

FEBRUARY 2025

ISSUE NO. 002



THE COMMON G VEL



A UNION LODGE MONTHLY MAGAZINE

ISAIAH THOMAS AND THE MASSACHUSETTS SPY?

UPCOMING
DISTRICT
EVENTS

MASONIC
HONOR
FLIGHT

BLOOD
DONOR
PROGRAMS

AN UPDATE ON OUR NEW YORK TRIP

P. S. GENERAL HAMILTON
no more !—His DEATH is confirm

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From the Editor

Brethren,

I wanted to apologize for a discrepancy in the last issue regarding the "Brief History" segment of the publication. I was taking information from an online PDF version of our historical book and I copied it to plain text from its original state so I could copy and paste it into the publication. However, with the historical nature and old printing methods, the computer was confused by some of the words and jumbled some of them together, while leaving others incomplete. This was brought to my attention after I sent it out. With all of the duties of a Master, on top of, a full time job I neglected to proof read that segment. With The Lodge of Instruction being in such close proximity to my sending it out, I rushed to get the information out to the membership as quickly as I could!

My apologies and I hope my efforts in putting this together for you all is well received and can give you an additional sense of pride into your Lodge and this great Fraternity!

Fraternally,

Andy Knight

MASTER OF UNION LODGE (D)

UNION LODGE
AF&AM



PLEASE JOIN US

May 2-4th



PROSPECT LODGE
AF&AM

✱ A SPECIAL MASONIC DEGREE IN ✱

NEW YORK



As we continue to plan for this special occasion we ask that you save the date to join us in the continuance of our Union Lodge tradition. This year we have asked Prospect lodge to partner with us and wish to invite members from throughout the District to share in a memorable and Fraternal weekend as we perform Massachusetts Masonic Ritual at the Grand Lodge of New York. This will be a 2 night trip leaving mid day Friday and returning on Sunday. We will be working out the final details soon. But here's what we have so far:

The total cost will be between \$250-300 Per person.

This cost will reflect 2 nights in a hotel shared with another brother, fuel, tolls, and transportation, and a group dinner on Saturday night.

You will be responsible for booking your hotel. More info to come!

UNION AND CELESTIAL LODGES PRESENT

Cues for a Cause TOURNAMENT

GRAND PRIZE 50" TV

MARCH 22ND, 2025 @2:30 PM

- BRACKET STYLE POOL TOURNAMENT
- ONE ON ONE TIMED GAMES
(AT END OF TIME, PLAYER WITH MOST SUNK BALLS WINS)
- 2 GAMES AT ONE TIME
- CORNHOLE GAMES FOR \$5 PER GAME
(WINNER OF EACH GAME GETS THEIR MONEY BACK)
- CONCESSIONS FOR A RECOMMENDED DONATION
- OTHER GAMES AND ACTIVITIES THROUGHOUT THE DAY
- PRIZES FOR 1ST, 2ND, AND 3RD!

\$5

FOR

SPECTATORS

\$50 PER PERSON
PRE-REGISTRATION
IS REQUIRED



FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO RSVP:
ANDY KNIGHT
F2NBASS@YAHOO.COM

PLEASE RSVP BY
MARCH 15TH, 2022



Massachusetts Freemasonry Presents...



A RACE AGAINST TIME TO SAY THANK YOU.

"Transporting America's veterans to Washington, D.C. to visit those memorials dedicated to honoring their service and sacrifices."



Brethren in this photo: Bro. George H. Raymond, RW Timothy S. McGavin, Wor. George H. Raymond, Howard Luckett - WWII Veteran, RW Arthur H. Sharp, Sr., Wor. John J. Moore, Bro. Frank J. Burke - their Veterans are seated in front row, except Howard Luckett standing with us)

Honor Flight New England joined with the national organization Honor Flight Network in the Spring of 2009, and is a non-profit organization dedicated to honoring America's most senior veterans. Through generous donations, we transport our heroes to Washington, D.C., to visit and reflect at their memorials AT NO COST TO THE VETERAN. Top priority is currently given to our most senior Veterans, along with those other veterans who may be terminally ill. Beginning in the Spring of 2022, Honor Flight New England also began transporting Vietnam Veterans.

