July 2019
Trestle Board

St. John’s Lodge No. 1 Portsmouth, NH
Warm Fraternal Greetings Brethren,

Summer is in full swing. Hopefully, you are all enjoying all that this wonderful area of the country has to offer! Mountain climbing, visits to the beach, fresh and salt water fishing, the list goes on and on!

It is with regret that I inform you all that Michael Scotty Adkins, our Senior Steward has stepped down from his position to relocate to the South to be closer to his daughters. Special thanks to you Scotty for all you have done to help out St. John’s Lodge #1. Your support and friendship over the years will be sorely missed, but, I do hope you make it back up here as much as you can as you are always welcome!

It is with pleasure that I announce to you all that Brandon Gray, one of our Assistant Stewards will be stepping in as Junior Steward, allowing Tim Campbell to move up to Senior Steward. Thanks in advance for all your help to make this transition a smooth one.

Our Stated Communication falls on July 3rd, which, coincidentally coincides with the 4th of July celebration for the City of Portsmouth. As we did for St. John’s Sunday, we will be cordonning off a portion of the parking lot early to allow for parking for all Masons attending the Stated Communication. Speaking of the Stated, this meeting will be a little more casual as it will be Hawaiian Shirt Night. Please feel free to come to Lodge in the casual way it is intended. I wish everyone a happy and safe Fourth of July holiday with your friends and family.

On July 13, 2019 there will be an Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of New Hampshire at the William Pitt Tavern. If you have not had the chance to sit in Lodge at the William Pitt Tavern, it is worth the trip, quite a special place. July 17, 2019 we will have a Special Communication to bring our new candidates from an Entered Apprentice to a Fellow Craft. Please come and support these fine young men as they continue their masonic journey.

Lastly, we will be having some scheduling hurdles upcoming starting on August 8, 2019. We will be shutting down the entire Lodge room for 10 weeks for some much needed repair work and lead mitigation. Simultaneously, the SJMA has scheduled a great deal of exterior work to preserve your Lodge building for many year into the future. Special thanks to all those involved in making these arrangements happen successfully.

And now, a quote from Douglas McArthur: “Freemasonry embraces the highest moral laws and will be the test of any system of ethics or philosophy ever promulgated for the uplift of man.”

Sincerely and Fraternally,

Worshipful Gregg W. Annis

George Washington Memorial

Located in Alexandria, VA, this magnificent structure is privately funded through the grateful contributions of Freemasons and others and remains open to the public seven days a week.

The George Washington Masonic National Memorial is more than a colossal memorial and museum.

It is a tourist attraction and destination, research center and library, community center, performing arts center and concert halls, banquet and celebration site, and meeting site for local and countless visiting Masonic Lodges and organizations.

However, first and foremost, it is a memorial to honor and perpetuate the memory, character and virtues of the man who best exemplifies what Freemasons are and ought to be, Brother George Washington.

For more information, visit www.gwmemorial.org

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Your dinner can be free!

Each meeting, we will draw the name of a brother for a free dinner. In order to qualify, you MUST have made a reservation for that night’s dinner.
Scholarship Recipients

Hannah Haslam is pictured with her father, Worshipful Thomas W. Haslam, Gregg Annis and Rod MacDonald.

Jared Splaine (middle) is pictured with his whole family, including his father, our Jr. Deacon, Peter Splaine. Also pictured—starting at the right, are Worshipfuls Thomas W. Haslam, Gregg Annis and Rod MacDonald.

Hannah Haslam is pictured with her father, Worshipful Thomas W. Haslam and her brother, Jack Haslam. Also pictured are RW Rod MacDonald and Worshipful Gregg Annis.

Not pictured, but also receiving scholarships for 2019 are Danielle Stolworthy, Janell Walker, Faraz Ahmed and Pamela Torres. Congratulations to all of our scholarship recipients! We wish you all a successful school year.

