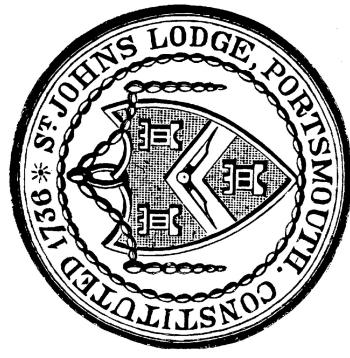
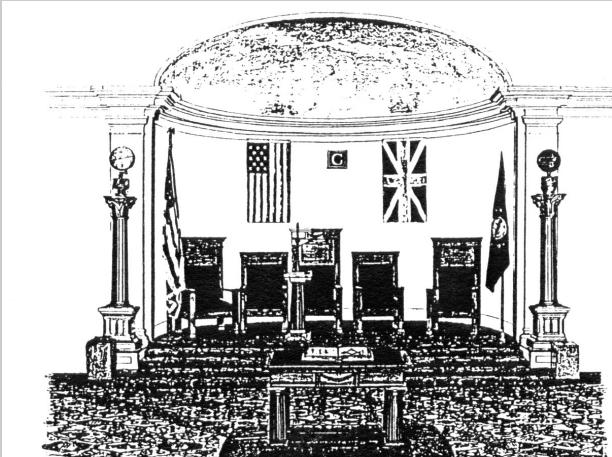


St. John's Lodge, No. 1, F&AM  
351 Middle St  
Portsmouth, NH 03801

Stamp



February 2026



# February 2026 Trestle Board

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

# The Master's Message

Greetings Brethren!

The year is off to a great start at St. John's. We installed our new officers at our January Stated and have been going through the inspection process for the Fellow Craft degree. I am impressed by the officers' excellent preparation. At our February Stated we will receive a program from Brother Peter Paisley on his new book "Windjammer Days", the story of circling the globe in 1888 by one of his ancestors. In the theme of journeys (whether on a Windjammer, Masonically, or in our personal lives), I came across this poem that struck me deeply, and I hope it finds meaning with you as well.

For those who have far to travel

by Jan Richardson

If you could see the journey whole,  
you might never undertake it,  
might never dare the first step  
that propels you from the place  
you have known toward the place  
you know not.

Call it one of the mercies of the road:  
that we see it only by stages

as it opens before us,  
as it comes into our keeping,  
step by single step.

There is nothing for it but to go,  
and by our going take the vows  
the pilgrim takes:  
to be faithful to the next step;  
to rely on more than the map;  
to heed the signposts of intuition and  
dream;

to follow the star that only you  
will recognize;  
to keep an open eye

for the wonders that attend the path;  
to press on beyond distractions,  
beyond fatigue, beyond what would  
tempt you from the way.

There are vows that only you will know:  
the secret promises for your particular  
path

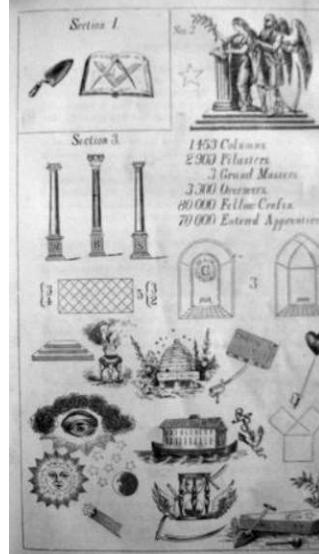
and the new ones you will need to make  
when the road is revealed by turns  
you could not have foreseen.

Keep them, break them, make them again;  
each promise becomes part of the path,  
each choice creates the road  
that will take you to the place  
where at last you will kneel  
to offer the gift most needed—  
the gift that only you can give—  
before turning to go home by  
another way.

I look forward to seeing you in Lodge!

Fraternally,

**Worshipful Michael Hudson**  
**Worshipful Master**



## The Trestle Board

Through the years, the Masonic Tracing Board progressed to charcoal or chalk on the floor of taverns where lodges were held back in the 1700s. After the lecture, the Stewards or the Entered Apprentice, as a lesson in secrecy, would get a mop and bucket and remove all trace of these drawings.

