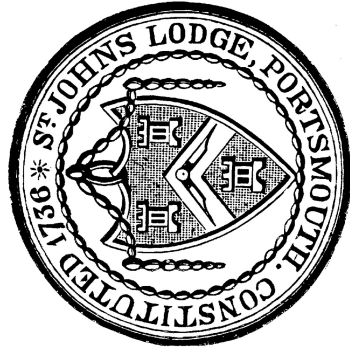
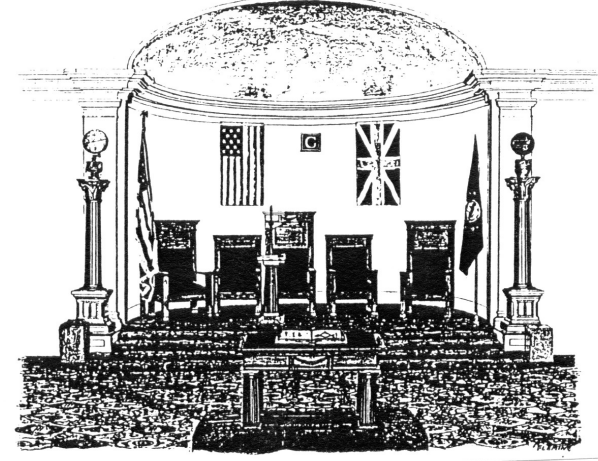


St. John's Lodge, No. 1, F&AM
351 Middle St
Portsmouth, NH 03801



Stamp

October 2025



October 2025 Trestle Board

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

The Master's Message

Greetings Brethren!

As Fall arrives and the leaves start to drop, I'm happy to report that St. John's Lodge continues to be active, with much accomplished in September and exciting events on the horizon. For those unable to join us in September, the Lodge has approved the budget for 2026, and I am pleased to announce the Lodge continues to be on a firm financial footing. My gratitude to the Finance Committee, and our Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer for their on-going work. Right Worshipful Brother Sawyer also presented a program on the Morgan Affair; an important education that Freemasonry was not always a welcome part of society.

We also held a Veteran's Program honoring the significant service of many members of our Lodge. We were joined by the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Senior Grand Warden, and other Grand Lodge officers including Past Grand Master John Gordon. Right Worshipful Brother Verne Anderson was joined by his extended family and recognized for his 70 years of Masonic service! Other honorees that evening included Brother Joel Goldstein and Brother Doug Aykroyd who received their 50-year pins. As is tradition for St. John's Lodge we also recognized brothers with pins for service that do not yet reach that stage of Grand Lodge recognition. These included Brother Geno Marconi (20), RW Brother Rod MacDonald (15), Brother Brian Orluk (15), Brother Nick Pesarik, Brother Jason Dubrow (15), and Brother Greg Annis (15).

The Grand Master took the opportunity of the Veteran's Program to present our secretary, Worshipful Brother Tom Haslam, with the Major General John Sullivan Award in Silver, honoring the tremendous work he does to keep the administration of St. John's Lodge running smoothly, the wise counsel he has provided to Masters over the last many years, and the way in which he inculcates and demonstrates the values of Freemasonry every day, both inside and outside of Lodge. I am truly grateful for his service, please congratulate him when you see him.

And now, looking ahead at October, I am pleased to report that we will be holding a Table Lodge on Saturday October 18th at 6:30pm. While Table Lodges are held infrequently, they are rich in history, dating back over 200 years. There is a unique ritual, special terminology, and important formalities and toasts. Because there is special food, wine, and preparation that goes into this, we will need a firm head count of attendees no later than Friday October 10th. I do hope you can join us.

Fraternally,

Worshipful Michael Hudson
Worshipful Master



Veteran's Program



RW Brother Verne S. Anderson recognized for 70 years of Masonic service! Pictured above with his extended family.



Pictured above with their wives, Brother Joel Goldstein (left) and Brother Doug Aykroyd (right) receive their 50 year pins!



Worshipful Brother Thomas W. Haslam received the Major General John Sullivan Award in Silver. Tom was presented the award in recognition of his continued service as Secretary of St. John's Lodge, the wise counsel he has provided to the Masters of St. John's Lodge over the years and his commitment to excellence at every meeting.

.....continued from page 5

He died March 12, 1916, in Erie; he was 77 years old. He is buried at Lakeside Cemetery in Erie. His wife Emma died in Sheffield Lake, Ohio on March 27, 1934, at the age of 77 years. She is buried at Elmwood Cemetery in Lorain, Ohio.

