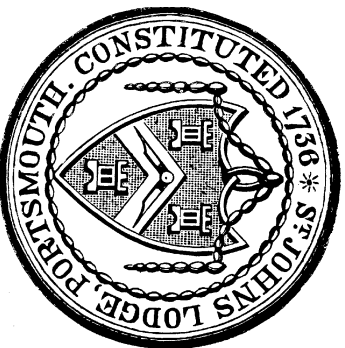


# July 2010 Trestle Board

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

St. John's Lodge, No. 1, F&AM  
280 Bayside Rd  
Greenland NH 03840

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Portsmouth, NH  
Permit No. 7



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Worshipful Master      Secretary  
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July 2010

# The Master's Message

Brethren,

This Masonic year is half over and I for one am enjoying it. Over the last month I enjoyed some fellowship over at Rising Star Lodge as they provided us with a courtesy EA degree for one of our candidates. I have enjoyed meeting brethren from other lodges during my daily work life. I also had the honor of presenting scholarships to 7 worthy students. When I first became a mason everybody told me I would have a great time with it and they were right. For those of you who aren't actively involved with the fraternity I encourage you to establish more relationships with your fellow brethren so you can enjoy the benefits of membership as I do.

We have several busy months ahead of us. Not only will we be conducting degree work every month for rest of this year but we also will have several special meetings. Here are some dates to put in your calendar. On September 22nd we will be holding our annual Past Master's Night in the Master Mason Degree. This event is being organized by Wors. Brother Rodney Robinson and he will have further details later. I would like to mention though that we'll be assembling at 5:30 PM for a group photo of all the brethren present. We'll also have a group photo of all Past Master's. In October we will have our annual Veteran's program but the date has not been finalized yet. We'll also have our annual Visitation from our District Deputy Grand Master on October 27th. On November 5th we have the Annual Lodge of Instruction, which is once again being held at the Portsmouth Masonic Temple. All Master Mason's Raised this year are required to attend.

Recently a group of brethren met to discuss ways to add more fun social activities to our lodge calendar. We discovered that several of us have an interest and experience in brewing homemade beer! As a result I would like to invite all who are interested to start a fresh batch to be entered into our taste testing social event to be held sometime in September. We'll have multiple awards for a variety of categories including "Best Beer". This event will include a pot luck buffet. It should be a lot of fun.

Enjoy the summer!

Fraternally Yours,

*Wor Thomas W. Haslam*  
[tomhaslam@comcast.net](mailto:tomhaslam@comcast.net)  
603-498-7205 cell



## From the Secretary's Desk

Brethren:

The Schedule of the District Lodges of Instruction of the Grand Lodge for the 2010 are as follows:

September 10	Friday	District No. 7	Franklin
September 24	Friday	District No. 4	Penacook
October 1	Friday	District No. 5	Lancaster
October 15	Friday	District No. 6	Rochester
October 22	Friday	District No. 3	Claremont
October 23	Saturday	District No. 8	Tilton
November 5	Friday	District No. 1	Portsmouth
November 6	Saturday	District No. 2	Nashua

With one exception, each Lodge of Instruction will be preceded by a dinner at 6:30 PM and Grand Lodge will open promptly at 7:30 PM

**IMPORTANT:** The Lodge of Instruction on Saturday October 23<sup>rd</sup> in Tilton will begin with lunch at 12:00 Noon, Grand Lodge will open at 1:00 PM and close no later than 3:30 PM.

Masters, Warders and Secretary are required to attend. Plus, all newly raised Master Masons since the last LOI are requested to attend.

*RW Robert L. Sutherland Jr.*  
*Secretary*

*"Just as there is a vital spark in man that defies definition or description, so is there in Freemasonry a divine flame—a vital, living force that transcends all descriptions."*

**Charles Clyde Hunt**  
**Fellow of the Philaethes Society**  
**1939**

### Happy Birthday Brothers!

Join us for the Stated Communication during your birthday month and the dinner is on the Master and Wardens.

# They all Came Just for Me

Something big is going on here.  
Or so I thought that night  
As the Masons came to gather round  
the Great and lesser lights

One from here and one from there  
From places far and wide,  
They came to do, I knew not what,  
As they gathered there inside.

But from each man I was greeted  
With a smile and voice of cheer.  
One said, "so you're the candidate.  
The reason that we're here.

I scarcely knew just what he meant,  
For this was my "first degree."  
There must be much for them to do  
Before they got to me.

Surely these guys would not travel  
for the sake of just one man.  
Yes, there must be much for them to  
do,  
Before my part began.

The "Brother Tiler" was my company  
As I waited at the door  
To step into this brand new realm  
I had not known before.

They shared with me the three Great  
Lights  
and some tools of the trade,  
That I might learn a thing or two  
of how a man be better made.

When at last I had been seated  
In this brotherhood of men  
The Master then began to bring  
The meeting to an end.

