

APRIL 2026

ISSUE NO. 015

**THE
COMMON
G VEL**

A UNION LODGE MONTHLY MAGAZINE

MEET THE MASON

UPCOMING EVENTS

THE MASTER'S KEYS POEM

THE UPHAM FAMILY OF DORCHESTER

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DISTRICT MEETINGS

PROSPECT LODGE - 1ST MONDAY WESTWOOD

WEST ROXBURY-DORCHESTER LODGE - 1ST
WEDNESDAY WESTWOOD

ORIENT LODGE - 2ND MONDAY NORWOOD

RABBONI LODGE - 3RD TUESDAY WESTWOOD

CELESTIAL LODGE - 3RD WEDNESDAY WESTWOOD
WITH UNION LODGE (BY DISPENSATION)

LOI'S
4TH MONDAY OF SEPTEMBER, NOVEMBER, MARCH,
JUNE

**MEETINGS IN THE
6TH**





UPCOMING 6TH EVENTS

THURS
MAY
28

2ND DEGREE DISTRICT EXEMPLIFICATION

6PM DINNER 7PM OPEN
NORWOOD BUILDING
SUITS

TUES
MAY
19

RABBONI LODGE - WESTWOOD

8:00PM DDGM RECEIVED

TUXES REQUIRED TO BE ON SUITE

MON
JUNE
01

PROSPECT LODGE - WESTWOOD

8:00PM DDGM RECEIVED

TUXES REQUIRED TO BE ON SUITE

SAT
JUNE
27

MERGER CEREMONY - UNION LODGE & CELESTIAL LODGE

WESTWOOD, MORE INFO TO COME

MONDAY
JUNE
22

LOI/ DISTRICT COOKOUT

WESTWOOD, MORE INFO TO COME

The Master's Keys: David P. Newcomb

A Master's work is demanding. What came you here to do?
The trestle board yearns for your designs. Much is
expected of you.

Lodge is like a business. All brothers play a part.
As Master, use the Three Great Lights and the Working
Tools. Be smart.

All those tools have functions. The compasses and square,
The gavel, level, plumb and gauge hold answers hidden
there.

Soon, you'll set the craft at work with the square upon
your breast,

Giving necessary instruction, a Master's noble quest.
Your title, "Worshipful Master." The top hat, your
chapeau.

Entrusted with the charter, you're the lodge's CEO.
Observe your duties for widows, orphans and others in
distress,

By the Three Great Lights and the Working Tools - the keys
to a Master's success.

You've worked within the quarries, ascended winding
stairs,

And earned respect of brethren, to assume the Master's
Chair.

Accept your place in history as a bearer of the square,
While carrying on traditions of the Oriental Chair.
With ritual - so important, more than titles or jewels,
Live respected. Depart regretted. Use the Working Tools.

The implements of Masonry, wielded with expertise,
Are the Three Great Lights and the Working Tools. These
are the Master's keys.

With them, you're a leader, and a mentor - nothing less.
May the wisdom of King Solomon abide with you. God bless.



UNION LODGE (D)

AF&AM

CHARTERED 1796



Alexandria Trip

3/2/2026

Brethren,

We have decided to move the date of the Alexandria trip from the beginning of May to the end of May, due to time and scheduling conflicts.

We will now depart May 29th and return on May 31st.

Please see the updated flier on the next page.

Fraternally,

Andy Knight

NEW DATE!
MAY 29-31



EST. COST
\$300
PER PERSON
IF YOU SHARE
A ROOM

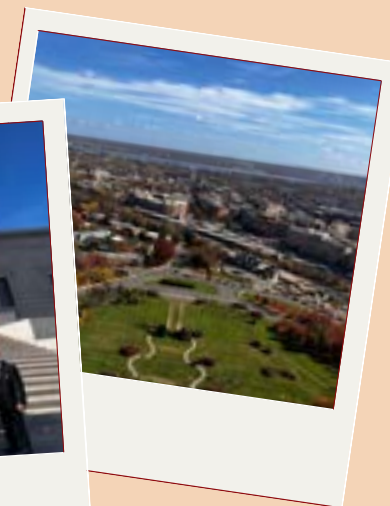
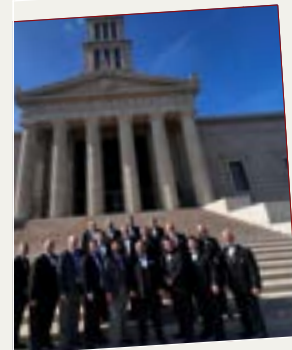
UNION LODGE'S