Our Goal

Our goal is to fill the plane with Masonic Brethren who are Veterans - WWII, Korean War, Vietnam War. Over the coming months, we want to fill a flight to Washington, D.C.. Applications will be collected and submitted to Honor Flight New England for their review and approval.



It is estimated that there are currently less than 200,000 surviving WWII Veterans of the 16 million that served. It is also estimated that approximately 180 WWII Veterans are passing each day. Korean War Veterans are not far behind, they are in their 80's and 90's. Although Vietnam Veterans are younger, they are experiencing health problems related to their war service.

Our first flight was on June 13, 2009. It was a humbling experience to be with these Veterans on our maiden voyage to D.C. Of those 50 Veterans and Guardians traveling with us, on board were 14 WWII II Prisoners of War and 5 World War II Heroes, including one hero that lost his sight while serving his country.

Honor Flight New England has learned a lot over the years, most notably that our veteran heroes aren't asking for recognition. It is our position that they deserve it. Our program is just a small token of our appreciation for those that gave so much.

Please help us continue to make their dream of visiting THEIR memorials a reality. HONOR FLIGHT NEW ENGLAND — our way of saying to our veterans — one more TOUR with HONOR.

A RACE AGAINST TIME TO SAY THANK YOU!

To Sponsor a Mason for this trip, the total cost is about \$750. The Grand Lodge is currently looking for us, as Masons, to find Brethren who fit this criteria, or may be interested in being a guardian to assist in helping our veterans get around throughout the day. If you are interested please contact the number or email below to get involved!

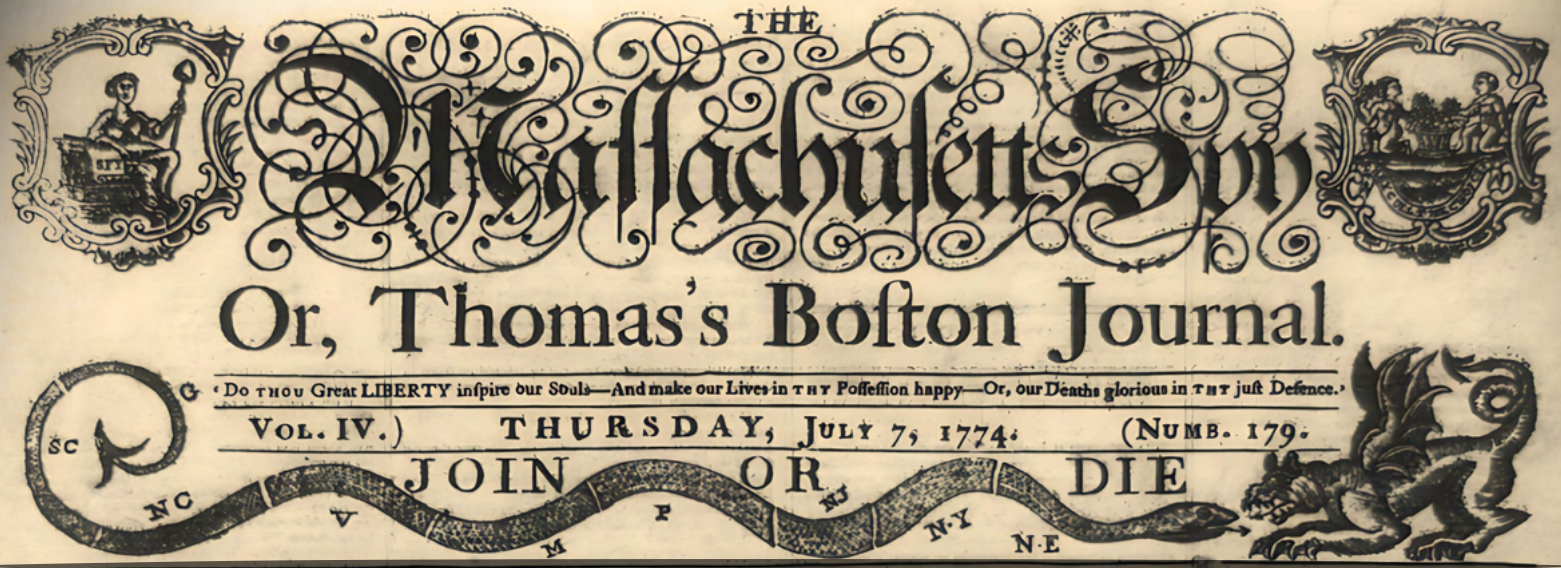


Honor Flight N.E. operates on donations and transports veterans to Washington, D.C., at no cost to them.

