into managing our investments, and congratulations on being elected Assistant Grand Treasurer. You both keep our Lodge on sound financial footing.

Thank you to our Tyler, Brother Jeff Hatch. Whenever you were called upon to perform some service for the Lodge, your immediate response was always "done", and I always appreciated it.

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Thank you to our Marshal, WB Dan Stolworthy. I hope I can be as positive and helpful a Past Master as you have been. Thank you for compiling the Trestle Board and keeping me on track.

Thank you to our Historian, WB Alan Robinson. Your historical sketches in the Trestle Board are always fascinating. I would also like to thank you for taking the lead on our Masonic funeral services — they are among the most important work we do.

Thank you to our Musician, Brother Dan Silverman. Your keyboard skills always take the degree work to the next level. Thank you also for donating your Musician payments to our Brotherhood nights out. I very much look forward to them.

Thank you to the members of the St. John's Masonic Association, and in particular Brother Howard Kalet. In addition to being a reliable presence as Electrician at our communications, you spend countless hours making sure our beautiful Temple Building is well cared for.

Thank you for all the many projects large, small, visible and invisible. Thank you to Brother David Splaine, the chairman of the finance committee. I've learned a lot from you this past year, and I've especially appreciated your insights as we've worked with the City of Portsmouth to renew the parking lot lease.

Thank you to RW Brother Bob Sutherland. It has given me great confidence knowing that your wise counsel is only ever a phone call away.

Thank you to Brother Steve Linehan for always being ready to fill in as a Deacon.

Thank to WB Chef Phil for all of the great meals throughout the year with one last meal for the Stated, his famous Prime Rib dinner for our annual meeting.

And finally, thank you to my pop, WB Alan P. Ammann. Freemasonry has been such a wonderful father-son (and now grandson) activity for us. Thank you for always being willing to put on the "monkey suit" and filling in a chair here and there as needed. I couldn't have done this year without you.

Fraternally,

Worshipful Alan D. Ammann
Worshipful Master

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tumor; he was 56 years old. He is buried at Harmony Grove Cemetery in Salem, Mass. Elva died at a convalescent home in Middleton, Mass. on October 23, 1950; she was 73. She is buried with her husband Clarence in Salem.

Brother John Sherwood Bryant, the senior engineer at NRL, was welcomed as an Entered Apprentice in St. John’s Lodge in Portsmouth on December 19, 1919 and he was Raised a Master Mason in our Lodge on February 7, 1920. He was also a very active member of the York Rite of Freemasonry in Portsmouth. When he passed from labor to refreshment, he was a 53 year member of our Lodge.

John’s Bryant’s uncle, Dr. and Brother Clarence Isaac Sherwood, the baker and chiropractor, was Raised a Master Mason in St. John’s Lodge on June 7, 1899. When he passed, he was a 29 year member of our Lodge. He and his wife, Elva, were both longtime members of Rivermouth Chapter, Order of Eastern Star.

John Bryant’s wife’s first husband, Colin Nicholson, the champion half-back soccer player and machinist at General Electric, wasn’t yet a Freemason, but he would have made a good one had he not died at a young age. He was however, a member of Kearsarge Lodge, No. 217 and Fraternity Encampment, Independent Order of Odd Fellows located in Swampscott, Mass.

Lastly, a future article will be dedicated to Brother John Bradford Mooney, Jr. who was born in Portsmouth, was active in Portsmouth DeMolay, and was a long-time member of the Masonic fraternity in our sister Lodge here in Portsmouth, St. Andrew’s Lodge, No. 56. Admiral Mooney served as the 15th Chief in charge of the Office of Naval Research from 1983 to 1987 and oversaw the work of the NRL in Washington where our Brother John Sherwood Bryant worked.

**Alan M. Robinson, PM
Historian**

December 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				



Annual Christmas Shopping trip
with Lydia’s House of Hope!
Seabrook Walmart at 10:00AM

Stated Communication
St. John’s Lodge Annual Meeting
Election of Officers
Wednesday, December 4, 2024
(Dinner 6:00, Meeting 7:00)
Dinner by Phil—prime rib!
Officer dress—business suit

Installation of Officers
Saturday, December 7, 2023
Installation at 2:00, hors d’oeuvres to follow
All are welcome! Please bring your family and friends!

