

# Lodge Bulletin

May 2026



[www.AW22.org](http://www.AW22.org)

# Master's Message

Brethren,

May honors James Otis Jr. and his themes of *Voice and Conscience*. Otis was a Mason of St. John's Lodge in Boston and one of the first voices to put American liberty into language the world would not forget. In America's 250th year, the anniversary of his death falls this very month.

In February 1761, fifteen years before independence was declared, Otis argued for nearly five hours before the Massachusetts Superior Court against the writs of assistance, the general search warrants the Crown was using to ransack colonial homes. He lost the case, but a young John Adams sat in the courtroom taking notes, and decades later wrote that then and there the child Independence was born (more on this in Bro. Habibipour's article below). Otis did not win the argument but gave the Revolution its first language.

He coined the line that taxation without representation is tyranny, mentored Samuel Adams, and turned colonial grievance into constitutional principle.

In 1769, a British customs officer attacked Otis in a Boston coffeehouse and beat him about the head with a cane. The years that followed were difficult ones, and he watched from a quieter place as the cause he had lit grew into a war and a nation. He died on May 23, 1783, struck by lightning at a friend's home in Andover, just as he had once prophesied to his sister stating, "My dear sister, I hope, when God Almighty in his righteous providence shall take me out of time into eternity that it will be by a flash of lightning."

May is also Mental Health Awareness Month. The years after Otis's greatest service were hard ones for him, and the friends and Brothers around him met those years with the steady, patient love that ought to define what it means to belong to a Lodge. They stayed close and never stopped seeing the man they had always known.

Most of us will never argue a five-hour case against an empire, but all of us are asked to stand with a Brother who is carrying more than he can bear alone.

Sincerely and Fraternaly,

Jonathan J. Siudmak

Worshipful Master

Master@AW22.org





# May 2026

## *May 1*

*Fraternal Visit to Manasseh Lodge No. 182*

6:30 PM | Fellowship Dinner

7:30 PM | Stated Communication

Manasseh Lodge No. 182

## *May 3*

3:00 PM | Trustees Meeting

Remote Session

## *May 14*

6:30 PM | Fellowship Dinner

7:30 PM | Stated Communication

Open Program:

Presentation on James Otis, Jr.

by Penn State Professor, Stephen Howard Browne

GWMNM

## *May 21*

7:00 PM | Entered Apprentice Catechism Return & Fellowcraft Degree

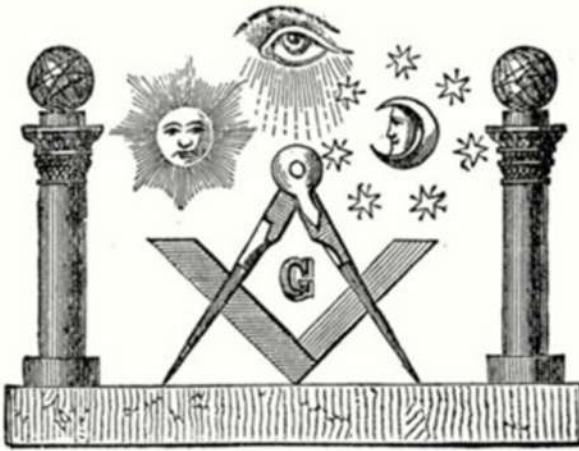
GWMNM

## *May 30*

12:00 PM | Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22 Annual Family Picnic

GWMNM

- Catechism Schools are every Thursday night at 6:30 PM and Saturday morning at 10:00 AM unless otherwise noted. Ritual Schools are every Thursday night (except on Stated Communication night) at 7:30 PM unless otherwise noted. All Masons are welcome.
- To follow the Master's personal Masonic schedule. Please view the Master@AW22.org shared Google Calendar.