If a lodge would like to donate towards the Masonic Honor flight trip, please reach out directly to RW John A. MacLeod and Wor. George H. Raymond. Sponsorships range from apparel to lunch to bus transportation and anything can be customized to help make this trip memorable while supporting the incredible efforts of Honor Flight N.E.

Masonic Honor Flight
186 Tremont St. Boston, MA 02116
[781-626-2907](tel:781-626-2907)
honorflight@massfreemasonry.net





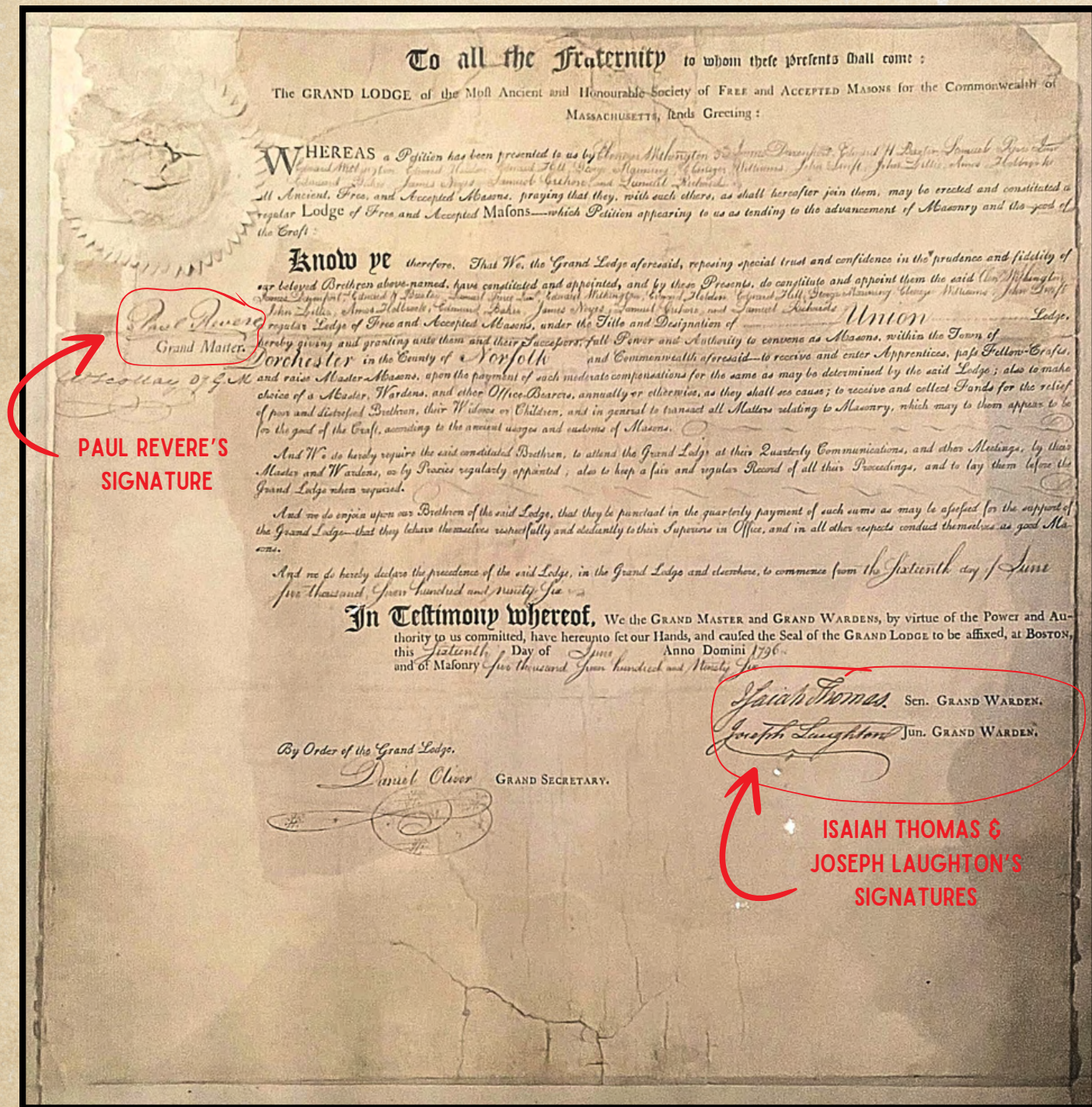
Isaiah Thomas (born January 19, 1749 – died April 4, 1831) was a radical anti-British printer and journalist who published the Massachusetts Spy from 1770 until 1801. (The newspaper continued to be published until 1904.) In 1801, he handed over control of the Massachusetts Spy to his son.

