December 2019
Trestle Board
St. John's Lodge No. 1
Portsmouth, NH
Warm Fraternal Greetings Brethren,

Tis the season, can you believe it?? I trust you all had a very happy and healthy Thanksgiving holiday with your friends and family and I wish all the best to you all of you and your families for the upcoming holiday season and all of 2020! It is very hard for me to believe that my year in the Oriental Chair is now at sunset. So many things I wanted to get accomplished this year; many of which were accomplished, however, many remain. Just because my year in the East is over, I will be continuing to work on the items that remain, with the help of the incoming Master and Officers as well as the Brethren.

I would like to take the opportunity to express my deep and heartfelt thanks to all the Past Masters of St. Johns Lodge for putting up with all my questions and requests as well as my line of Officers for 2019. I could not have asked for a better group of individuals to work with throughout the year, your assistance was and is invaluable. As we know, life happens and a few of my officers were unable to attend meetings as much as they would like, and yet they all worked to get coverage for their positions so meetings could be productive and effective. That said, thanks to all that covered in all those situations, your assistance was much appreciated. I would be remiss if did not take this opportunity to thank both Worshipful Robert Johnson and Senior Warden Jason Destasio who took the reins when I was absent not once but twice for knee surgery during this year; I cannot express my thanks enough as meetings went off without a hitch.

Just a quick update from the St Johns Masonic Association; as I’m sure you have all noticed that frequent the Lodge, the lodge room gets closer and closer to completion. Thanks to you all for putting up with the floor protection that remains. The walls and trim has been completed, the primer coat has been applied to the ceiling and RW Ryan Flynn has begun to work his magic on the artwork for the final product on the ceiling. We are all so looking forward to the final product. Stay the course Brethren, the end of construction and renovation is near!

Continued on page 6………

Masonry in Pop Culture

The Flintstones
Loyal Order of Water Buffalos

Created by William Hannah and Joseph Barbera, the Flintstones ran for six seasons from 1960 to 1966.

Fred Flintstone and his friend, Barney Rubble, were members of the Loyal Order of Water Buffalo Lodge No. 26. The fraternity appeared in 20 episodes and at least five different lodge halls were depicted. In the first episode to introduce the lodge, it was originally called the Loyal Order of Dinosaurs.

The brothers have wild parties (including stag parties) and do a lot of drinking. Episodes involving lodge included the Loyal Order of Dinosaurs golf outing, the annual Buffalo beauty contest, a bowling championship, a convention weekend at a ski resort, a fishing competition, a masquerade ball and even a baby beauty contest.

The leader of the lodge is referred to as the Grand Poobah or the Grand Exalted Imperial Poobah. To gain admission into the Lodge, members have a secret handshake and recite a secret password, Ack-Acka-Dack…..Dack-Dacka-Ack
………Master’s Message continued

Some quick schedule items for your calendars:
12/2/19 St. James Lodge #102 in Hampton will be hosting us
for a Master Mason Degree
12/4/19 St. John’s Lodge #1 Stated Communication
12/7/19 St. John’s Lodge #1 Installation of Officers for 2020
12/9/19 St. Andrews Lodge #56 Stated Communication and
Master Mason Degree
12/14/19 St. Andrews Lodge #56 Installation of
Officers for 2020

In closing: “Be Americans. Let there be no sectionalism, no North,
South, East or West. You are all dependent on one another and should
be one in union. In one word, be a nation. Be Americans, and be true
to yourselves.” ~ Worshipful Brother George Washington

I wish you all a wonderful and safe Holiday Season and all of 2020!

Sincerely and Fraternally,

Worshipful Gregg W. Annis

St. John’s Masonic Association
Budget Vote

The St. John’s Masonic Association will re-open their annual meeting briefly
for the purposes on voting on the annual budget

Annual Dues

Dues notices went out this week. 2020 dues are $130.
Please pay your dues bills promptly and help support the finances of

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<th>Contact Information:</th>
<th>Gregg Annis</th>
<th>Thomas W. Haslam, PM</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Master</td>
<td>Worshful</td>
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<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:stjohnsgregg@gmail.com">stjohnsgregg@gmail.com</a></td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:stjohnstom@comcast.net">stjohnstom@comcast.net</a></td>
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<td>(603) 365-6385</td>
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December 2019

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December 4, 2019
Stated Communication
Wednesday, December 4, 2019
(4:45—SJMA Meeting)
(Dinner 6:00, Meeting 7:00)
Dinner—Beef Tips ($10)
Reservation link— http://evite.me/1eAZ4Yt7j
Officer dress—Business Suit

St. John’s Lodge No. 1 Installation of Officers
Saturday, December 7, 2019
2:00PM—Light refreshments to follow

December 25, 2019—Merry Christmas!
December 31, 2019—Happy New Year!

