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Calendar

- Jan 08 (Thursday)
6:30 PM Dinner (Pot Luck Soup)
7:30 PM Stated Meeting
- Jan 15 (Thursday)
7:30 PM Third Degree (Mark McEuen)
- Jan 22 (Thursday)
6:30 PM OAM Liberty Lodge
- Jan 29 (Thursday)
7:30 PM First Degree
- Feb 05 (Thursday)
6:30 PM Dinner (spaghetti)
7:30 PM Stated Meeting

Christmas Comes to Union City Masonic Home



Changes Happen!
Call the Lodge Hotline: (408) 450-8666

Mt. Moriah Lodge #292 F. & A. M.
Gordon Markley, Secretary
131 East Main Street
Los Gatos, CA 95030

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED
January, 2009



Mt. Moriah Lodge No. 292 F. & A. M.

Trestleboard



Volume 14 Number 1

<http://www.calodges.org/no292>

January, 2009

Is your info current?

- Notify Secretary Gordon Markley, PM of changes in address, email, or phone numbers
- Send email to: gmarkley@comcast.net
- Send snail mail to: 946 Lantana Drive Sunnyvale, CA 94086-8631
- Request email copy of trestleboard to: dew6000@yahoo.com
- Saves postage costs



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Los Gatos 2008 Holiday Parade



From the East

Brethren and friends: This being my first trestleboard as Master I wish to thank you for entrusting me with the care of the LODGE. The installation was well attended and the Music by brother Luis Orozco P.M. A.G.O. added to the ceremonies Thanks Brother Orozco. Thanks to my installing team, Robert Rowan P.M. ISO, Randy Downey P.M. MS, Robert Morgan P.M. CHP. Well done Brethren.

Ross Fuller is doing well in GoodSams. The hospital has asked to limit the number of visitors to less than 100 per day.

January is shaping up fast. The stated Meeting will be on January the 8th. as the 1st, is New Years Day! There will be a soup potluck Dinner. On Jan. 15th. your officers will be conferring 3rd. degree on brother Mark McEuen. Jan. 22nd. Officers Association Meeting at Liberty Lodge on Scott Blvd. Jan. 29th. possible 1st. That should fill out the Month.

February Stated meeting the 5th. will have spaghetti french bread and mystery desert. as an effort to meet supply of food there will be a \$2.00 surcharge for those with out reservations. Please call or e-mail your Jr. warden Howard at 408-363-3616 or hdyamaha@sbcglobal.net February is SWEETHEART'S Month. We will have a Brunch as last year still in the works.

Thanks for your support.

Fraternally, Jim Dingman Master

James Dingman
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Landrum Masons open time capsule on 100th anniversary

The members gathered in downtown Landrum Saturday and removed a time capsule that was nearly 50 years old. A shoebox-sized capsule made of copper had substantial cobwebs on the outside, but the inside had not been disturbed. "The contents are still in excellent condition," Hershberger said.

Two uncirculated silver dollars from the 1880s, a 1958 roll of never-used pennies, a Jan. 18, 1959, edition of the Herald-Journal, a Jan. 22, 1959, edition of the Landrum Leader and group literature from the late '50s were placed on a display table.

http://www.goupstate.com/article/20081207/ARTICLES/812071045/1083/NEWS01?Title=Landrum_Masons_open_time_capsule_on_100th_anniversary



January Birthdays

- DAVID HOUGE, PM January 1
- RICHARD PARRISH January 1
- DALE BASSETT January 3
- JAMES AGOSTINHO January 3
- KERMIT KOWALK January 5
- CHARLES SUMNER January 5
- LARRY JAPP January 5
- ROY MATHEWS January 6
- DAVID MAHAN January 8
- DELMAR VUKSICH January 9
- ROGER HIGBY January 9
- BERNARD O'CONNOR January 10
- ROBERT SUSHA January 11
- MATTHEW MCKEITHAN January 11
- JACK WARREN, PM January 12
- HAROLD PETERS January 12
- HERBERT CROPPER January 12
- JAMES JENKINS January 13
- RAYMOND RENDON JR. January 13
- TERRY TANNER January 13
- WILLARD OLSEN January 14
- JACK DODDS January 16
- ROGER SACHS January 17
- LEWIS GOBLE January 22
- ALBERT COLLINS January 24
- DONALD PENTACOFF January 24
- DENNIS KANKEL January 27
- MONTY CLARKE January 27
- VINCENT VERRET January 28
- DEVIN KRUSE January 28
- JESSE BARBA January 29
- JOHN SAWTELLE January 31

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TRESTLEBOARD

is published by

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Riviera Lodge No. 780 Chaplain George Black at the Masonic bookshelf at Palisades Branch Library



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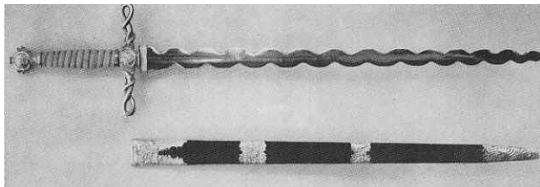
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St. John's Lodge No. 1 restoration project on the 1892 Hackett house Portsmouth NH