# Bill of Fare

April 9

## Salad

Caesar Salad

## Entrée

Spirale & Chicken | Blackend Salmon

## Sides

Garlic Buttermilk Mashed Potatoes | Garlic Green Beans

## Dessert

Assorted Desserts

*Suggested Donation: \$10*

Please RSVP to [reservations@AW22.org](mailto:reservations@AW22.org)

# Quarry Gems



# Ex Verbis

James Otis, Jr.'s Pamphlet:

*"The Rights of the British Colonies Asserted and Proved"*

In the summer of 1764, James Otis published *The Rights of the British Colonies Asserted and Proved* in Boston, printed by Edes and Gill. The pamphlet appeared in the months following passage of the Sugar Act and a year before the Stamp Act, when the constitutional question of Parliament's authority to tax the colonies was beginning to take definite shape. It is the most fully developed of Otis's political writings, and the work in which his earlier courtroom argument against the writs of assistance was recast as a general theory of government.

The pamphlet proceeds in four parts: the origin of government, colonies in general, the natural rights of colonists, and their political and civil rights. Otis grounded the whole structure in natural law drawn primarily from Locke. Government, he wrote, is founded on the necessities of human nature and exists for the security and enjoyment of life, liberty, and property. Authority is fiduciary, held in trust for the good of the whole, and originally and ultimately in the people. From these premises he argued that Parliament could not lawfully tax the colonies without their consent, because consent in matters of property requires representation, and the colonies had none.

What distinguishes the pamphlet from other works of the period is the breadth of its application. Otis did not confine his argument to the rights of British subjects in America. He opened the section on natural rights by asking the reader to grant only that the colonists were men, "the common children of the same Creator" as their brethren in Great Britain, and from that single premise he reasoned outward. The colonists were freeborn under the law of nature, "as indeed all men are, white or black." He went on to attack the slave trade as a violation of natural law and to ask plainly whether any logical inference in favor of slavery could be drawn from the color of a man's skin or the shape of his face. Few writers of the period were willing to follow the natural rights argument that far.

The reasoning is recognizably Masonic in temper, though Otis was not making a Masonic argument. He began with the universality of human nature and worked outward toward political conclusions, rather than beginning with a particular grievance and reaching for principles to justify it. The principle is the foundation; the political claim is the consequence. A man cannot claim the rights of nature for himself while denying them to his neighbor, because those rights are not his to grant. They belong to the neighbor by the same authority that grants them to him.

The pamphlet is not without tension, as Otis insists throughout that the colonies remain subordinate to Great Britain and that Parliament's authority, though limited, is still supreme within its proper sphere. Later writers would resolve that tension in favor of independence; Otis did not. He held both commitments at once, and the document records the strain of holding them.

What the pamphlet shows is a mind reasoning from first principles in real time, willing to follow the argument wherever it led, to representation, to consent, to the rights of the enslaved, even when the conclusions ran ahead of what his own society was prepared to accept. The man who insisted in 1764 that all men were the common children of the same Creator was, when his own years grew dark, treated by his Brothers and friends with the dignity he had argued every man was owed.

John Adams, who knew Otis as well as anyone, said he had never known a man whose ten years of service to the country had been so important and essential. The Rights of the British Colonies is the document in which that service can be read in Otis's own hand.

*Study by Wor. Jonathan J. Siudmak*



# Perspectives of the Craft

James Otis, Jr.: Forgotten Founding Father by Bro. Aaron Habibipour

James Otis, Jr. was an influential pre-revolutionary whose fiery speeches and challenges to the English crown were likely a core spark to the powder keg of revolution, inspiring his many Boston peers (and fellow Masons) to rise up for American Independence. History seems to somewhat diminish his contributions, however, likely because of his struggles with his personal life and mental illness, which kept him from being counted amongst the nation's most famous founding fathers.