TRIP TO ALEXANDRIA

A WEEKEND OF FRATERNALISM IN VIRGINIA/WASHINGTON DC

ITINERARY:

- Friday **5/29**: Leave from Westwood 5AM, 10 hour drive, explore in groups
- Saturday **5/30**: Tour of Washington Masonic Monument, explore in groups, dinner
- Sunday **5/31**: Depart in the morning back to MA



RSVP: APRIL 10TH, 2026

Contact R.W. Shawn Robichaud for more information:

PHONE: 508-326-5652

-

EMAIL: DDGM6THDISTRICT2024@GMAIL.COM



Paul Revere Lodges

If anyone is interested in visiting the other Paul Revere Lodges in the juresdiction

Bristol Lodge A.F. & A.M.

Attleboro, 3rd Tuesday

Cincinnatus Lodge A.F. & A.M.

West Stockbridge, Friday on or
before Full Moon

Columbian Lodge A.F. & A.M.

Boston, 1st Thursday

Corinthian Lodge A.F. & A.M.

Concord, 2nd Monday

Evening Star Lodge A.F. & A.M.

Lee, Tuesday on or before Full Moon

Fellowship Lodge A.F. & A.M.

Bridgewater, Monday on or before
Full Moon

Harmony Lodge A.F. & A.M.

Greenfield, 3rd Wednesday

Jerusalem Lodge A.F. & A.M.

Hatfield, 1st Tuesday

King Hiram's Lodge A.F. & A.M.
Provincetown, 1st Monday

Meridian Lodge A.F. & A.M.
Natick, 3rd Wednesday

Middlesex Lodge A.F. & A.M.
Framingham, 3rd Tuesday

Montgomery Lodge A.F. & A.M.
Milford, 1st Thursday

Olive Branch Lodge A.F. & A.M.
Douglas, 2nd Monday

Republican Lodge A.F. & A.M.
Greenfield, 3rd Thursday

Saint Paul Lodge A.F. & A.M.
Gardner, 4th Wednesday

Simon W Robinson Lodge A.F. & A.M.
Lexington, 2nd Monday

Thomas Day Spring Lodge A.F. & A.M.
Monson, 2nd Tuesday

Union Lodge (D) A.F. & A.M.
Norwood, 2nd Tuesday
(will be changing to:
Westwood, 3rd Wednesday after
merger with Celestial Lodge)

THE UPHAM FAMILY OF DORCHESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

The Upham family is one of the oldest and most historically significant families associated with Dorchester, Massachusetts, with roots reaching back to the earliest period of English settlement in New England. Their story reflects the broader narrative of Puritan migration, colonial development, and the growth of civic and fraternal life in the region.

ORIGINS IN NEW ENGLAND

The family traces back to John Upham, who emigrated from England in the 1630s during the Great Migration of Puritans. He settled first in Dorchester—one of the earliest organized towns in the Massachusetts Bay Colony—before later moving to nearby Weymouth.

Dorchester at that time was a tightly knit Puritan community, and families like the Uphams played a key role in establishing its religious, agricultural, and civic foundations. Land ownership, church membership, and participation in town governance were central to their identity.