The architecture and priceless woodwork in the Colonial Revivalist home are reason enough to see the building, as are the fabulous furnishing and oriental rugs. But, then there are the 14 fireplaces, each one different from the others. "There used to be 14 flues in the basement to clean them out," said Bob Buffum, considered an expert historian on the history of the building. "The Lodge bought it in 1920 from Wallace Hackett when the address was 25 Middle Street and the streets were lit by gas." The house was built by a Boston banker who spared no expense. Master furniture builder Tom Hand, who not only restored the home's woodwork but also recreated the original dining table and eight chairs, said the craftsmanship is "unbelievable." "In the '50s, the dining room was used by the Masons as a card room," Hand said. "They didn't like the long table so they got rid of it. I was commissioned to redo it and there were no pictures." Finally, someone found a picture of the room and said they thought it was the table." Hand was clearly horrified by the loss. At the top landing of a winding staircase, a window sits in a side wall, not facing outside. It is next to a large external window. "It's an Oriel window and people will come just to see that," said Mason Don Stevens. "It is built on the inside to reflect outside light into another room." St. John's Lodge was constituted in 1736 and is the oldest continuous Lodge in America. <http://www.stjohnslodge1.org>



Tom Hand, left, and Don Stevens, both members of the Masonic Temple on Middle Street, pose for a photograph with a cabinet of jewels of past Grand Masters in New Hampshire



Tom Hand, a member of the Masonic Temple on Middle Street, closes some cabinets that he crafted in the ornately renovated sanctuary at the temple

St. John's Lodge was constituted by Henry Price, Provincial Grand Master in New England for the Premier Grand Lodge of England (later known as the "Moderns") on June 24, 1736. June 24 is the Feast of St. John the Baptist, one of the traditional Patron Saints of Masonry. In 1789, the Lodge was a founding Lodge of the Grand Lodge of New Hampshire, and today continues as a Constituent Lodge of that Grand Lodge. Only Philadelphia, PA; Boston, MA; Savannah, GA; and Charleston, South Carolina can claim to have had a Masonic Lodge earlier than the date of the present charter of St. John's, No.1, Portsmouth. The charter issued to St. John's Lodge, No.1, Portsmouth, was executed April 28, 1790 by the Grand Lodge of Masons for New Hampshire. It contains a preamble which sets forth that the Right Honorable, the Earl of Loundon, Grand Master of Masons in England, did, in the year of our Lord 1736, erect and constitute a regular lodge of Free and Accepted Masons in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, by the name of St. John's Lodge.

Symbolism of the Tyler's Sword

The sword used to play an important role in Freemasonry, and still does so in many of the so-called "higher" degrees. In ancient times, it was a regular part of the dressing of a gentleman, but Masons were required to leave their swords in the Tyler's room before entering a Lodge. Its importance can be seen that even today, many Grand Lodges, still appoint a "Swords Bearer".

The Knights Templars swore that they would never draw their swords unless convinced of the justice of the cause in which they were engaged, nor to sheathe it until their enemies were subdued. Many swords, especially those from Spain, often had the following engraved on them "No me saques sin rason. No me embaines sin honor"; meaning Do not draw me without justice, do not sheathe me without honor.

The Tyler's sword should traditionally be one with a "wavy" blade, to symbolize the flaming sword that was placed at the east of the garden of Eden, which turned every way to keep the way of the tree of life (Genesis 3:24). It should also never be sheathed, as it is the Tyler's duty to keep off, at all times, "cowans and eavesdroppers."

The Book of Constitutions guarded by the Tyler's Sword reminds us that we should be ever watchful and guarded in our thoughts, words, and actions, particularly when before the enemies of Masonry, ever bearing in remembrance those truly Masonic virtues, silence and circumspection

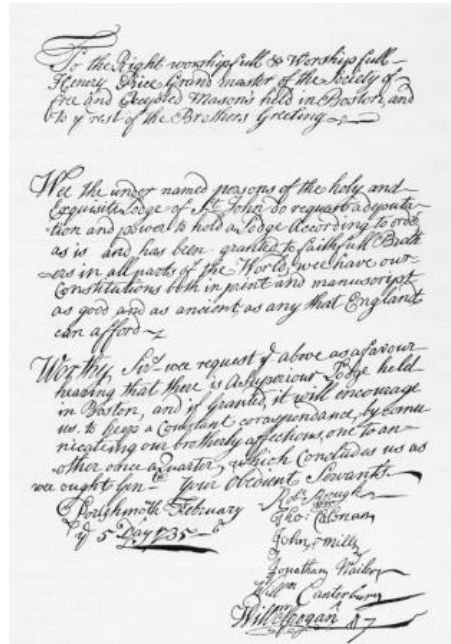


Oldest Masonic Document From New Hampshire

On February 5, 1735 (Old Style, which is February 16, 1736 in today's calendar), six Masons from Portsmouth in New Hampshire, which was then under the jurisdiction of the Royal Province of Massachusetts, wrote to Brother Henry Price in Boston, Massachusetts, asking for a charter. In 1733, Price had been appointed "Provincial Grand Master of New England and Dominions and Territories thereunto belonging," by Lord Montague, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of England. This letter shows that there were Masons meeting in a Lodge they called St. John's in Portsmouth in 1735. As was the custom at the time, Masons in the 18th Century often met in Lodges held by "immemorial rights," without a charter and often without records, so we do not know how long Masons have actually met in Portsmouth. We note that the Grand Lodge of England was formed in 1717, only eighteen years before this letter was written.

