

St. John's Lodge, No. 1.



WHEREAS the Legislature of the State of Rhode-Island and Providence Plantations, at their October Session, in the year of our Lord, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-three, incorporated the Master, Wardens and Brethren of St. JOHN'S LODGE, No. 1, in the Town of New-

port, and State aforesaid, a body politic, with perpetual succession, to have, hold, receive and enjoy property, and to admit Members, and to choose the Master, Wardens, Secretary and Treasurer, and all other Officers they may think proper, and for such length of time as they have heretofore, or may hereafter determine, and to make laws, &c.

And whereas St. John's Lodge, No. 1, in Newport, have by law determined the time when, and the length of time for which their Offices shall be chosen.

And whereas all the Members of St. John's Lodge, No. 1, have sworn to support its Charter and Laws.

And whereas all the Officers of St. John's Lodge, have sworn not to wrong said Lodge, nor see it wronged by others.

And whereas St. John's Lodge, No. 1, in Newport, have not alienated their Charter, or given to any body of men whatever, their right of property, their right of admission of Membership, nor their right of Election.

And whereas the GRAND LODGE of the State of Rhode-Island, have interfered with the property of St. John's Lodge No. 1, in Newport, by recommending that they, St. John's Lodge, should grant the perpetual use and occupancy of their Hall to three distinct and separate institutions or bodies of Men, two of them without compensation; and to the other, for the small sum of Twelve Dollars per annum; which recommendation the said Grand Lodge have denominated an agreement, and have accused St. John's Lodge of a violation of its faith, because they have shewn a disposition to settle personal disputes with St. PAUL'S LODGE in said Newport, and have suffered them to occupy their Hall, whilst they worked under a dispensation from the said Grand Lodge.

And whereas the Grand Lodge of the State of Rhode-Island have declared Members of another Lodge to be Members of St. John's Lodge, although St. John's Lodge have a standing vote to the contrary.

And whereas the Grand Lodge of the State of Rhode-Island have interfered with the election of the Officers of said St. John's Lodge, by ordering an Election at a period unknown by the Laws of St. John's Lodge, No. 1, and in a manner unknown in the annals of Masonry in this State, by appointing one or more of the Officers of said Grand Lodge to superintend said election.—A compliance of which, on the part of St. John's Lodge, would be a virtual surrender of their Charter; and which acts of the Grand Lodge of the State of Rhode-Island, are not authorized by the Constitution, viz:—An interference with the property of St. John's Lodge;—An imposition of Members on St. John's Lodge;—And an interference with, and altering the time, and superintending Elections in St. John's Lodge.—All which said acts of the Grand Lodge of the State of Rhode-Island, no Member of St. John's Lodge, No. 1, in Newport, can submit too, without violating his Oath and obligation as a Mason.

THEREFORE, We the Master, Wardens and Brethren of St. JOHN'S LODGE No. 1, in Newport, do appeal to Heaven for the rectitude of our intentions; and in the presence of Almighty God, do most solemnly declare, that we believe our bounden duty, and only alternative is, to separate from the GRAND LODGE of the State of Rhode-Island;—And therefore, We the Master, Wardens and Brethren of St. John's Lodge, No. 1, in Newport, do hereby declare, that our allegiance to, and connexion with the Grand Lodge of the

State of Rhode-Island, is, and of right ought to be, Forever Dissolved.

Newport, July 4th, A. L. 5818.

Benjamin Waite Case, Master.
Caleb Tripp, Senior Warden.
Thomas Pratt, Junior Warden.
Timothy R. Peckham, Secretary:
Thomas Clarke, Treasurer.
Isaac Shearman, Senior Deacon.
Daniel Austin, jun. Junior Deacon.