This, obviously, was a somewhat tedious and messy procedure, so cloths or rugs were created which could be laid onto the floor and simply folded up when the lecture was complete.

Later, these cloths (or rugs) were placed onto a table. As time passed, they were finally hung onto an easel... (a trestle board) much like a drawing board at a construction site where each workman could receive clear instruction as to

what his specific participation entailed.

When the team's work was completed, it was obvious that each Master Mason not only understood their specific part in the undertaking, but how their part (no matter how small), contributed to the construction of the entire edifice (building).

The meaning of the words "Nothing further remains to be done, according to ancient custom, except to disarrange our emblems" is a reference to the now antiquated use of these trestleboards (or tracing boards) during which the dirt on the ground was erased or the chalk marks on the floor of these lodges was mopped or scrubbed, to leave no trace of the form of the Lodge or the contents drawn thereon.

The reason why our lines of travel are at right angles within the lodge and thus the reason that we "square" the lodge is a "throwback" to the antiquity of the ritual.

If the brethren were to walk atop the markings made in the dirt on hill and vale; atop the chalk on the floor of the taverns; or tread upon and thus soil the cloths or rugs used to provide the workings of that degree, the message of that lecture which was being worked could be partially or fully destroyed.

## Modern Day Trestle Board

A Masonic trestle board is a design board for the Master to draw his plans and designs upon to give the workmen an outline of the work to be performed. In the modern day context, Trestle boards are used by lodge officers to communicate with the members. It is common practice to post electronic copies of the Trestle board on the lodge website.

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as organist and music director for the Lodge for a number of years. At his funeral, the Master, Wor. Chacey C. Hodgdon, led a delegation of members from St. John's Lodge.

The descendants of the McIntire Family of York that include Wallace and his parents, were in the news a couple years ago when the Old York Historical Society acquired the McIntire Garrison home built in 1713. The property has passed through eight generations of the McIntire family, which goes back to 17th-century Scottish highlander Micum McIntire. Also preserved are 240 acres of farmland, a McIntire family cemetery and marshes, now known as the Smelt Brook Preserve.

One more thing... remember Bro. Wallace's music instructor, Amos Pearson? He was also a Freemason and, you guessed it, a longtime member of St. John's Lodge. More about Bro. Amos next time.

**Alan M. Robinson, PM  
Historian**



St. John's Lodge would like to congratulate **Tom and Deb LaBerge** on their well-earned semi-retirement from the J. Verne Wood Funeral Home.

While this is a new chapter, Tom and Deb are not going far. They will continue working on long-term projects and you may still see them around the building. Tom will also continue assisting with services and seeing families from time to time.

The legacy of J. Verne Wood is a special one, passed from George Ward to Fred Ward (Deb's father and Tom's father-in-law) to Tom and now, to Darryl Frank.

Thank you Tom and Deb for everything you have given, and continue to give, to the J. Verne Wood Funeral Home.

## February 2026

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

### Stated Communication

**Wednesday, February 4, 2026**

(Dinner 6:00, Meeting 7:00)

**Dinner—Chicken Cordon Bleu**

**Officer dress—white tie and tails**

### Special Communication

**Master Mason Degree**

**Brother Andrew Mitchell Kalet**

**Wednesday, February 18, 2026**

(Dinner 6:00, Meeting 7:00)

**Dinner—Meatloaf**

**Officer dress—white tie and tails**

Contact  
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## St. John's Lodge

## Historical Sketch

### W. W. McIntire

The Portsmouth Herald headline on Wednesday, April 16, 1924, read:

#### DEATH CALLS W. W. M'INTIRE

LIFE OF WELL KNOWN MUSICIAN AND HIGHLY RESPECTED CITIZEN ENDS AT AGE 76.