July 2019

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Stated Communication
Hawaiian Shirt Night
Wednesday, July 3, 2019
(Dinner 6:00, Meeting 7:00)
Dinner—Hamburgers, Hot Dogs ($10)
Reservation link—http://evite.me/V4bkHeRjdT
Officer dress—Hawaiian Shirts

FC Rehearsal—Wednesday, Jun 10 @ 6:30

William Pitt Taven Annual Communication
Saturday, July 13, 2019
(8:15AM—10:30AM)
Coffee/Donuts provided

Special Communication—FC Degree
Brother John Roland Haslam,
Brother Justin Wills Kelcourse
Wednesday, July 17, 2019
(Dinner 6:00, Meeting 7:00)
Dinner—Roast Pork ($10)
Reservation link—http://evite.me/Bt3Di6F1B3
Officer dress—White tie and tails
Fifty years ago this month, Clayton Osborn died at the Portsmouth Hospital; he was 73 years old. For 37 years, he had been very active in business, politics and civic affairs in his adopted home of Portsmouth, New Hampshire after moving here at the age of 36.

Clayton Eugene Osborn was born in Hutchins, Pennsylvania on November 28, 1895, one of two sons of Byron and Nettie (Adams) Osborn. After graduating high school, he served with the U.S. Army in France during World War I (1914-1918). Following his military service, he began his professional engineering career as a superintendent with the Atlantic Gypsum Products Company in New York City. He traveled extensively with the company as a consultant in the operation of surface-mining gypsum rock. As you may know, gypsum rock is quarried and pulverized into a powder and ultimately used in the manufacture of wallboard for home and building construction. In 1930, he was transferred to the company’s Portsmouth location along the Piscataqua River. In 1936, Atlantic Gypsum was acquired by National Gypsum Company for $424,000. National Gypsum’s Portsmouth Plant is still in operation today along the Piscataqua. In 1939, he left National Gypsum and formed his own successful business, Osborn Building Products Co. on Peverly Hill Road. He specialized in Dunbrik and Dunstone insulated masonry. In the mid 1940’s, he worked for the city of Portsmouth as the superintendent of Public Works, and at the time of his retirement, he was working for Landers and Griffin Construction Co., the company that eventually became Griffin Construction.

Clayton married Eunice M. Schultz and then had a son and four daughters. They lived at 42 Harvard Street in Portsmouth. He was active in local politics and was a member of the Republican City Committee. He was also a member of the Ward 3 Republican Committee and held numerous ward offices. He served on the Portsmouth City Council for eight years and was elected to five terms in the New Hampshire state legislature as a Republican from Portsmouth. He served on several Rockingham County committees including the Executive Committee, and as chairman of the Rockingham County delegation.

Clayton was a very civic minded gentleman and was active in numerous organizations including the Sherburne Civic Association; Atlantic Heights PTA; Frank E. Booma Post, American Legion; World War I Veterans; Emerson Hovey Post, VFW; and Portsmouth Lodge of Elks. He was a good man, a good husband and father, a respected leader in the community and successful businessman. He was also a member of the Masonic fraternity and took his first three steps in Masonry in St. John’s Lodge in Portsmouth. He was Raised in our Lodge on December 27, 1944.

Bro. Clayton passed from labor to refreshment on Monday, July 14, 1969. 150 mourners attended his funeral service on the following Thursday which was held at the North Church of Portsmouth in Market Square with Rev. Br. John Feaster, minister of the church, leading the service. A veritable who’s who of Portsmouth and New Hampshire officials were in attendance, along with many members of the St. John’s Lodge and numerous other civic groups. Masonic services were conducted prior to the burial by Wor. Robert E. Reynolds, Master. Bro. Clayton was laid to rest in the family plot in the Calvary Cemetery in Portsmouth near where he lived.

Alan M. Robinson, PM
Historian

In this painting of George Washington, by Charles Willson Peale, Washington is seen wearing a sash but Washington carried a different sash with him through most of the war for independence. That sash, blood-stained from battle, was given to him by the dying and defeated British General Edward Braddock at the Battle of Monongahela, where Washington became a war hero at the age of 23.

In a letter written in 1932 by Mrs. Ellis Lovell Crosby, a great-great niece of President Washington to Brother S.J. Pridgen of Atlanta, GA, she states, “I am sending a piece of fringe from Washington’s sash. I sold the sash to Pierpont Morgan for $3,500. He gave it to Mount Vernon and it now hangs in the hallway of the mansion. I only took a little from the sash so as to keep it” She presented the small piece of the sash to Georgia Lodge # 96, F&AM of Atlanta which they proudly display among their archives.