UPHAM'S CORNER

From the Boston Landmarks Commission

Upham's Corner encompasses an architecturally significant concentration of late 19th / early 20th century commercial, ecclesiastical and, to a lesser extent, residential structures. This area's buildings are overwhelmingly constructed of masonry materials and present the decidedly urban image of a small city's "downtown" or commercial district. Although this area conveys a sense of a once vital commercial district, presently struggling to survive a long litany of inner city problems, its historic resources are essentially unspoiled and might, indeed, provide the key to Upham's Corner's revitalization. This area is surrounded by three residential areas with potential for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places, including, Jones Hill to the southeast, Trull-Glendale Streets to the southwest and Virginia Monadnock Streets to the northwest. A fourth residential area, Humphreys-East Cottage Street also contains some important historic domestic architectural resources. At the center of these historic residential areas is Upham's Corner.

Upham's Corner, sometimes labeled "Columbia Square" late 19th century atlases, was named after Amos Upham (1788-1879), a merchant who kept a dry goods store in the square for many years. Upham opened a store in 1804 which stood on the site of the present **Columbia Square Building (578-588 Columbia Road)**. Upham's store was run by three generations of his family until as late as the mid 1890s. It was Amos and Abigail Humphrey Upham's son, James Humphreys Upham, who cast the deciding vote in 1869 to annex Dorchester to the City of Boston.

The old Federal style Upham's store was replaced during the mid 1890s by the present brick and granite structure that was variously known as "Odd Fellows," "Columbia Square Building" and "Upham's Building. It is said that Upham installed in his Columbia Building the very first electric light in Dorchester.

Union Lodge met at Upham's Corner and held their first meeting there September 13th, 1892. More than one hundred members were present and equal number of visiting Brethren.



JAMES HUMPHREYS UPHAM

BROTHER JAMES H. UPHAM was born in the town of Dorchester, Massachusetts, September 25, 1820. His education was obtained principally at the town school (now (1892) the Everett school) of Dorchester, until at the age of fourteen his father, Amos Upham, for business reasons, took him from school and placed him in his own grocery store at Upham's Corner, where for more than half a century his face has been as familiar as the old sign, behind which the business of father and son was continued. As a citizen, no man has had the confidence of his fellow-citizens and more immediate neighbors to a greater extent than he.

The settlement of estates, the division of property, the trusts and duties of executor and administrator have been frequently committed to him. He has also held many official positions in his native town, and to the discharge of these duties he invariably brought to play his best energies and business skill. On the 19th of June 1845, BROTHER UPHAM married Mary Bird, also of Dorchester, and a schoolmate.

BROTHER UPHAM was made a Mason in Union Lodge, Dorchester, in 1855, and a Master Mason, June 26th of the same year. Zealous and intelligent by nature, he almost at once entered into the work of the Lodge. He was elected Junior Warden in 1858, and became Worshipful Master in 1859 and 1860. In 1865 he was chosen Treasurer, and subsequently Lodge Chaplain. BROTHER UPHAM received his several degrees in Capitular Masonry in St. Andrew's Chapter, Boston, having been exalted to the Royal Arch degree June 1st, 1856.

Early in the year 1868, the companions in Dorchester united to establish a local Chapter, and COMPANION UPHAM became one of the founders [St. Stephen's Chapter], for which reason he severed his connection with St. Andrew's, February 28th, 1868, but resumed membership again in his Mother Chapter May 2d, 1878, St. Stephen's having decided to move to Quincy, and he is now a life-member of St. Andrew's.

On September 27, 1866, he became a member of Boston Council of Royal and Select Masters, having previously received the degrees therein, and maintained this connection until October 28, 1880. On June 15, 1859, he was created and dubbed a Knight Templar, Knight of Malta, of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, in Boston Commandery, and his membership in this body dates from November 16, 1859. As a Knight Templar, he has been emphatically a busy one. Almost constantly in office since his admission, he has been, successively: First, Second and Third Guard, Warder, Junior Warden, Senior Warden, Captain-General, until at the Annual Conclave in October 1877, he was elected Eminent Commander, and re-elected in 1878. During this second term as Commander he performed the Templar Burial Service no less than twelve times, often at much sacrifice of time and personal convenience. Under operation of the By-Laws, he became an honorary member of the Commandery, and has been its Prelate by election since October 1883.

