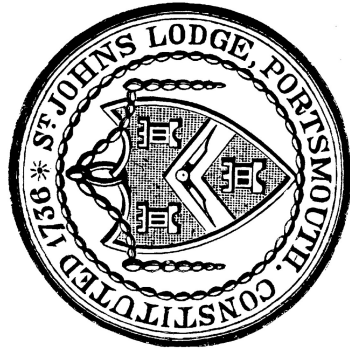
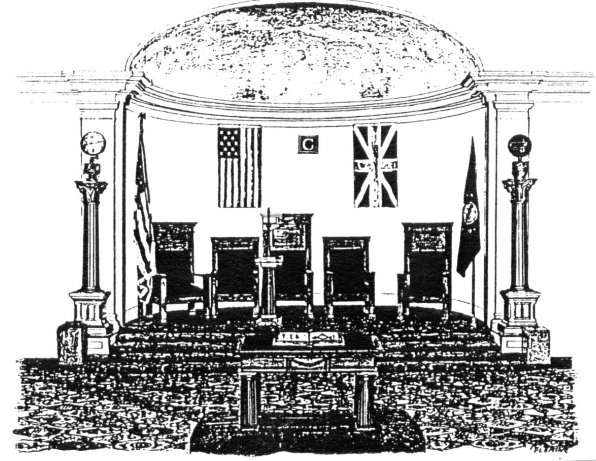


St. John's Lodge, No. 1, F&AM
351 Middle St
Portsmouth, NH 03801



Stamp

September 2025



September 2025 Trestle Board

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

The Master's Message

Greetings Brethren!

Hard to believe summer is coming to a close and by the time we have our September Stated my son will have started college as a Freshman and my daughter will be in 6th grade. As the saying goes, the days can be long, but the years are short. We had quite a full Stated in August, with two candidates returning their EA lessons, the first reading of the 2026 Budget, and a presentation on Revolutionary War patriot Hopley Yeaton (although yours truly probably went on a little too long with the program on my beloved Coast Guard).

In preparing for the Fellow Craft degree in August, I had to brush up on the Letter G. As is so often the case with our ritual, as I learn it, it speaks to me in a different way than just sitting on the sidelines and hearing it from someone else. I think breaking it up into small chunks and repeating it again and again makes me consider it from a different perspective. One line in the Letter G particularly spoke to me...Geometry accounts for the return of the seasons and the variety of scenes each season displays to the discerning eye. It seems particularly apt for this time of year. As Summer winds down, and an utter lack of rain has dominated our weather pattern, I look out upon a sea of crunchy brown grass that used to be my yard. I do not water or care for my yard beyond mowing it, which works in some seasons but not in others. At the same time, my garden is producing tomatoes, cucumbers, and carrots in abundance, and if I had more time I would have planted my Fall vegetables by now. As with all things, we see growth and possibility where we devote our attention. Time features so prominently in our ritual, whether in the description of the working tools for the EA or FC degrees, or the history and degree charge of a Master Mason. Why this focus on time in our ritual? Because time is the one constant we all share...it moves in the same direction for all of us, and we must all deal with its passage in our own way. How we journey on that level of time to that undiscovered country from whose bourn no traveler returns is up to each of us, and Masonry gives us some tools and values that can help ensure we live uprightly on our journey. Travel well, Brethren!

Fraternally,

Worshipful Michael Hudson
Worshipful Master



The Detroit Masonic Temple



By square footage, the Detroit Masonic Temple is the largest Masonic temple in the world. Built in 1926, the Detroit Masonic Temple was designed by architect George D. Mason. The building was constructed to serve as a meeting place for Masonic lodges and related

organizations. It took about four years to complete, and estimated to cost \$6.5 million at the time (equivalent to roughly \$100 million today). The temple is a stunning example of Gothic Revival architecture, featuring intricate stonework, pointed arches, and detailed interiors.

Spanning over 550,000 square feet, it contains more than 1,000 rooms across 14 floors. Key features include three theaters; the largest, the Detroit Masonic Temple Theatre, seats 4,400 and is renowned for its acoustics and grandeur, a 17,500-square-foot drill hall, and two ballrooms used for events.

The temple is not only a Masonic hub but also a major cultural venue in Detroit. Its theater has hosted concerts, plays, and events, attracting artists like The Rolling Stones, and The Who.



It's a designated historic site, listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1980.

The temple serves as a home for various Masonic organizations, including Blue Lodges, York Rite, Scottish Rite, and other appendant bodies. It remains an active center for Masonic activities, though its scale dwarfs most other Masonic temples globally.

with illness and was admitted into Portsmouth Hospital on September 30, 1975. He died about a month later on November 4, 1975; he was 87 years old. He was survived by his two children, six grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Charlie was a good man in every respect, and as you might have surmised, he was also a Freemason. Brother Charlie was Raised a Master Mason on May 4, 1926 in St. John's Lodge, No. 1 in Portsmouth and at the time of his passing from labor to refreshment, he was a 49-year member of our lodge. In 1940, he affiliated with the Oil City Masonic Lodge where he was also an active Scottish Rite mason.