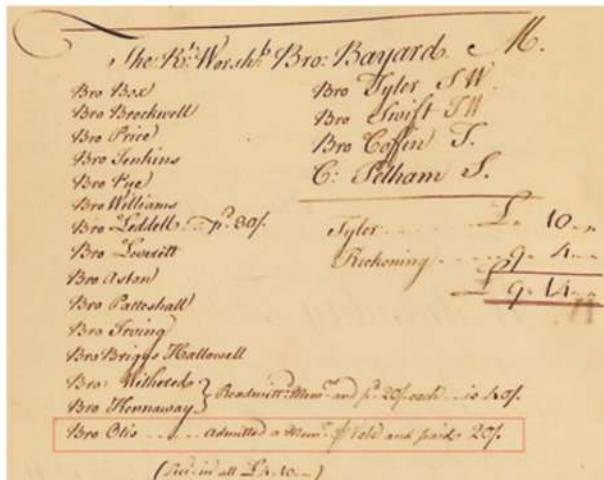


Otis was born February 5, 1725, his father James Otis, Sr a Farmer and self taught Lawyer. Throughout his childhood and early adult life he was an obsessive student, often foregoing sleep and food in place of study. He graduated from Harvard in 1743.

Otis' accomplishments lead to his appointment to advocate general in 1760, acting as the Crown's legal representative. One of his duties was to defend the Writs of Assistance, which enabled the British Military to search private property without probable cause or permission from the owner. Otis disagreed with the Writ, and soon found himself at a crossroads. Despite the consequences, he resigned his office to then defend the merchants of Boston. He gave a fiery 5 hour long speech defending the rights of British citizens, and while he lost, this case was arguably the spark of the coming revolution. John Adams said years later that "Then and there was the first scene of the first Act of opposition to the Arbitrary claims of Great Britain. Then and there the Child Independence was born. ... The seeds of Patriots & Heroes ... were then & there sown."

In the 1760's, Otis entered politics, gaining a seat in the Massachusetts House of Representatives. During this time he and Samuel Adams crafted many pamphlets, including "The Rights of the British Colonists Exerted and Proved," which stated that government actions that violated the natural and civil rights of citizens were not legal. Otis then further expanded his arguments, saying that Americans lacked representation in Parliament, making it unconstitutional for Parliament to tax American colonists.

Masonically, there are some interesting results from an attempt to dig into his career, and it seems as erratic as his public life. Some sites and papers say that Otis was made a Mason at St John's Lodge (also referred to as First Lodge) on March 11, 1752. The Grand Lodge of Massachusetts's records only log him as "Admitted a Mason," meaning that he only affiliated to the lodge on this date.



Next, His record shows that Otis was made Senior Warden before being raised a Master Mason. The Grand Lodge's records also show that when he was finally raised in 1754, it was without the usual investigation process - he simply shows up to the Master's lodge, and is "introduced, examined, approved, and raised." Contrary to widely held belief, there is also no record of Otis belonging to St. Andrews Lodge, whose roster included many of the revolutionary Freemasons of Boston.

Name <b>Otis, James</b>			
Residence		Occupation <b>Attorney</b>	Nativity <b>West Barnstable</b> 1725-2-5
Lodge	Initiated	Passed	Raised 1754-1-4 Masters (O.R.)
Membership	Dim. Sus. Dis.	Reinstated	Deceased 1783-5-23
Remarks Affil. First Lodge: 1752-3-11 (O.R.) S.W. Second Lodge 1753-4 (I.Mass. 27ff) Re-affil. Second Lodge 1772-12-16 (O.R.)			

(images and lodge records courtesy of Grand Lodge of Mass.)

Otis' emotional life is a precarious one. In his youth he was a dedicated student, though often given to "strange episodes". As an adult, he married Ruth Cunningham Otis, who was fervently loyal to the British crown, which may have contributed to his often uncertain politics - even though he fiercely stood up for reform, he also considered himself a loyal British citizen. His father was also in politics and the younger Otis took many of the family rivalries very personally, often over reacting. By the late 1760's his uncontrollable temper, anxiety, alcoholism, and mood swings were taking their toll.