On October 31, 1879, he was elected Grand Treasurer of the Grand Commandery of Massachusetts and Rhode Island, the duties of which office he continues to discharge with rare fidelity. Though it cannot add to his merit, it seems proper to say that he is the Grand Representative of the Grand Commandery of Illinois, near that of Massachusetts and Rhode Island, and an honorary member of Memphis Commandery, of Memphis, Tennessee, of Joseph Warren Commandery, of Roxbury, Mass., and St. John's, of Philadelphia. His interest in Freemasonry has not been limited to the York or American Rite only, but has extended to the A. and A. Scottish, where he has long been a life member in Lafayette Lodge of Perfection and the other bodies meeting in the Masonic Temple, in Boston, and culminating in Massachusetts Consistory.

He was also on the Historical Sketchbook Committee for Union Lodge in 1896 and contributed to its information. When Union Lodge still met at Friendship Lodge Wor. Bro. Upham was thanked for his "many donations of furniture".

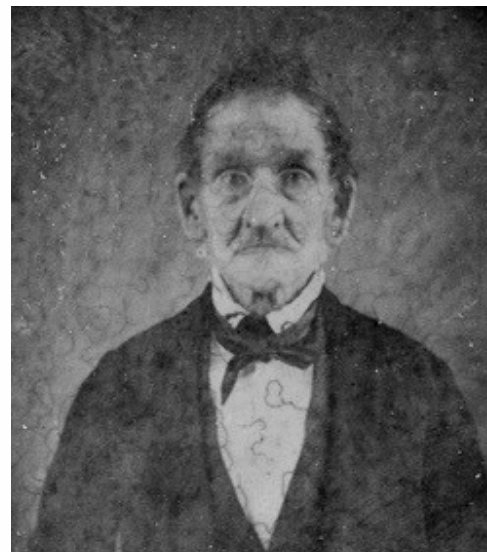
OTHER UPHAMS IN UNION HISTORY

Also noted in our Historical Sketch is Amos Upham who in 1858 was elected an honorary member at Union Lodge and was one of the oldest members who had taken their degrees at Union Lodge.

Amos was married to Abigail Humphreys. They were the parents of James H. Upham.

Amos was a known Freemason and member of the First Church of Dorchester. He lived from 1789-1872.

Amos Upham was noted as a "humble grocer" who, through his enterprise, helped define the commercial landscape of Dorchester.



MEET THE MASON

R.W.
SHAWN
C.
ROBICHAUD



Right Worshipful Robichaud has been a driving force in the Fraternity. He has drawn Brethren to Union Lodge like a magnet. This force has helped rebuild Union Lodge and get us back on the right track. Shawn pushes his brethren to want to accomplish more. R.W. Robichaud has served as DDGM for 3 consecutive years, a Past Master of Union Lodge 5 times, former Grand Pursuivant, District Deputy Grand Secretary, GL Proxy, and Ambassador. Shawn is a Joseph Warren Medal Recipient. R.W. Robichaud joined the fraternity at 18 years old after deciding to continue his journey from DeMolay.