The letter is now preserved in the archives of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts. It reads: To the Right worshipfull & Worshipfull –

Henry Price Grand Master of the Society of free and Accepted Masons held in Boston, and to ye rest of the Brothers Greeting – Wee the under named persons of the holy and Exquisite Lodge of St. John do hereby request a deputation and power to hold a Lodge According to order as is and has been granted to faithful Brothers in all parts of the World; wee have our Constitutions both in print and manuscript as good and as ancient as any that England can afford. Worthy Sir – wee request ye above as a favour hearing that there is A Superiour Lodge held in Boston, and if Granted, it will encourage us, to keep a Constant coraspondance, by communicateing our brotherly affections, one to another once a Quarter, which Concludes us as wee ought Gentn – Your obedient Servants – Portsmouth February Ye 5 Day, 1735 Robt. Brough Tho Colman John F. Miller Jonathan Nailor Willm Canterbury Willm Grogan



From the Secretary's Table

Brethren, Happy New Year to each of you. Here's hoping that 2009 will be good to you. With the year-end charitable giving I hope you remember the California Masonic Foundation and the Masonic Homes. The Foundation provides training for teachers to take back to their schools on how to recognize and help kids at risk and thus, keeping them out of trouble. The Masonic homes provide great care for our most mature Masons. Your contribution is greatly appreciated. With the New Year, your dues should be paid. After the first of January, unpaid dues are delinquent and you are "not in good standing." Your Secretary appreciates that you be prompt with your dues. Also please keep your address, telephone and email up to date with the Secretary. It helps and saves the Lodge money on returned mail.

Gordon Markley Secretary

Gordon Markley
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Email: gwmarkley@comcast.net

From the West

I'd like to thank all the brothers and their families that attended Mt. Moriah's 7th installation of Officers in December. It was a terrific Installation, and was a fine kick-off for Wor. Dingmans' upcoming year as Master. Mt. Moriah plans to perform several Third degrees in the coming months. If you would like to participate in any of the degree work, please contact Wor. Dingman. This would be most welcomed by your Lodge, and its Officers. See you in Lodge.

Dennis Anastole Senior Warden

Dennis Anastole
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From the South

January Stated Meeting Dinner: Potluck Soup RSVP (Please no later than the preceding Tuesday) to hdyamahia@sbcglobal.net or 408-363-3616

Howard Dingman Junior Warden

Howard Dingman
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Freemasonry in the United States

There were many Masons among the early settlers that met under the "prescriptive right", meaning they formed Lodges without Warrants, acting upon their "right from time immemorial." There is evidence that a deputation dated June 5, 1730, was granted to Daniel Coxe, of New Jersey, by the Duke of Norfolk, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of England, appointing him Provincial Grand Master of New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Moreover, there is evidence that Brethren meeting in Philadelphia applied to him in 1730 and received authority to continue to meet as a regular Lodge. However, no records of such a Lodge are available to indicate that it continued or was even ever established. The earliest authentic records of such a Lodge available to indicate that it continued on was from "The First Lodge of Boston" in 1733. This was warranted under a Provincial Grand Master. On April 30, 1733, this Provincial Grand Master Henry Price, who had received his appointment a short time before from Viscount Montague, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of England convened a number of Brethren into a Provincial Grand Lodge, and then form and constituted a subordinate Lodge on Boston. This Lodge, later consolidated with two others, still functions in that city. On the following year Bro. Henry Price's commission was extended to cover all of North America. Many of Patriots of the American Revolution were Masons including George Washington, Ben Franklin, James Hamilton, and even the Marquis de Lafayette to name just a few. There were enough Masons in the Continental Army to establish traveling military Lodges, which allowed them to continue to enjoy the warmth of fraternal fellowship. American Union was just such a Lodge and was attached to the Connecticut Line of the Army. The minute books of this Lodge show that General Washington attended meetings of the Lodge on several occasions. By the year 1800 there were Lodges established in nearly all of the states east of the Mississippi except in Illinois and Wisconsin, and Grand Lodges had been formed in most of them. As an example, Kentucky formed her Grand Lodge in 1792 and was instrumental in forming Lodges in Indiana and the other states around her. By 1892 there were fifty Grand Lodges in the United States, including one in the Indian Territory which later became the Grand Lodge of Oklahoma.