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

August 2019
The Master’s Message

Warm Fraternal Greetings Brethren!

First, I would like to thank all that participated and helped out for St John’s Sunday this year. It was a great day, not too hot or rainy, always a bonus! What an awesome experience for me to march to St. John’s Church with Right Worshipful David Collins along with the masonic entourage of District 1 Lodges, Scottish Rite, Commandery and even pipers.

August is here and things are heating up! Not just the weather that is; our schedule is becoming more and more busy. As many of you know the Association has begun the work on the exterior of the building to include; column repairs, rotten trim repairs, deck replacement and repainting. We thank you for your consideration and support as we work to keep our beautiful building beautiful! Additionally as a reminder, our August Stated meeting will be the last meeting in the Lodge room for more than a few weeks as we begin the interior repairs which will include lead mitigation, plaster repairs and repainting. Speaking of the August Stated; we will have a full evening with opening semi-public jointly with St. Andrews to receive Most Worshipful Grand Master Kenneth Clay for our Veteran’s Program along with presentations to our sponsors of the Out of Hibernation Road Race and a check presentation to Lydia’s House of Hope, followed by our business for August. Please make every effort to attend and show your support.

Please mark your calendars for August 26, 2019 and attend the District 1 Master’s Class 7:00-9:00pm. It doesn’t make a difference if you are currently in the progressive line or not, Most Worshipful Past Grand Master Stew Aronson puts forward fantastic topics for Masonic education and information, certainly well worth the time to attend.

HELP WANTED: The William Pitt Tavern is looking for volunteers to cover the Tavern on an upcoming Saturday. I’m looking for 6 or so volunteers from St. John’s #1. Please contact me to discuss the details. Lastly, a quote from DeWitt Clinton // US Senator & 6th Governor of New York; “Masonry super adds to our other obligation the strongest ties of connection between it and the cultivation of virtue, and furnishes the most powerful incentives to goodness.”

Please be safe and enjoy your summer!

Sincerely and Fraternally,

Worshipful Gregg W. Annis

By-Laws Changes

Proposed Changes

Brethren,

At our March Stated a proposal was read to make the following additions to the St. John’s By-Laws. The By-Laws Committee has reviewed this proposal and will be recommending action on these changes. The proposed additions are:

Article III
Section 3. Annual Communication

3.1 Annual Reports
3.1.1. Audit Report
The Treasurer and Secretary will meet with the Audit Committee in the month of January to audit the Treasurer and Secretary. The Audit Report will be given on the stated meeting in February.

3.1.2. Treasurer’s Report
The Treasurer will give his report to the lodge on the Stated Meeting in February.

3.1.3 Secretary’s Report
The Secretary will give his report to the lodge on the Stated Meeting in February.

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.
mountains, selling four or five vehicles a year, and maintaining those vehicles. There was an article that I read that said that when James died in the early 1920’s, “his daughter Esther and her husband, Earl R. Elsea” took over the family business. I have tried to figure out if there really was a connection between Esther and Mr. Edwards but haven’t had success yet. In any event, Earl and Esther moved the automotive dealership to another former stable at the rear of the Sinclair House at 253 Middle Street, just down the road from the Masonic Temple building in Portsmouth (located at 351 Middle Street). They sold Chevrolet, Cadillac, and in 1935, Pontiac. In 1963, the business was moved to the corner of Cottage Street and the Route 1 Bypass, where it still resides today.

Earl died on March 22, 1948; he was only 61 years old. His funeral service was held at the North Church in Portsmouth and he is buried in the Rye Central Cemetery. Earl was a good man, a good husband and father, a patriot and a respected businessman and community leader. It should not be a surprise to you that he was also a member of the Masonic Fraternity. Brother Earl was initiated, passed and Raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason in Moberly Lodge No. 244 in Missouri in 1909. He regularly attended meetings and activities of St. John’s Lodge and on February 1, 1933, he affiliated with our lodge.

Alan M. Robinson, PM
Historian

Contact Information:
Gregg Annis
Worshipful Master
stjohnsgregg@gmail.com
(603) 365-6385

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

August 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Thu</th>
<th>Fri</th>
<th>Sat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Stated Communication
Wednesday, August 7, 2019
(5:00—SJMA Meeting)
(Dinner 6:00, Meeting 7:00)
Dinner—Mexican Chicken with Rice ($10)
Reservation link— http://evite.me/A5KBznFDr
Officer dress—White tie and tails

Beginning August 8th
Lodge Room Repairs

Master’s Class
Monday, August 26, 2019
Location TBD
During World War II there was great concern that the enemy was going to attack the U.S. homeland from the air. The city of Portsmouth, like other places along the eastern seaboard, had mandatory nighttime blackouts to prevent enemy aircraft from being able to navigate along the shore and over land using lit landmarks. The Portsmouth Police Department and local defense committee officials patrolled during the night looking for lights left on; they were very serious about compliance! On December 12, 1941, the first blackout offender, a pleasant street merchant, was chastised on the front page of the Portsmouth Herald and warned for the last time by the authorities about leaving his neon sign on after the day ended.

That same day, also on the front page of the newspaper, there was an urgent call for volunteers to man the Air Observation post at Straws Point in Rye. The posts were US Army functions manned by civilians. Air Observers were the first link of our homeland defense for unless enemy planes could be spotted and spotted early, all other preparations for danger would mean nothing. The alarm sent by the civilian observers facilitated getting fighter planes in the air and warnings to other civil defense units. Fifty men were needed for the 24-hour a day operation, accomplished in two-hour shifts so that no single man would have to stand out in the winter cold for any great length of time. Transportation was also needed to get the men to the post and home again.

An air observation tower similar to the one at Straw Point was being constructed on Gerrish Island in Kittery and on that same December day, the Kittery Fire Department responded to a large fire at the site that destroyed the wooden structure used to build the concrete tower. It seems that a 55-gal oil drum filled with hot coals and placed under a large tarp was being used to keep the freshly poured concrete warm while it cured. It worked great until the structure accidentally caught on fire. Firemen raced to the scene and extinguished the flames and saved not only the concrete tower, but the valuable military equipment stored nearby.

That same December edition of the Portsmouth Herald also included an insert - an 8-page Air Raid Precautions booklet containing vital information for the protection of home and family. It was made possible by the defense department and was part of the information put out at the Air Raid Precaution Warden school. The newspaper reported that on that day, 800 citizens were present taking their final exam for the warden course. Frank Massey was Chief Air Raid Warden and Earl Elsea was his Assistant Chief.

Earl Raymond Elsea was born in Moberly, Missouri on October 28, 1886, one of two sons of George W. and Sarah Jane (Williams) Elsea. He and his brother, George Elden Elsea, grew up in Moberly and graduated from Moberly High School. At the outbreak of World War I, he received a commission as a first lieutenant in the 49th Coast Artillery, a regiment of the Regular Army. Following the war, he moved to the seacoast of New Hampshire and worked at and later owned and operated an automotive garage called The Motor Mart in Portsmouth for the next 28 years. He served for many years on the executive board of the Portsmouth Chapter of the Red Cross and also on the Board of Directors of the First National Bank of Portsmouth. He married Esther Josephine Foss and they lived at 220 Pioneer Road in Rye. On August 26, 1944, they welcomed a daughter, Susan, to the family and soon after, a son, Earl R. Elsea.

Regarding The Motor Mart, in 1913, James Edwards opened the garage in a former livery stable at 81 Fleet Street in downtown Portsmouth. In those days, the business included chauffeuring the affluent families of the area on day trips to the beach or

Continued on page 6.....