The April 6, 1775, issue of the spy was the last issue of the publication printed in Boston. His press and type were discreetly packed up and transported across the Charles River at night, with assistance from General Warren and others. The Publication was then operational out of Worcester. The newspaper was the first to publish eyewitness accounts of the **Battles of Lexington and Concord**, the initial confrontations of the **American Revolutionary War**, and its reports played a crucial role in reinforcing colonial resistance to British authority. The Massachusetts Spy gained recognition as one of the most significant newspapers in the colonies.

However, Isaiah Thomas was not just a publisher. He is also known as one of our "Best Known Grand Masters" according to Spy to Antiquarian. His Masonic journey began sometime after 1787. He became the first Master of the Morning Star Lodge in Worcester, MA, which is still an active Lodge to this day.



M.W. Thomas served as Senior Grand Warden from 1795 to 1797, during which time M.W. Paul Revere held the position of Grand Master of Masons in Massachusetts. This connection is why Isaiah Thomas is referenced in this contemporary publication about Union Lodge (D). Prior to exploring our history, I had no knowledge of who Isaiah Thomas was. He was one of the signers of our Charter, which bore the signatures of Paul Revere, Grand Master; William Scollay, Deputy Grand Master; Isaiah Thomas, Senior Grand Warden; Joseph Laughton, Junior Grand Warden; and was attested by Daniel Oliver, Grand Secretary.



Union Lodge's Charter and the Signatures of Isaiah Thomas and Paul Revere.

Isaiah went on to be Grand Master from 1803-1805 and then again in 1809. Like his long-time friend Paul Revere, Thomas was well-known outside the fraternity as well as within it. His success as a businessman permitted him to retire in 1802, and gave him ample time to devote his attention to other interests. In addition to Freemasonry, Thomas was a skilled antiquarian; he published the seminal *History of Printing in America* in 1810, and in 1812 was a principal founder of the American Antiquarian Society, to which he ultimately donated his extensive library. He served as president of that organization until his death.



Isaiah Thomas's Printing Office at Old Sturbridge Village

The building containing his 1796 printing office is currently located at Old Sturbridge Village; it lies a few hundred yards from the town green, near the stately house of Bro. Salem Towne. The press and other facilities are modest, yet it is the workplace of a skilled craftsman, a master of his trade in a small but growing town. It is in some ways quintessentially American, the sort of humble surrounding from which came the sorts of words that could start a revolution or build a nation. It is a fitting memorial to the indomitable spirit of Isaiah Thomas.