Robert's brother, John William Dame, was born in 1845, a son of John and Deborah Dame. Like his brother and father, John W. graduated from Portsmouth High School, trained to be a blacksmith, and worked at the Portsmouth Navy Yard. Following in the footsteps of his father, on April 2, 1867, just after turning 21 years of age, he was Raised a Master Mason in St. John's Lodge, No. 1 of Portsmouth where, like his father, he became a very active member and an officer of the lodge. He progressed through the officer corps and at the age of 29 years, was elected the 52nd Worshipful Master of St John's Lodge for the years 1874-76. On June 19, 1869, he married 23-year-old Margaret (Maggie) Evadna Downing in Portsmouth. He and Maggie lived at 63 Water Street in Portsmouth and had four sons – Lewis, George, Harry and Fred. Sadly, he died from accidental drowning on November 4, 1884, at the age of 39 years. He is buried in the South Cemetery in Portsmouth with his wife Maggie, who died November 15, 1926, at the age of 80 years from complications of diabetes, and his four children. A memorial stone to his grandparents, Captain George W. (lost at sea) and Mary (Hodgdon) Dame is also on this family plot.



**Alan M. Robinson, PM
Historian**

Shown in the photo is Lt. Robert S. Dame

October 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	31	

Stated Communication
Wednesday, October 1, 2025
 (Dinner 6:00, Meeting 7:00)
Dinner—Chicken Cordon Bleu
Officer dress—white tie and tails



**Our Stated is also our Grand
 Lodge Visitation. Let's make sure
 we have a great turnout!**

Table Lodge
Saturday, October 18, 2025, 6:30PM
Dinner—Prime Rib
Dress—Business Suit
Reservations must be made by October 10

**Contact
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Secretary
stjohnstom@comcast.net
 603-498-7205

John Dame, Robert Storer Dame and John William Dame

John Dame was born on October 22, 1815, in Portsmouth, a son of Captain George W. and Mary (Hodgdon) Dame. He graduated from Portsmouth High School with the Class of 1830, and married Deborah P. Marvin on February 9, 1840. They had nine children but only four of them grew up to adulthood. John operated a blacksmith shop at 33 Water Street in Portsmouth and later worked as a successful shipsmith on Peirce's Island in Portsmouth.

Peirce Island is named for a prominent family of Portsmouth merchants including Elbridge Gerry Peirce (1837-1890) who in the late 1850's was building a ship on Peirce Island with the help of John Dame. In addition to being a merchant and shipwright, Elbridge was a railroad superintendent and the postmaster of Portsmouth. He was named after Elbridge Gerry (1744-1814), a Massachusetts politician, who was one of America's Founding Fathers and a signer of the Declaration of Independence. Elbridge Gerry later became the 5th Vice President of the United States serving with President James Madison. Brother Elbridge Gerry was a freemason and member of Philanthropic Lodge, F&AM, in his hometown of Marblehead, Massachusetts. One of the interesting reasons we remember Elbridge Gerry today is for the political practice of "gerrymandering" which is named after him.

On March 18, 1829, when John Dame was just 13 years old, his father, Captain George W. Dame, sailed out of Portsmouth harbor in a large sloop headed for the West Indies; he was never heard from again. It was supposed that the sloop was captured by pirates and her crew put to death. For the next 66 years, each year on March 18, John Dame visited the Piscataqua Wharf from which his father departed on that fateful day to offer a private memorial to his father.

John Dame's interesting life was recognized in the December 2016 edition of the Trestleboard. Among his many accomplishments was that he joined St. John's Lodge, No. 1,

F&AM on April 7, 1841, and served as the 40th Worshipful Master of the Lodge from 1849-52. He was a charter member of Eureka Lodge, No. 70, in Concord, New Hampshire and served as their first Worshipful Master in 1860. He was a District Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of New Hampshire and also a very active member of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite and the York Rite of Freemasonry. He died in Portsmouth on March 13, 1896, of an inflamed bladder; he was eighty years old and at the time was reportedly the oldest Freemason in Portsmouth. He is buried in the South Cemetery in Portsmouth with his wife and seven of his children.

As mentioned above, John Dame and his wife Deborah had nine children but only four grew to adulthood. One of the four was Robert Storer Dame who was born on December 12, 1840, in Portsmouth. He grew up living on Richards Avenue and graduated from Portsmouth High School. Like his father, he trained to be a blacksmith. On April 20, 1861, at the age of 20 years, he enlisted with the 1st New Hampshire Infantry and served in Edward Sturtevant's company. His enlistment papers described him as 5 feet, 6 ½ inches tall having gray eyes, black hair, and a light complexion. He served as a private in the 1st New Hampshire Infantry; then as a 1st sergeant in Company A; as a 2nd lieutenant with Company B; and as a 1st lieutenant in Company K. Lt. Robert Dame led the men of the 5th New Hampshire in numerous campaigns of the American Civil War including at the Battle of Cold Harbor, Virginia. This important battle between the forces of Union General Ulysses S. Grant and Confederate General Robert E. Lee was fought near Mechanicsville, Virginia, with the most significant fighting occurring on June 3, 1864. Lt. Robert Dame was wounded during the battle on June 3 and was taken prisoner of war. He was released shortly thereafter in what was likely a prisoner exchange. He was promoted to the rank of captain in August 1864 and completed his military service being honorably discharged on October 6, 1864. Two days later, October 8, 1864, he was Raised a Master Mason in St. John's Lodge, No. 1 in Portsmouth. Robert married Emma M. Thompson in her hometown of Erie, Pennsylvania, and they had four children.

Continued on page 6.....