Other Dates

St. Andrew’s Lodge Stated Communication
And Master Mason Degree
Monday, December 9, 2019
(Dinner 6:00, Meeting 7:00)

St. Andrew’s Lodge No. 56 Installation of Officers
Saturday, December 14, 2019
2:00PM—Light refreshments to follow
### St. John’s Lodge Historical Sketch

**J. Frank Magraw**

In 1945, two churches in Portsmouth voted to merge – the Universalist Parish and the Unitarian Parish. Today, the combined congregation is named South Parish or South Unitarian Universalist Church. The popular stone church located on State Street is fashioned out of ashlar granite blocks quarried in Rockport, Massachusetts. The Unitarians built the church building in 1826; it is the first large stone structure to be built in northern New England. The decision to merge the two churches was timely because shortly after midnight on January 11, 1947, the beautiful brick Universalist church located nearby in what today is the Pleasant Street parking lot, was lost in a great fire.

The Universalist denomination was established in Portsmouth in 1777 and in 1784, they built a church building on Vaughan Street. As the popularity of the church grew, the congregation needed a larger space to worship and they erected a church on Pleasant Street. It was described as a beautiful wooden structure, typical of New England churches. They dedicated this church on January 28, 1808 and worshipped there for almost ninety years until March 28, 1896 when fire destroyed the building. Almost immediately after the fire, the parish began to rebuild on the same location, this time with a Gothic brick design. The cornerstone of that new church was laid on October 23, 1896.

The cornerstone laying ceremony began at 1:30 in the afternoon with a large procession of Freemasons that marched through town. The participating organizations included DeWitt Clinton Commandery, Knights Templar; St. John’s Lodge, No. 1; St. Andrew’s Lodge, No. 56; Grand Lodge of New Hampshire; and representatives of Portsmouth city government. The ceremonies were conducted by the Grand Master of New Hampshire with the assistance of his officers along with Worshipful J. Frank Magraw, Master of St. John’s Lodge and Worshipful William O. Junkins, Mayor of Portsmouth and a Past Master of Winnicut Lodge, No. 92 of Greenland. At the conclusion of the ceremony, the square, trowel, level and plumb which were used in the laying of the cornerstone were presented to St. John’s Lodge to be displayed in the Masonic Temple.

John Franklin Magraw was born in Portsmouth on July 26, 1855, one of eight children of John W. and Jane A. (White) Magraw. He went to the public schools in Portsmouth and upon graduation from high school, began work at the Portsmouth Journal where he learned the printer’s trade. After a few years working for Lewis W. Brewster, he became foreman of the office. After about six years, he moved to other offices in Portsmouth and Boston and then returned to Portsmouth where he was hired as superintendent of the Portsmouth Times office.

Frank was one the most popular and admired citizens of Portsmouth and was a very active politician. He represented Portsmouth Ward One for several terms in the state legislature and served on the Portsmouth Board of Aldermen and as a Rockingham County Commissioner. In 1897, he was appointed Deputy Collector of Customs, a position he held until his death. He was an active parishioner at St. John’s Episcopal Church and was active in numerous fraternal organizations, including: Past Dictator of Sagamore Lodge, No. 258, Knights of Honor; Past Exalted Ruler of Portsmouth Lodge, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks; Massasoit Tribe, No. 16, Improved Order of Red Men; and Nakomis Council, No. 7, Daughters of Pocahontas. He was also a highly respected Justice of the Peace and Notary Public, having been appointed by the Governor of New Hampshire.

Frank lived on Richards Avenue and died there on January 13, 1910 after a lingering illness. He was only 54 years old. A large number of sorrowing friends attended his funeral at St. John’s Church on Tuesday January 18 and he was laid to rest in the South Cemetery. Frank never married and was survived by three sisters and a brother. He was a good man and one of the best known citizens of his day. His life was marked with success in everything he undertook and yes, he was a Freemason.

Worshipful John Franklin Magraw was Raised a Master Mason in St. John’s Lodge, No. 1 in Portsmouth on October 14, 1891 and served as Master of the Lodge in 1896-97. On his gravestone it reads, “Faithful to Every Trust - Honored by All - His Memory is a Benediction.”

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**Alan M. Robinson, PM Historian**