Year Born: 1988

Born: Waltham, MA

Lives: Attleboro, MA

Profession: Electrician /Town of Weymouth

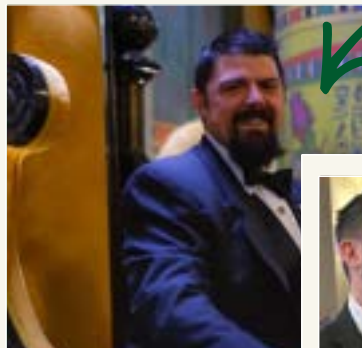
Spouse: Sarah

Hobbies: Motorcycles, Airsoft, Coaching
Lacrosse, Golf

Year Raised: 2007

Officer Position Held: Secretary, DDGM

Affiliations: Scottish Rite, Minutemen,
Shriners



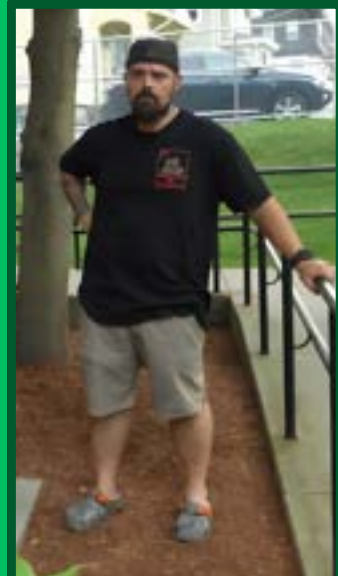
**SHAWN ON A
LODGE TRIP**



**SHAWN
RECEIVING
HIS JOSEPH
WARREN MEDAL**

MEET THE MASON

R.W. SHAWN C. ROBICHAUD



MEET THE MASON

BRO. WILLIAM LAURENCE WILKINSON IV



Brother William Wilkinson (affectionately known as Billy or Wilky) hit the ground running from the moment he was raised. He possesses a remarkable ability to make you feel as though you've known him for years. Wilky not only became a member of Union Lodge but also quickly affiliated with Delta Lodge, eagerly attending every Masonic event he could find. He epitomizes the essence of brotherhood—a man who will always have your back and stand steadfastly by your side. If you encounter him out in the community, you can expect to see him actively supporting events, assisting with parking at Cornerstone Lodge's monthly breakfast, or riding alongside his Brothers in the Widow's Sons.

Year Born: 1987

Born: Melrose, MA

Lives: Dorchester, MA

Profession: Union Iron Worker Foreman

Hobbies: Traveling with his wife, "Karaoke king of New England", anything Motorcycles

Year Raised: 2024

Spouse: Nicole

Other Lodges

Affiliations: Widow's Sons



DELIA AND
UNION LODGES
WILKY'S 2ND
DEGREE



BILLY AT WORK

MEET THE MASON

BRO. BILLY WILKINSON



MEET THE MASON

WOR.
TIMOTHY
PAUL
LEPHEW



Worshipful Tim LepheW has been an integral part of Union Lodge since he joined in 2022. He initially served as the Secretary before volunteering to step into the Officer line as Junior Warden. Tim has consistently offered his support, drawing on his extensive experience as a long-term Secretary in Orient, District Deputy Grand Marshall, Past Master of Orient Lodge, and District Ambassador, not to mention his roles in the appendant bodies. With a wonderful sense of humor and a smile that lights up any room, Tim truly makes a positive impact.

Year Born: 1968

Born: Detroit, MI

Lives: Norwood, MA

Profession: Medical Device Customer Service

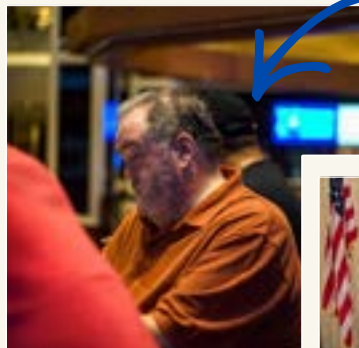
Hobbies: Travel, Reading, Geocaching

Year Raised: 2007

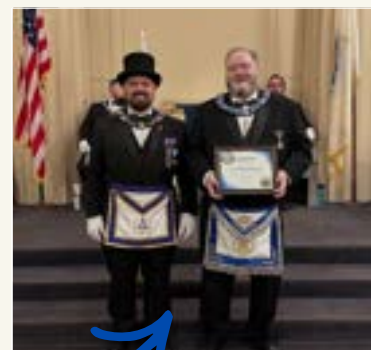
Officer Position Held: Junior Warden

Spouse: Sharon

Affiliations: York Rite, Scottish Rite, Knights of St. Andrew



RECEIVING A
COMMENDATION
FROM THE
DISTRICT



TIM ON ONE OF
OUR ANNUAL
TRIPS

MEET THE MASON

WOR. TIM LEPHEW



UNIONLODGEDORCHESTER.ORG

UNIONLODGEDORCHESTER.ORG

OUR NEW WEBSITE IS CURRENTLY LIVE

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