William G. Burroughs, William Davis, G. W. Carr, Nathaniel Lock, John A. Collins, George Lawton, Henry Tew, Richard Barker, Benjamin Tayer, Benj. L. Peckham, Samuel King, Benjamin Brenton, William Price, John N. Hubbard, John Deblois, Henry Anthony, Samuel Henshaw, Robert Williams, Joseph Chadwick, Clarke Green, jun. Robert Lawton, jun. Samuel B. Jones, Joseph Corey, Jeremiah Peckham, Sprague Dawley, Thomas Messer, Isaac V. Burdick, Isaiah Burdick, Charles S. Coggeshall, James C. Hubbard, Daniel Austin, Henry C. Myers, Benjamin Mason, John Waite, William T. King, Christopher L. Phillips, Thomas W. Nichols, George Sweet.

A True Copy from the Records,

Attest, T. R. PECKHAM, Secretary.

At a special Meeting of St. John's Lodge, No. 1, in Newport, specially called on the 14th Day of January, A. L. 5819.

CERTAIN Proceedings, purporting to have taken place in the GRAND LODGE, on the last Monday of November ult, and published in a Newspaper in this Town, having been laid before the LODGE, and being found to contain statements of facts which are wholly unfounded; and accusations (expressed in language inexcusably gross) against the Officers of this Lodge.—Said proceedings also being such as are entirely out of the province and power, and foreign to the duty of the Grand Lodge:—It is therefore Resolved, That considerations of delicacy and propriety towards the Masters and Wardens of the several Lodges in this State, who principally compose the Grand Lodge, will not allow this LODGE, without the clearest evidence, to admit the belief, that proceedings of so unworthy and unwarrantable a character, can ever have been sanctioned by them.—On the contrary, this Lodge, from the same motives, are disposed to believe, that should such proceedings unfortunately have taken place in the Grand Lodge, they could only have been tolerated at some very partial meeting of that Lodge, composed of a few ignorant and unworthy persons, who were interested in the mischief they fomented, and wholly regardless of the character and standing of the Lodge.

Resolved, That the Master of this LODGE, and Brothers BENJAMIN BRENTON and HENRY TEW, be a Committee, with instructions to communicate a copy of these Resolutions to the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge, in order that its Officers may have an opportunity of exculpating that Lodge from the reproach which such proceedings cannot fail to bring upon it; or by calling a full meeting of its numerous and respectable members, may enable them to disavow and correct those proceedings.

Resolved, That the same Committee be directed to obtain the fullest information in their power, respecting the proceedings above mentioned, and that they be prepared to recommend to this Lodge, at its next meeting, such further measures thereon as it may be advisable to adopt.

A True Copy from the Records,

Attest, T. R. PECKHAM, Secretary.

St. John's LODGE, No. 1.

*At a meeting of St. John's Lodge
No. 1. specially convened at Newport
on Friday, March 19th. A. L. 5819.*



THE Com-
mittee ap-
pointed on the
14th day of Janu-
ary last, made
the following Re-
port:—

“Your Com-
mittee beg leave

to report in conformity to the direc-
tions given them on the 14th Jan. A. L.
5819, by St. John's Lodge, No. 1, in
Newport, they communicated to the
Grand Master of the Grand Lodge in
Providence, the resolutions of this Lodge
of that date, and that they have not re-
ceived from said Grand Master any an-
swer to their communication, but have
since seen published in the newspapers
printed in Providence, (as the doings of
the Grand Lodge, at their Quarterly
communication) certain strictures and
remarks upon many of the officers and
members belonging to the lodge in this
town, which in the opinion of your com-
mittee are not entitled to an answer;—
as it is not within their province, nor the
province of Masons, to descend to low
and vulgar abuse, or base recrimination.
Your committee, however, are of opinion,
that it is owing more to the igno-
rance of facts, in a majority of the mem-
bers of the Grand Lodge, who attended
at their last Quarterly communication,
than to their malicious and unmasonic
propensities, that their doings were of
such a cast and character as the piece
referred to, prove them to be; for ra-
tional men will hereafter judge, whether
the Lodge in this town has not given to
the Grand Lodge, a fair opportunity to
exonerate itself and the characters of its
members from the disgrace which must
attach to them for adopting such a hasty
and unwarrantable course of conduct.—
Your committee are fully persuaded, that
the members who attended the meet-
ings of the Grand Lodge holden in Nov.
and Feb. last were a disreputable part
of the Grand Lodge.—Charity at least
compels them to believe this.—For
should the fact be otherwise, they are
unable to assign any justifiable cause for
the abusive language which has been
lavished upon the Members of this
Lodge, or for the attempt on the part of
the Grand Lodge, to claim property that
did not belong to it.—What but malice
could impel the Grand Lodge to expel,
and to declare to the world as expelled,
Officers and members of an inde-
pendent Lodge in this town, over whom
the Grand Lodge had no control, and
could exercise no power? what but das-
tardly baseness could induce them to
accuse the Lodge in this town, of rob-
bing their own Hall, of their own jewels,
their own furniture, and their own re-
cords, books and papers? when the
Grand Lodge in Providence knew, or at
any rate some of its members ought to
know, that the books, papers, records