Information for this article was taken from:

<https://masonicgenealogy.com/MediaWiki/index.php?title=UnionD>

<https://masonicgenealogy.com/MediaWiki/index.php?title=GMThomas>

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Isaiah-Thomas>

UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY 11TH

UNION LODGE FRATERNAL VISIT
6:30PM OPEN - NORWOOD

MARCH 19TH

CELESTIAL LODGE FRATERNAL
DDGM CROSSES AT 8PM -
WESTWOOD BUILDING - TUXES
REQUIRED FOR THE SUITE

APRIL 14TH

ORIENT LODGE FRATERNAL
DDGM CROSSES AT 8PM -
NORWOOD BUILDING - TUXES
REQUIRED FOR THE SUITE

MARCH 5TH

WRDL FRATERNAL VISIT
DDGM CROSSES AT 8PM -
WESTWOOD BUILDING - TUXES
REQUIRED FOR THE SUITE

MARCH 24TH

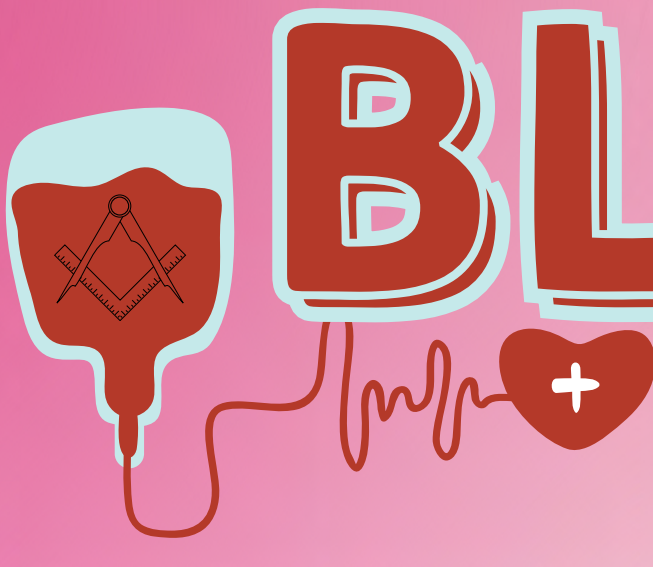
LODGE OF INSTRUCTION
ALL OFFICERS REQUIRED TO
ATTEND - BUILDING TBD

APRIL 30TH

EXEMPLIFICATION
FIRST DEGREE EXEMPLIFICATION
FOR THE DISTRICT
ALL OFFICERS REQUIRED -SUITS

UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE 6TH





BLOOD DRIVES

LETS START WITH SOME FACTS*

- Every 2 seconds someone in the U.S. needs blood and or platelets.
- Approximately 29,000 units of red blood cells are needed every day in the U. S.
- Nearly 5,000 units of platelets and 6,500 units of plasma are needed daily in the U.S.
- Nearly 16 million blood components are transfused each year in the U.S.
- Sickle cell disease affects 90,000 to 100,000 people in the U.S. About 1,000 babies are born with the disease each year. Sickle cell patients can require blood transfusions throughout their lives.
- The average red blood cell transfusion is approximately 3 units.
- A single car accident victim can require as many as 100 units of blood.
- Blood and platelets cannot be manufactured; they can only come from volunteer donors.
- The blood type most often requested by hospitals is type O.
- One donation can help save more than one life.
- According to the American Cancer Society, more than 1.9 million people are expected to be diagnosed with cancer in 2023. Many of them will need blood, sometimes daily, during their chemotherapy treatment.



WHAT CAN WE DO TO HELP?

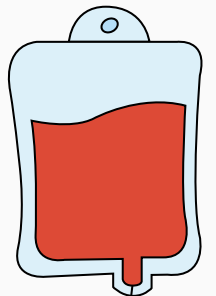
THERE'S A FEW WAYS THAT YOU CAN HELP WITH THE CONSTANT DEMAND FOR BLOOD IN THE U.S.

Every 8 weeks **Celestial Lodge** hosts a blood drive at the Westwood Masonic lodge located at 655 High St. the next one will be scheduled for March Friday 14th.

Orient Lodge hosts blood drives at Pingree Hall at the First Congregational Church in Norwood located at 100 Winter St. their next Blood Drive is scheduled for Saturday, March 22nd.

At these events the lodges are always looking for volunteers to help direct donators to their correct locations and call them to their appointments as needed. You can also schedule an appointment to donate if you meet the necessary requirements.

If you are unable to attend these events in our district, please check the Dana Farber or Red Cross websites to see where the closest donation center or event is to you!



VISIT THE WEBSITES:
WWW.DANA-FARBER.ORG
WWW.REDCROSSBLOOD.ORG