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John Sherwood Bryant

Located on the Potomac River in southeast Washington, DC, is the Naval Research Laboratory (NRL). It was established on July 2, 1923 and for more than a century has served as the corporate research laboratory for the Navy and Marine Corps. The lab reports to the Chief of Naval Research and is an important link in the Navy Research, Development and Acquisition (RD&A) chain. Through NRL, the Navy is able to maintain direct ties with industry and academia, and provide valuable research and development for the Office of Naval Research. One of the senior engineers working at NRL in its early years was John S. Bryant.

John Sherwood Bryant was born in Portsmouth, NH on July 22, 1897, the eldest of two children of Edward E. and Nettie E. (Sherwood) Bryant. John and his younger sister Elisabeth attended Portsmouth schools and graduated from Portsmouth High School. He was skilled with his hands and went to work as an electrical worker and electrical engineering intern at the Portsmouth Navy Yard from 1915 to 1921. He then went to college full-time at the University of New Hampshire and graduated in 1925 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering. He moved to Washington, DC and began a very successful 39-year career at NRL. He held several successively more responsible positions at NRL, including senior engineer in charge of testing programs for numerous important development initiatives for the Navy. He retired from civil service in 1961.

John married a young widow, Marjory B. (Howie) Nicholson, and became step-father to her three daughters: Dorothy, Marion, and Marjory. Marjory's first husband, Colin Nicholson, was a General Electric machinist and an internationally known soccer star who played half-back on several championship teams, and was also the custodian of the General Electric Athletic Field in Lynn, Mass. He died at the young age of 38 years. John and Marjory lived mostly in the Washington, DC area with their three girls, and following his retirement, they lived in his family home at 37 Tanner Street in downtown Portsmouth. Like his parents before him, they were active members of Middle Street Baptist Church. He died on December 30, 1973 in Portsmouth; he was 76 years

old. He is buried in the Bryant Family plot in the South Cemetery in Portsmouth.

As I mentioned above, John Sherwood Bryant's mother was Nettie (Sherwood) Bryant. Nettie's parents were Daniel Luke and Eliza Ann (Case) Sherwood. Daniel (b 1832) and Eliza (b 1833) were married in 1855 and had six children, including Nettie who was born in 1870 in Barnesville, NB, Canada, and Clarence Isaac Sherwood who was born in Studholm, NB, Canada on March 18, 1872. Eliza died in 1901 at the age of 67 and is buried in the South Cemetery in Portsmouth. Her husband, Daniel, died a few years later in 1908 at the age of 76 and is buried in Barnesville, NB at the St. Barnabas Anglican Cemetery. Their daughter, Nettie (John's mother), died of liver cancer on August 7, 1919 at the age of 49 years. She is buried in the Bryant family plot at the South Cemetery in Portsmouth with her husband, Edward Bryant, who died in 1939 at the age of 80. Also buried there is her son, John, the main subject of this article; John's wife, Marjory, who died in 1959 at the age of 67 years; and their daughter, Elisabeth Nettie Bryant (1904-1999).

Nettie's brother, Clarence I. Sherwood moved to Portsmouth from Canada on November 10, 1889 when he was 17 years old and eventually petitioned to become a naturalized US citizen; his petition was granted on November 2, 1897. Clarence married Elva Atkinson Fellows (b 1877) in her hometown of Ipswich, Mass. on October 14, 1905. They lived for many years on Broad Street in Portsmouth. She was a school teacher and he was a popular baker and the proprietor of Central Bakery located at 91 Congress Street in downtown Portsmouth. Homemade breads were his specialty along with cakes and pastries, and plain and fancy crackers. In 1919 when he was 47 years old, Clarence gave up the baking business and he and Elva moved to Iowa where he studied to become a practicing chiropractor. In 1924, Dr. Sherwood, as he was then known, started having severe headaches and in 1925, he underwent exploratory brain surgery to determine the cause. He was diagnosed with an inoperable cerebral tumor. He and Elva returned to New Brunswick, Canada where they lived in St. John and where he continued to serve as a chiropractor. He died on August 6, 1928 of complications related to the brain