The photos show Bro. Charles S. Gerrish. In the newspaper photo, he is on the right.

**Alan M. Robinson, PM
Historian**

Bangor Daily News - Mon, Aug 19, 1957 - Page 8 - (Bangor, Maine)



September 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

Wednesday, September 3, 2025

(Dinner 6:00, Meeting 7:00)

Dinner—Taco Bar

Officer dress—white tie and tails

Special Communication

Veteran's Program

Wednesday, September 13, 2025

(Program 4:30PM, dinner to follow)

Dinner—Lasagna

Officer dress—white tie and tails

Lodge Brunch

Saturday, September 20, 2025

9:00AM-11:00AM

Please RSVP to Brother Jason Dubrow

603-660-1512

jdubrow42@gmail.com

**Contact
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Secretary**
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St. John's Lodge

Historical Sketch

Charles Samuel Gerrish

Did you know that there is a National Horseshoe Pitchers Association? The association maintains an official rules and regulations guidebook that has 51 pages and explains everything that you need to know about horseshoe pitching. For example, a horseshoe court has two stakes situated 40 feet apart. Each stake leans toward the other by 15 degrees. A horseshoe can weigh no more than 2 lbs. 10 oz; and there is no minimum weight requirement. A horseshoe cannot exceed 7-1/4" in width or 7-5/8" in length; and the opening of the shoe cannot exceed 3-1/2". Two people play against each other, with each pitching two shoes per inning. There are several ways to keep score; often times a ringer is worth three points and a shoe that is 6" or closer to the stake is considered "in count" and receives one point. A shoe that is greater than 6" from the stake is out of count and receives no score. A shoe that comes to rest vertically while touching the stake is called a leaner and it receives one point. The first contestant to reach (or exceed) 40 points (leading by two) is the winner.

Each state has a local horseshoe pitching association under the national organization and each year, a state champion is named. Many states also have a horseshoe pitching Hall of Fame. Charlie Gerrish was a local champion horseshoe pitcher who won his first state championship in Maine in 1931.

Charles Samuel Gerrish was born in Franklin, Maine, on April 13, 1888, the son of Follett and Maria (Blaisdell) Gerrish. Franklin is 30 miles north of Bar Harbor. Charlie grew up living first in Franklin before moving to Kittery Point where he lived with his family in the Gerrish homestead located on the Piscataqua River on Gerrish Lane (now Follett Lane) near the Lady Pepperrell House. This beautiful property that overlooks the mouth of the Piscataqua River was originally owned by Charlie's grandfather, Col. Robert Follett Gerrish (1815-1882) and his wife Sarah (Lewis), and later by Robert and Sarah's son, Follett Gerrish.

Follett Gerrish (1851-1934) was a native of Kittery Point and for

some years conducted a general merchandise store at Franklin, Maine, where he was also the postmaster. It was in Franklin that he met and married Maria Fernanda Blaisdell in 1871. They had five children including Charlie. Maria and Follett lived the last 30+ years of their lives in Kittery Point in the Gerrish homestead and died in 1930 and 1934 respectively. They and the other Gerrish family members are all buried in the First Congregational Church cemetery adjacent to their home in Kittery Point.

Charlie graduated from Kittery High School with the class of 1905. The present day Traip Academy was founded in Kittery that same year but didn't graduate its first class until 1909. He went on to study civil engineering at the University of Maine in Orono, and graduated with a bachelor's degree in 1911. He became a very successful local surveyor.

On April 24, 1915, Charles married Marian Zipporah Sleeman in her hometown of Oil City, Pennsylvania. Oil City is located on the Allegheny River about 90 miles north of Pittsburgh. Charlie and Marian settled in Oil City and they had two children, Marian Sleeman Gerrish and Charles S. Gerrish, Jr. They lived there for a number of years while Charles was a math teacher and the principal at South Side Junior High School. While serving the school system in Oil City, he provided civil engineering services when called upon. He also played horseshoes and enjoyed traveling back and forth to Maine and New Hampshire to compete in horseshoe pitching tournaments.

In 1935, after about twenty years living in Oil City, Charlie and Marian returned to Kittery Point where they lived in the Gerrish homestead on Follett Lane. For the next 40 years, Charlie played horseshoes in Portsmouth and the surrounding communities and successfully defended his state championship titles in Maine, New Hampshire and the New England Region. From 1950 to 1960, he was Maine state champion six times, and then in 1972, he was inducted into the Maine Horseshoe Pitchers Hall of Fame.

Charlie's wife Marian died on April 6, 1963 at the age of 70. Following her passing, Charlie continued to be active in the community and played a lot of horseshoes, until he was stricken