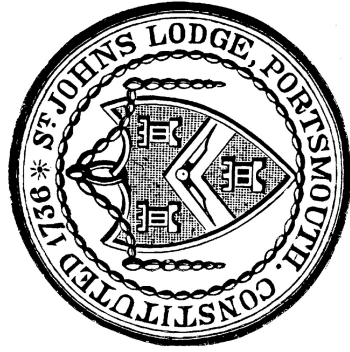
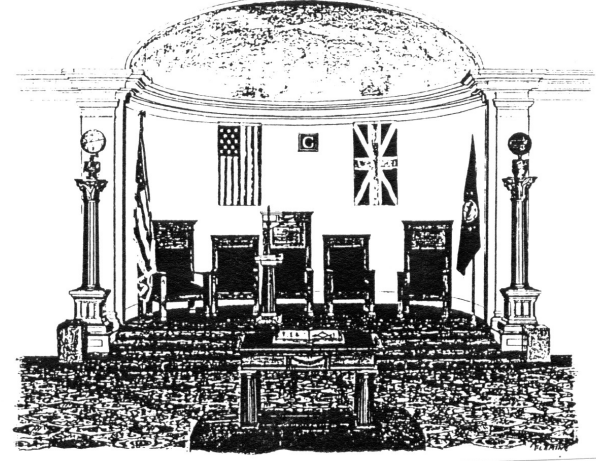


St. John's Lodge, No. 1, F&AM
351 Middle St
Portsmouth, NH 03801



Stamp

November 2025



November 2025 Trestle Board

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

The Master's Message

Greetings Brethren!

As the days grow shorter and darkness lengthens, we can count on the light of St. John's never diminishing. November was an active month of Lodge activities. We began with the official visitation of the District Deputy Grand Master RW John Paiva. It was a well-attended evening with brothers visiting from various lodges in the District. On November 18th, we conducted the first Table Lodge at St. John's since 2017. While attendance was lighter than I was hoping for, those who did make it can attest that it was a very enjoyable evening of "conviviality"! My personal thanks to WB Don Redden who really took charge of planning efforts for the event as well as our chef Roddi who put together an excellent meal. I would be remiss if I didn't thank RW Rod MacDonald as well for gracing us with his singing voice in Auld Lang Syne. We hope to keep the festive spirit alive by holding Table Lodges more frequently than once a decade.

We are entering the time of year when life gets a little busier with Thanksgiving, Christmas, and other holidays. To help with planning and encourage attendance, below is the look-ahead at the next few months.

November 5th Stated

November 15th Grand Lodge Communication

November 19th EA Degree

November 27th WB Phil Fraser's Thanksgiving

December 1st Lydia's Christmas shopping

December 3rd Stated/Annual Communication

December 13th St. John's Installation

December 17th MM degree

January 7th Stated

January 14th and 21st GL Inspection of FC (all officer attendance required)

January 28th FC degree

It is of course possible that some of these dates may adjust due to people's availability, but this is the current plan. Let's do our very best to support our candidates by filling the sidelines for the degrees.

Finally brethren, as we enter this busy season, I encourage you to approach it with the spirit of gratitude, and with attention to the needs of your brethren. Please reach out to brethren whom you haven't heard from in too long. Check in on a special lady of the Lodge. Contribute something to the welfare of your fellow man. In short, be a Mason. I am grateful for all of you; the world is a better place because of Masonry, and St. John's wouldn't exist without you. I look forward to seeing you in Lodge.

Fraternally,

Worshipful Michael Hudson
Worshipful Master



Table Lodge



In a time honored tradition dating back to the earliest days of Freemasonry, St. John's held a Table Lodge with about 20 brothers in attendance from around the jurisdiction. The traditional feast was very enjoyable with an abundance of good cheer, food, and laughs.

daughter, Mrs. Edward Larrabee. For more than 30 years, Frank was employed as a power plant engineer at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. He retired from the Shipyard in 1947. It was soon after he retired that he went to work again at Black's Market.

Frank was one of the organizers and a charter member of the Civil Service Retirement Association also called the National Association of Civil Employees. The national organization was founded in 1921 and the Portsmouth Chapter, the first chapter in New Hampshire, was founded in 1952. The principal organizers, Frank H. Davis and Lawrence F. Grace, were among 50 retirees who formed the chapter. Frank served as the chapter's first chairman. The organization was founded to represent the interests of retired civil service employees mainly to members of Congress. Today federal employee interests are largely represented by the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE) which is the only organization solely dedicated to the general welfare of all federal workers and retirees.

Frank died at his summer cottage in Denmark, Maine, on August 3, 1972; he was 86 years old. He was survived by his son Robert and his daughter Mrs. Edward Larrabee. His son, William, a World War II and Korean War veteran died the year prior at the age of 44 years and is buried in Conway Village Cemetery in Conway, NH. His son Robert, also a World War II veteran, died in 2006 at the age of 86 years and is buried at Center Cemetery in North Hampton, NH. I haven't located where Frank and Louise are buried.

Frank Henry Davis was a good man, a good husband and father, a good citizen and a hard working federal employee. He was also very pleased to be a Freemason and a member of St. John's Lodge, No. 1 in Portsmouth where he was Raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason on July 14, 1920. When he passed from Labor to Refreshment, he was a 52 year member of our Lodge.