And with all things then completed,  
They stayed a little more,  
To eat and drink and share a laugh  
Before heading toward the door.

But as we left I understood  
And then began to see.  
That they all came for one reason.  
They all came just for me.

Dear brothers, I pray every Lodge  
Will make new ones like me,  
Feel as welcome as these brothers did,  
When they held my First Degree.

**Thank you, Brothers!**

**By Brother Richard L. Jenkins  
For the Brothers of Cass Lodge 412,  
Griswold, IA**

# Mile McGuigan

**Miles McGuigan** was a member of the 81st Regiment of Loyal Lincoln Volunteers and a member of Merrickville Lodge, No. 55, in St. Lawrence District in Ontario. When he died, it was his last wish that his body be dissected, and then placed in the Merrickville Lodge for future work in the Third Degree. His wishes were carried out, and his bones remained in the Merrickville Lodge until the Lodge Room and building were gutted by fire in 1959.

# July 2010

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 (Open in EA)

**Wednesday, July 7, 2010**

(Dinner 6:00, Open 7:00)

Dinner—BBQ Chicken and Ribs(\$8.00)

**Officer dress—Business Casual**

## Special Communication

**Enter Apprentice Degree**

**Wednesday, July 14, 2010**

(Dinner 6:00, Open 7:00)

Dinner—Baked Haddock (\$8.00)

**Officer dress—White Dinner Jacket**

## Special Communication

**Master Mason Degree**

**Nicholas Richard Pesarik, Noah Thomas Blanchard,**

**Brian John Orluk, Ashton McKay Braun**

**Wednesday, July 21, 2010**

(Dinner 6:00, Open 7:00)

Dinner—Chinese (\$8.00)

**Officer dress—White Dinner Jacket**

# Historical Sketch

## John Henry Brackett

Our lodge Secretary, Wor. Robert L. Sutherland, Jr. lives on Bayside Road, a nice country road in the town of Greenland, New Hampshire. The road begins at Portsmouth Avenue (Route 33) where it passes over the Winnicut River and runs for a couple miles along the southeastern shores of Great Bay. Today there are quite a few homes along the road but in earlier days it was mostly farm land. One of its larger farms belonged to John Henry Brackett.

John was born and raised on the family farm on November 26, 1838, a son of Thomas and Sarah (Veasey) Brackett. His father, a native of Greenland, was a farmer by occupation and his mother was from Stratham. John was educated in the local common schools and at Pemberton Academy. Like his father, he took up farming as an occupation and built the family farm into one of the most successful dairy farms in the region.

When John took over the farm from his father it was 90 acres and included the family homestead. To this he added 383 acres of farmland that bordered on Great Bay that had been in the Brackett family for 200 years. This large added parcel was originally adjoined by Lieutenant Joshua Brackett (born in 1672). The property ran for miles along the southern shore of the Bay and was said to be one of the most beautifully situated tracts of land in the state. In the Brackett Genealogy published in 1907, the land was described as "the best in town" and it is where "the prudent Bracketts came and settled down." The property passed from one generation to the next beginning with Joshua's son Deacon James Brackett. It then descended to family members including his son Joshua, and upon his death, to his daughter Martha, and thence to her sons Edwin and John Pickering. John H. Brackett then purchased title to the parcel from the Pickering boys thereby making his total land holdings equal to 473 acres.

John was not only a very successful dairy farmer and businessman, he was also a prominent and community minded man and served in numerous volunteer capacities in town. For thirty years, he served as a member of the Board of Selectmen in Greenland. He also served at different times as town treasurer and assessor. At one of the elections he was the unanimous choice of both political parties. From 1884 to 1886, he represented his hometown in the New Hampshire State Legislature at the State House in Concord.

John was a dedicated member of the Congregational church in town and in August 1889, he married Mary E. Lewis, a daughter of Benjamin and Mary Lewis of Sandwich, Maine. Together they had one son, Thomas. Sadly, Mary died

just a couple years after they were married on January 31, 1892.

John was a good and generous man and an active and progressive citizen. It should not be a surprise to learn that he was also an active member of the Masonic fraternity. He was Raised in St. John's Lodge, No. 1 on May 24, 1865. In 1876, he became a charter member of Winnicut Lodge, No. 92 in Greenland and served as its Secretary for its entire existence 1876-1904.

Bro. John H. Brackett passed from labor to refreshment on April 26, 1928 at the age of 90. He is buried in the family cemetery in Greenland. Next time you take a drive through Greenland, turn on to Bayside Road and as you travel along, give a nod to brothers John Brackett and Bob Sutherland, two very dedicated Masons who by coincidence both served as Lodge secretaries.

**Alan M. Robinson, PM  
Historian**

**Note: Dinners are now \$8.00  
Please call Gib Palmer (SD) to make reservations  
603-601-2294**

## Home Brew

Up to the challenge? Take some time over the summer to create your own home brew and bring it to Lodge for a taste test. We'll announce a definite date later in the summer but for now, start brewing.

