

**RWB John Thomas Twining Hartt**  
1858 - 1937



**Occupation:** Barrister at Law

**Marital:** Single.

Father: Judah Hammond Hartt <sup>1</sup>

Mother: Emily Mary Peters  
1825-1898

Eldest daughter of Benjamin  
Lester Peters Sr..

*And Brother of Benjamin  
Lester Peters Jr. The 1<sup>st</sup>  
Grand Master in 1867*

Siblings:

Emily Winnett Hartt  
1849-1927

Benjamin L. Hartt  
1851-?

William Winnett Hartt  
1854-1871<sup>2</sup>

Fred H. Hartt  
1856-1919

Mary Winnett Hartt (Wm. F.  
Coleman, MD)  
1858-?

This portrait hangs in the Blue Room in the Masonic Temple in Saint John, New Brunswick. His is the only portrait of a person who was not a Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of New Brunswick.

<sup>1</sup> Died in New York City 1863 as reported in NB Courier, March 1863

<sup>2</sup> Lost at sea 1871 Between Saint John and Havana

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J. Twining Hartt was recognized in this way after serving as Grand Secretary for nearly 40 years; his service was cut short by a broken hip and the complications that followed led to his death. Details of his life and service beyond what can be found on the internet are difficult to discover. Much was said at the time of his death, but little was recorded.

When yet a child of five, his family lost their father; Judah Hammond Hartt died in New York City where they were living, in 1863. This left his mother with six small children, who by 1871 had returned to Saint John. The difficulties of a mother alone with several youngsters can only be imagined. However, we must believe that her family here in Saint John were generous. Emily Mary Hartt thereafter recorded herself as Emily Mary *PETERS* Hartt. She lived at 66 Garden St. in Saint John for the rest of her life, as did Emily Winnett Hartt, her daughter who never married. There were stresses we know about, as when William was lost overboard, and there must have been others for which no record is left. As for Twining, he followed his father's example and studied law. He must certainly have been supported by his uncle, Benjamin Lester Peters, Jr.

His service to Grand Lodge began in 1896 as the Grand Director of Ceremonies; the next year he began his long service as Grand Secretary, which lasted almost 40 years. Meanwhile, he served his own lodge, Union Lodge of Portland No.10, also as secretary. When he died the Board of General Purposes appointed a committee to make recommendations for a memorial. The committee, chaired by RW The Hon. J.B.M Baxter, Past Grand Master, suggested a Memorial Tablet to be displayed in the Blue Room. RWB Percival Burchill advanced a more explicit memorial and moved that a portrait be commissioned; seconded by RWB Baxter. At the unveiling, many spoke feelingly about Brother Hartt's masonic life and example. The depth of feeling expressed by the brethren at the time of his death was no doubt influenced by the recollection that Brother Hartt's contributions to the fraternity had been memorialized several years before. In 1922, after 25 years of service as Grand Secretary, the brethren presented him with a book of gratitude which is copied below. This book has rested in our archive since 1922 but seen by only a few.

Presented here are images of the 1922 Memorial Book as well as the portrait that was commissioned in 1937.

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ADDRESS TO

**R. W. Bro. J. Twining Hartt**

**GRAND SECRETARY**

**GRAND LODGE**

**FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS  
OF NEW BRUNSWICK**

Right Worschipful Brother

John Thomas William  
Major in the Reserve Militia of Canada,  
Grand Secretary and past Grand Warden  
of the Ancient and Honorable Fraternity  
of Free and Accepted  
Masons of New Brunswick.

**A**s Officers and Members of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of New Brunswick, in behalf of the Masters, Wardens, and Brethren of all the Lodges in the jurisdiction, we wish to congratulate you on the completion of twenty-five years of your tenure of office as Grand Secretary. Looking back to the time of your appointment, we realize that years pass quickly - our life so short, the Craft so long to learn. One lifetime is all too brief for the things we would accomplish; one man's strength too little. It is not for us to exhort you that you be not weary in well doing. While we thank you for what you have done, we feel that courage and fidelity will still hold you to the task. Not here, good Brother, will you receive full recognition of good work done without hope of fee or reward; yet ever here you may be partly repaid by the gratitude of those whom you have instructed and led, and may find some



compensation in the **M**aster **M**asons faith that no good work is wasted, though we know that our highest and noblest works can never fulfill the requirements of the **M**asters plans.

**A**s you pursue the journey of life, we trust with unabated ardour, may the glory and beauty of the **S**outh still fill you with delight; may the strength and succour of the **W**est give you endurance, the stillness of the **N**orth bring peace, the light and wisdom of the

**E**ast renew your energy and purpose with each dawning day. **T**hus may you pass along the way, till in the fullness of time, the great adventure come to you, and you pass through the **L**ast gate, as one by one we each shall pass, to find that which was lost. **M**ay many days of usefulness intervene, dear **B**rother, and many more be added to the number of friends and **B**rothers who now wish you well. **T**he days are evil. **O**ur ancient **F**raternity seems to prosper. **T**here is no lack of material, but there is much untempered mortar.

**O**ur knowledge of what is tried and proved will help us to follow the old ways. **W**e need your admiration and advice. **W**e beg you to accept the accompanying gift as a tangible expression of our affectionate regard.

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1	Albion Lodge	W.M.	15	Howard Lodge	W.M.	31	Benjamin Lodge	W.M.
2	St. John's Lodge	W.M.	16	Saint Andrew Lodge	W.M.	32	Campbellton Lodge	W.M.
3	Libertina Lodge	W.M.	17	Northumberland Lodge	W.M.	33	H. R. Humphrey	W.M.
4	Stanley M. Wilmot	W.M.	18	Rudolph H. Krober	W.M.	34	Alexandria Lodge	W.M.
5	Sussex Lodge	W.M.	19	Mirnycki Lodge	W.M.	35	Nathaniel Jones	W.M.
6	Wright & McLean	W.M.	20	P. Snowball	W.M.	36	Albert Lodge	W.M.
7	Hiram Lodge	W.M.	21	Salisbury Lodge	W.M.	37	H. W. Chapman	W.M.
8	Sussex Lodge	W.M.	22	Lion Lodge	W.M.	38	Carlton Lodge	W.M.
9	Carlton Union Lodge	W.M.	23	Orrey Wilson	W.M.	39	Shelley Stevens	W.M.
10	Harold Mayes	W.M.	24	The New Brunswick Lodge	W.M.	40	Astlar Lodge	W.M.
11	The Union Lodge of Portland	W.M.	25	Albert G. Hoar	W.M.	41	L. M. White	W.M.
12	Charles S. Savaya	W.M.	26	Keith Lodge	W.M.	42	Steven Lodge	W.M.
13	Woodstock Lodge	W.M.	27	Zetland Lodge	W.M.	43	Maratook Lodge	W.M.
14	Saint George Lodge	W.M.	28	Restigouche Lodge	W.M.	44	Clebrooke Lodge	W.M.
15	The Corinthian Lodge	W.M.	29	Victoria Lodge	W.M.	45	Bettel Lodge	W.M.
16	A. J. Brooks	W.M.	30	Fred. W. Boyd	W.M.	46	C. M. Redout	W.M.
17	Frank M. Stevens	W.M.	31	Lodge Saint John	W.M.	47	Tweedie Lodge	W.M.
18			32	Lebanon Lodge	W.M.	48	A. Sverston	W.M.
19			33	Saint Martins Lodge	W.M.	49	Sunbury Lodge	W.M.
20			34			50	Blackville W. D. Lodge	W.M.
21			35			51	J. F. Reid	W.M.
22			36			52		