and property of the Lodge in this town,
have been in our possession from the
year 5749 delivered from one Treasurer
to another, from time to time by com-
mittees appointed for that purpose, from
that period to the present time;—That
as long ago as the year 5765, one of your
Committee, Benjamin Brenton, was
Treasurer, and had at that time some of
the same property, which we are now
accused of having purloined.—The
Master and Brethren of the Lodge in
this town, are accused of purloining
jewels belonging to the Grand Lodge,
which the Lodge in this town bought
with their own funds, and which the
Grand Lodge never had, except on loan,
when they had not property to purchase
Jewels for themselves.

Your Committee are at a loss to find
by what authority JOHN CARLILE, Grand
Master of the Grand Lodge, with others,
entered the Hall of the Lodge in this
Town; presided over a pretended Elec-
tion of Members of another Lodge,
and inducted members of St. Paul's
Lodge into offices; stiling them officers
of St. John's Lodge? your committee
are also unable to discover, on what au-
thority the Grand Lodge could say that
St. John's Lodge in Newport were
bound by the awards and determinations
of the Grand Lodge, when the powers
of the Grand Lodge are limited by, and
derived from the grant of the Lodge in
this town; and the Lodge in this town
has reserved to themselves, and had a
right to exercise, Grand Lodge powers
from the year 5760 to the present period.
Wherefore your committee, in consid-
eration of the premises; and without
at this time going further into detail,
recommend the adoption of the fol-
lowing resolutions, viz:—

Resolved, That inasmuch as there are
now pending between St. John's Lodge
No. 1. in Newport and a spurious Lodge
of which John L. Boss. is pretended
Master, sundry suits at law in the Courts
in this County, in relation to which
the Grand Lodge in the opinion of your
committee, have endeavoured to influ-
ence public opinion, that the good peo-
ple of this State, and particularly of this
County, be requested to suspend their
opinions in relation to said suits at law,
until a fair and impartial investigation
has been had on the merits of the same.

Resolved, As the sense of St. John's
Lodge, No. 1, that John Carlisle, Grand
Master of the Grand Lodge, be forth-
with prosecuted for the false and scan-
dalous libels, published against the mem-
bers of this Lodge, purporting to come
from the Grand Lodge at their quar-
terly communications holden on the 22d
February 1819.

Resolved, that Walker Humphrey,
Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge, be
also forthwith prosecuted for the same
offence.

Resolved, That the Grand Lodge of
the State of Rhode-Island, be cited to
appear before St. John's Lodge No. 1 in
Newport at their annual meeting, to be
holden on the 4th day of July next, to
shew cause why their charter, granted
by this Lodge should not be considered
as void.

Resolved, That the aforesaid suits be
commenced and prosecuted at the ex-
pense of this Lodge.

Resolved, That the foregoing Report
and Resolutions be published in all the
Newspapers in this State who have
published the false, libellous and scanda-
lous communication, signed by John
Carlisle and Walker Humphrey, and that
the Printers be requested to forward
their bills for payment to HENRY TEW,
Treasurer of St. John's Lodge, No. 1.

All which is submitted, by

BENJAMIN W. CASE }
BENJAMIN BRENTON } Committee:
HENRY TEW. }

*Whereupon it was Unanimously Re-
solved*, That the said Report be accept-
ed, and that the Resolutions therein re-
commended, be adopted as the sense of
this Lodge.