By the way, Frank's co-founder of the Portsmouth Chapter of the National Association of Civil Employees, Lawrence F. Grace, was also a Freemason and a long-time member of St. John's Lodge. We will learn more about him next month.

**Alan M. Robinson, PM
Historian**

November 2025

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						

Stated Communication

St. John's Masonic Association Annual Meeting Wednesday, November 5, 2025

(Dinner 6:00, Meeting 7:00)

(Association Annual Meeting starts 7:30PM)

Dinner—Shepherd's Pie

Officer dress—white tie and tails

Special Communication

Entered Apprentice

Wednesday, November 19, 2025

(Dinner 6:00, Meeting 7:00)

Dinner—Chicken & Sausage in a Garlic Cream Sauce

Officer dress—white tie and tails

**Contact
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St. John's Lodge

Historical Sketch

Frank Henry Davis

There are numerous options available for us to do our grocery shopping in Portsmouth. There's Market Basket; Hannaford; Walmart; BJ's; ALDI; Lo's Seafood and Oriental Market; McKinnon's and Whole Foods, to name the big stores. There are also several convenience stores including Richardson's Market; Cabot Street Market and DeStefano's Market.

In the years during and after World War II, grocery shopping in Portsmouth was quite different than it is today. There were a couple pretty big grocery stores including the A & P Store and the First National Store. My mother shopped at the First National which was located at 134 Pleasant Street where Citizens Bank is today. It had everything she needed including an excellent meat department. From time to time, the First National offered special things, for example, you could purchase right there at the store a 25 volume Funk & Wagnall's encyclopedia for 99 cents a book through their book a week club. When you bought your groceries, the store rewarded your purchase with very popular S&H Green Stamps. Customers would collect the S&H Green Stamps, named for the Sperry & Hutchinson Company, in special booklets and then exchange them for merchandise like appliances, furniture, and housewares at the Green Stamp Store, one of which was located on Islington Street. I really enjoyed going into the Green Stamp Store with my father.

In addition to the two larger grocery stores in Portsmouth, there were numerous smaller independent grocery stores including: Apartment Grocery, Applebaum's Market, Aunt Peg's Grocery, Badger's Market, Black's Super Market, Borwick's Store, Brown's Store, The Canteen, Cohen's Grocery, Chase's Market, Deer Street Market, Dennett Street Grocery, Dick's Variety, Dimock's Market, Dinnerman's Super Market, Dorley's Grocery, Drake's Market, Economy Market, Freedman's Market, Hill's Market, Italian American Superette, John's Market, Leary's Market, Liberson's Market, Mario's Market, Martin's Store, Mitchell's Market, Nel's Grocery, P&H Market, Pappas Corner Grocery, Paul's Market, Pic-N-Pay Super Market, Quality Market, Race's Market, Robertson's Market, Rosen's Market, Ryan's Market, South End Market, State Fruit Co., Wentacre Market, West End Market, White & Hodgdon, Wilson's Grocery and Zacharias Fruit Co. To these we can add: Henry's Market and Brackett's IGA Store in New Castle;

and in Kittery: Dan's Super Market, Frisbee's Market, Gallant's Store, Kittery Market, Plummer's Red and White Market, Starkey's Market, Thomson's Grocery and Wallace's Market.

There were a lot of convenience stores throughout the city. As a kid in the 1960s, I enjoyed going in to Pappas' on South Street and Wilson's on Richards Avenue to buy baseball cards and bubble gum.

The local independent grocery stores stocked their shelves with fresh fruits and vegetables every morning before sunrise, and carried most everything that their customers needed. They were conveniently located and would even take phone orders, allowing one free delivery per customer per day. One newspaper advertisement that I saw recently offered Thin-skinned Extra Juicy Oranges for 27 cents/dozen and iceberg lettuce – 2 clean firm heads for 25 cents.

Back in the 1940s, prices for groceries were set by the Office of Price Administration, a U.S. government agency created in 1941 to control prices and ration goods during the war. Their objective was to prevent inflation and ensure fair distribution of goods. They set price ceilings on most goods, issued ration stamps for items like gasoline and sugar, and enforced regulations against hoarding and price gouging. The agency was disbanded in 1947.

Just a short walk up Middle Street from the Portsmouth Masonic Temple is a really nice grocery store – DeStefano's Italian Market. In 2023, Rebecca and Michael Bernier became the newest caretakers of this nice old grocery store that has been around since the 1950s. Rebecca (DeStefano) Bernier brings a rich heritage to the market as her Italian-American roots in Portsmouth trace back to the early 1900s when her family was among the original Italian immigrants to settle in the city's historic North End. That neighborhood, centered around Russell Street, was largely lost to urban renewal in the 1960s. In its very early years, this Middle Street market was called Black's Super Market and over the years it had other names including Chase's Market and the Stop-N-Go. When it was Black's Market, a man by the name of Frank Davis worked there.

Frank Henry Davis was born in Bradford, Massachusetts, on April 23, 1886, the son of William H.B. and Harriet (Blake) Davis. He married Louise Almira Seavey and they lived for many years at 697 Sagamore Avenue in Portsmouth where they raised their three children, Robert Leavitt Davis, William Seavey Davis, and a