William Wallace McIntire was born February 5, 1848 in York, Maine, the son of Sylvester and Rhoda (McIntire) McIntire. Wallace was raised on the McIntire Farm in York where his father also served as postmaster. He attended local schools and upon graduation, he continued to work on the farm along with his two sisters, Helen G. and Susan A. McIntire.

As a young boy, Wallace had a natural talent for music. With the help of his parents, he pursued music instruction and became a student of Amos Pearson, a well-known music teacher in Portsmouth. Wallace took piano and organ lessons at Amos' home located at the corner of Broad and South Streets, and at his studio located in the Exchange Hall building in Market Square. He became very proficient in organ, pianoforte (the original name for the modern piano), harmony and vocalization. His teacher, Amos Pearson, was the sole local agent for Mason & Hamlin pianos and cabinet organs, and also had access to pianos from the manufactory in Boston and New York, including Hallet, Davis & Co. in Boston, who manufactured grand and square pianos.

Wallace's exceptional musical talent continued to grow and as a young man, he was pleased to fill in on the organ benches of several local churches when needed. In February 1872, when he was 24 years old, he took charge of the fine organ of the Congregational Church of Great Falls (Somersworth, NH). The members of that parish said at the time that Wallace was a gentleman and an excellent musician, and the society felt fortunate to have secured his services.

In 1876, when he was 27 years old and living in Great Falls, he met 25-year-old Mary Haven Bartlett of the same town. They got married on January 9, 1877 at the Congregational Church where he was the organist. A year later, on January 31, 1878, he and Mary welcomed their first child, Malcolm Wallace McIntire. Mary's pregnancy was complicated by a high blood pressure condition called eclampsia, and while she survived, Malcolm suffered related ill-effects and sadly, he died just after his third birthday.

In 1881, shortly after Malcolm's death, Wallace and Mary moved to Portsmouth where they lived at 355 Lincoln Avenue, in the same neighborhood as his friend and music teacher, Amos Pearson. They had two daughters – Marion (1882-1957) and Helen Gladys (1894-1965).

For the next 40+ years, Wallace was a highly sought after music instructor, piano tuner and accompanist. He also served as the organist and choir director for several Portsmouth churches, including: North Congregational Church, Christ Church and the Church of the Immaculate Conception. He was a master of classical music and an exceptional organist, and he was said to be able to render the works of famous composers in a faultless manner. He was an exceedingly kind and loyal friend, and as a teacher, he was patient, modest and unassuming. He enjoyed living and raising his family in Portsmouth and participating in various organizations including Damon Lodge, No. 9, Knights of Pythias.

During the winter of 1924, when he was 76 years old, Wallace's health took a turn, and he was hospitalized at Portsmouth Hospital, suffering from very low energy. He started to improve a little bit and felt good enough to go home where he continued to rest and recuperate. Unfortunately, his underlying condition continued to weaken him until April 16, 1924, when he died of general asthenia, a complication of arterio sclerosis. He was survived by his wife and two daughters; his two sisters; and several nieces and nephews in York. His funeral service was conducted at his home on Lincoln Avenue by Rev. Dr. Lucius Thayer of the North Church. He was buried in the McIntire family cemetery at his old homestead in York. The cemetery is located on the east side of Major McIntire Road, a quarter of a mile from the intersection of Scotland Bridge Road.

William Wallace McIntire was a good man, a good husband and father; and an amazingly accomplished musician who lived his whole life devoted to a better understanding and knowledge of his chosen art. Upon his death, the outpouring of love for him by his family, associates and many friends was a testament to the high esteem they all had for him. He was unquestionably, the most prominent man in musical circles in the Seacoast. And yes; Brother William Wallace McIntire was a Freemason. He was Raised a Master Mason in Libanus Lodge, No. 49 in Great Falls. After moving to Portsmouth in 1881, he became a regular attendee at meetings of St. John's Lodge, and in May 1891, he petitioned the Lodge for membership. He was admitted a member of St. John's Lodge on June 3, 1891. At the October 7, 1891 Stated Meeting of the Lodge, the brethren voted to hire Bro. Wallace to serve as organist and to pay him \$1 per night for his services. He served

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