James Otis had been quarreling with local tax collectors in the papers and press ever since the Townshend acts, and in 1769, he challenged customs official John Robinson to meet him in person, practically challenging him to a duel. This led to an inevitable physical altercation, and ended with Otis stumbling out of a tavern with a deep head wound from being hit in the head with a cane.

From here on, Otis' life goes into a steep decline. Some argue that he had always suffered from a mood disorder, while others claim that many of his symptoms were explainable by the traumatic brain injury he suffered. Nevertheless, Otis went from brilliant orator to a "ship without a rudder." In 1770 he turned violent, breaking the windows in his townhouse and shooting his guns out of the window. While he had some brief moments of recovery and tried to resume work, he was found "non compos mentis" several times and by 1777 he was watching the revolutionary war from a distance in the countryside, in the care of his family. He had lost everything.

Otis died May 23, 1783. He was struck by lightning, and is laid to rest in Granary Cemetery in Boston.

*"The only principles of public conduct, that are worthy of a gentleman or a man, are to sacrifice estate, ease, health, and applause, and even life to the sacred calls of his country. These manly sentiments, in private life, make the good citizen; in public life, the patriot and the hero."*

*-James Otis, Jr., 1761*

# From the Desk of The Worshipful Master

## *NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR REINSTATEMENT*

Brethren,

Pursuant to **Section 4.26** of the Methodical Digest of the Grand Lodge of Virginia, notice is hereby given that *Worshipful Brother Daniel Elias Froggett*, has submitted to the Secretary a written application for reinstatement to the rights and benefits of Masonry. The application will be read audibly at the Stated Communication on Thursday, May 14th, noted upon the record, and will then lie over for the consideration of the Brethren.

The governing sections of the Digest are reproduced below in full so that every member may be fully informed before the matter is taken up:

**Sec. 4.25. Applications for Reinstatement; When, How and After What Time Made, and When and How Frequently Can be Renewed.** — All applications for reinstatement must be made at a stated communication of the Lodge. A Mason suspended or expelled for un-Masonic conduct shall make written application for reinstatement; Provided, that a Mason suspended for un-Masonic conduct shall not apply for reinstatement to the rights and benefits of Masonry until after the expiration of six months from the date of his suspension, and cannot apply again until after the expiration of six months; and a Mason expelled for un-Masonic conduct shall not apply for reinstatement until after the expiration of twelve months from the date of his expulsion, and cannot again apply until after the expiration of twelve months.

Individuals expelled for conviction of a felony shall not be eligible for reelection for membership in any Lodge so long as that conviction shall remain in effect. If the expelled Mason shall have received an absolute pardon or have been granted a Writ of Actual Innocence by the Supreme Court of Virginia with his civil rights restored, he shall be eligible to petition for reelection. (2022) [Refer: E-5-1989]

## DECISIONS

1905 D-10, §-2.154, §-2.155, §-4.25 — Brother suspended for non-payment of dues can apply for and be granted reinstatement and restoration at any stated communication of the Lodge which suspended him, the provisions of Sections 2.154 and 2.155 having been complied with. (T. N. Davis)

1926 D-8, §-4.25 — Brother expelled nine years ago has no right to appeal. His recourse is to apply for reinstatement to the Lodge which expelled him. (C. H. Callahan)

1988 D-11, §-2.123, §-4.25 — Former member of Lodge suspended for non-payment of dues, paid up his arrearage but was rejected for restoration to the rights and benefits of Masonry and membership. Appealed under Section 4.25 which was approved and he was declared a non-affiliate with the right to petition a Lodge for affiliation. (D. M. Robey)

**Sec. 4.26. Proceedings Upon Such Application; Application to be Read and Noted on Record, to Lie Over, and Notice to be given.** — The Worshipful Master shall direct such application to be read audibly and noted upon the record and shall order notice to be given to all the members of the Lodge that the application has been presented and laid over for consideration. (2022)

## DECISIONS

1991 D-4, §-4.26 Error in entertaining application when received, rather than laid over, healed. (G. W. Farley)

This application will lie over to a subsequent Stated Communication for the action of the Lodge.