Resolved further, That the same
Committee cause communications of
the proceedings of the Grand Lodge in
relation to this Lodge, to be made to the
several Lodges in this State, and re-
questing them to unite in opposing the
intentions and attempts of the Grand
Lodge, thus manifested and begun, to
establish an absolute control over the
other Lodges, beyond the powers dele-
gated to them in their Constitution.

Resolved Unanimously, That the a-
bove Report and doings, be published,
agreeably to the recommendation of the
Committee

A True Copy:—Attest,

T. R. Peckham, Secretary.
Newport, March 19, A. L. 5819.

*At a special Meeting of St. John's
Lodge, No. 1, on Friday, March 19th,
A. L. 5819.—It was Voted Unani-
mously,*

THAT the Secretary cause the
Resolutions of this Lodge, passed the
4th day of August 5818, to be publish-
ed, in order that the public may know
the reasons that have prevented this
Lodge from meeting in their own Hall.
—And he also cause to be published,
the names of the Members of this
Lodge, who have signed the Declaration
of Independence, of July 4th, 5818.

*At a Special LODGE, on Tuesday Even-
ing, August 4th, A. L. 5818, held in
the Council Chamber of the State-
House, the following was Voted
unanimously:—*

WHEREAS the Master, Wardens and
Brethren of St. John's Lodge, No. 1,
Newport, made a solemn appeal to
Heaven for the rectitude of their inten-
tions, on the 4th day of July, A. L. 5818,
and thereby declared themselves sepe-
rate from, and independent of the Grand
Lodge of the State of Rhode-Island.

And whereas St. John's Lodge No. 1,
did on the 14th day of July, A. L. 5818,
by a solemn vote, at an uncommonly nu-
merous meeting of said Lodge, confirm
the above mentioned separation and de-
claration.

And whereas St. John's Lodge No. 1,
did direct their Secretary, Timothy R.

Peckham, on the 14th day of July, A. L. 5818, to present a copy of the Declaration of separation and Independence of the Master, Wardens and Brethren of St John's Lodge, No 1, together with the confirmatory vote of said Lodge, to the Officers of the Grand Lodge of the State of Rhode-Island.

And whereas *Timothy R Peckham*, the Secretary of St John's Lodge, No 1, did on or before 2 o'clock P. M. of the 15th day of July, A. L. 5818, present *JOHN CARLILE*, the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge, with certified copies of the above mentioned documents and votes from the Records of St. John's Lodge.—Notwithstanding, *John Carlile*, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge, with

others, did on the evening of said 15th of July, cause the Hall of St. John's Lodge in Newport to be opened, by having the lock removed, after being refused the key of the Hall by *BENJAMIN W. CASE* the Master of St. John's Lodge, whose duty it was, and still is by law to hold said key and who informed said Carlile that all connexion between him as Grand Master of the Grand Lodge, and St. John's Lodge No. 1, Newport, was totally Dissolved.

And whereas the said *John Carlile*, after violently entering St. John's Hall as above mentioned, did superintend an unconstitutional election, by declaring Members of another Lodge, officers of St. John's Lodge, and causing a new

lock to be put on the door of their Hall, thereby preventing the peaceable meetings of St. John's Lodge No. 1, in their own Hall.

WHEREFORE, It is Voted and Resolved by St. John's Lodge, No. 1, that all Meetings either called by *BENJAMIN W. CASE*, Master of St. John's Lodge, and all Regular and other Meetings, in whatever place they may be holden, shall be valid in law to all intents and purposes, as if held in their own Hall, any law usage or custom to the contrary notwithstanding, until St. John's Lodge, No 1, have honorable, quiet and Masonic occupancy of their own Hall.

A True Copy from the Records,
Attest, *T. R. PECKHAM, Sec'ry.*

70-9050

21 Bristol Ridge

(Taylor)

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Bill

Master & Wardens of

King Solomons Lodge No. 10

Greenwich

R.F.