Sincerely & Fraternaly,

Jonathan J. Siudmak

Worshipful Master

Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22, A.F. & A.M.

# From the Desk of

## The Alexandria-Washington Lodge No. 22

### Foundation

Greetings from the Alexandria Washington Lodge Foundation No.22,

As you know the Foundation is charged with providing funding to help with the preservation, restoration, care, maintenance, and providing education on our valuable collection of George Washington's artifacts.

Below is a list of tasks that the Foundation is working on or has worked on:

1. The Foundation has authorized \$11, 118.00 to cover the cost of the development of an effort to begin the actual evaluation of what it would take to restore the William Williams painting in the replica room as well as obtaining conservation plans for several of our paintings in the Lodge Room and the Ante Room.
2. The foundation is working on revising our Foundation Webpage to make it more current and add various giving levels to accommodate the members of the Lodge.
3. The Foundation is working very closely with the Archives Committee and the Lodge Trustees to understand conservation needs and projects that are in the pipeline.

The foundation is requesting you consider a donation: While we have authorized additional spending for supporting our collection (as discussed in item #1 above), we anticipate that approximately seventy thousand dollars (in addition) will be needed for the following:

1. Support the restoration of an Oil Painting of George Washington in the near term.
2. Support the restoration of a Painting of Lafayette in the near term.
3. Administrative expenses to support the collection will be needed.
4. Also, it is anticipated that some of our other paintings will need restoration going into next year and beyond.

5. We are waiting on the results from the Archives Committee, who is working with a vendor to understand the cost of restoring the William Williams painting. Given the delicacy of the William Willaims painting t the Archives Committee determined it to be prudent to partner with a vendor to derive the estimate.

6. The Archives Committee is committed to increasing the visibility of the collection to the membership and public. As you may have noted at several of our stated meetings, between dinner and the stated, WB Tom McMahan has shown several items from our collection in the Ante Room.

7. The Foundation is looking at ways over and above our webpage to garner donations.

We at Alexandria Washington, enjoy a strong heritage from our first President as he was a Master of our Lodge. We have items from American History that nobody else has. It is with this perspective in mind, that I ask each of the two hundred eighty two (282) members of Alexandria Washington Lodge to consider donating to our Foundation. Our Foundation is 501(c3) and any donation is tax deductible. By donating to our Foundation, you are preserving our history and the collection of George Washington.

Should you have any questions regarding a donation, please contact me at [ts61416@yahoo.com](mailto:ts61416@yahoo.com) or call me on my mobile at (703) 618 8085. Donations can be sent to Alexandria Washington Lodge No. 22 Secretary 101 Callahan Drive Alexandria, VA 22301. Please make checks payable to Alexandria Washington Lodge Foundation. Also, donations can be made at:

<https://aw22.org/aw-22-foundation/> scroll to the cornerstone campaign.

Thank You for your consideration in this matter.

Tim Shrum

*Chairman Alexandria Washington Lodge No. 22 Foundation Inc.*



Learn how you can make a tax deductible donation today:



# Happy Masonic Birthday



BRO. FRANK LEE BALLENGER, III, MAY 22, 59 YEARS  
BRO. DONALD SMITH KENNEY, MAY 22, 59 YEARS  
RW DONALD LEO MCANDREWS, MAY 22, 56 YEARS  
BRO. RICHARD ROBERT MCELWEE, MAY 1, 51 YEARS  
WOR. ALTON LEVERN MILLER, JR., MAY 14, 51 YEARS  
BRO. JOHN JOSEPH CORNNELL, JR., MAY 17, 50 YEARS  
BRO. CHARLES ALBERT GORTON, MAY 12, 49 YEARS  
BRO. ARTHUR VINCENT SMITH, MAY 12, 47 YEARS  
BRO. A. VINCENT MAY, MAY 19, 47 YEARS  
BRO. ARTHUR WILLARD PIERSON, MAY 1, 45 YEARS  
BRO. CHARLES LEANDER MOORE, JR., MAY 29, 40 YEARS  
BRO. JAMES ROBERTSON KENT, JR., MAY 27, 39 YEARS  
BRO. JAQUES JEAN-CLAUDE BRET, MAY 29, 36 YEARS  
BRO. PHILIP GRANT GRAESSLE, II, MAY 6, 35 YEARS  
RW MARK WAYNE UNDERWOOD, MAY 11, 34 YEARS  
BRO. CHESTER CLAUDE COOK, MAY 23, 34 YEARS  
BRO. CONOR TORQUIL SINCLAIR, MAY 15, 27 YEARS  
BRO. WADE STUART ALEXANDER, MAY 15, 26 YEARS  
BRO. THOMAS LEE AMMAZZALORSO, MAY 16, 21 YEARS  
BRO. FERDINAND CHARLES PETITO, MAY 21, 19 YEARS  
BRO. DAVID SCOTT SHAVER, MAY 21, 19 YEARS  
BRO. RICHARD KERN SALAZAR, MAY 17, 18 YEARS  
BRO. PHILLIP JOHN FERRARO, MAY 14, 14 YEARS  
RO. GENE VINCENT GIORDANO, MAY 16, 13 YEARS  
BRO. ARASH AARON HABIBIPOUR, MAY 21, 7 YEARS  
BRO. NATHAN DEAN MCGILLIS, MAY 19, 6 YEARS  
BRO. HAROON RAHIMI, MAY 11, 4 YEARS



# 2026 Lodge Officers

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Wor. Jonathan Joseph Siudmak - Worshipful Master

*Email: Master@AW22.org*

Bro. Ronald Earl Craft Jr. - Senior Warden

Bro. Jakob Aonghus Zilinski - Junior Warden

Wor. Michael Lee Bailey, PM - Treasurer

Wor. David Gabriel Bella, PM - Secretary

*Phone: 757-656-1838 Email: Secretary@AW22.org 101 Callahan Dr., Alexandria, VA 22301*

Rt. Wor. Granville Clayton "Jack" Canard, Jr, PDDGM - Secretary Emeritus

Bro. Naaren Juloori - Senior Deacon

Bro. Brian Mark Williams - Junior Deacon

Rt. Wor. Michael Jean King, PDDGM - Chaplain

Wor. John Joseph Grace, PM - Senior Steward

Bro. Thomas Lee Ammazalorso - Junior Steward

Bro. Jon Edward Wulfekuehler - Marshal

Wor. Pablo Alejandro Rocha, PM - Tiler

## Board of Trustees

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Wor. Jesse T. McMahan, V, PM - 2026

Wor. Nikola N. Nikolov, PM - 2027

Bro. Gene Vincent Giordano - 2028

Bro. Paul Edward Kenschak - 2029

Bro. Daniel Ryan Gordon - 2030

## Living Past Masters on the Rolls

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1976 - James B. Stone

1991 - Earl C. Million

1992 - Granville C. Canard, Jr. PDDGM

1995 - George D. Seghers, PDDGM

1996,18 - Mark W. Underwood, PDDGM

1997 - Walter L. Margeson, II

1998 - Philip J. Hays

1999,17 - Michael P. Bible, PDDGM

2000 - Terry L. Gigure

2001 - Brent N. Campbell

2002 - Daniel M. Clark, PDDGM

2003 - James M. Stevenson

2004 - Frank S. Skwirut

2005 - Jesse T. McMahan, V

2006 - Thomas G. Little

2009 - Heber C. Willis, III

2011 - John P. Olson

2012 - Michael L. Bailey

2013 - Joshua D. Adler

2014 - Robert T. Weston

2016 - Stephen J. Pezzetti

2019 - Nikola N. Nikolov

2021 - Michael T. Huff

2022 - Denislav V. Dantev

2023 - David G. Bella

2024 - Nelo A. Hamilton, Jr.

2025 - Phillip A. Smartt