

Prince Hall

MASONIC JOURNAL

Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free & Accepted Masons, State of Illinois and Its Jurisdiction

150 Years of Service



15 DECADES OF SERVICE & STILL ROARING

The Early Years



Winter 2016-17 Edition



EDITORIAL

The theme for the next editions of the Prince Hall Masonic Journal is “15 Decades of Service”. In each edition, we will focus on the Early Years of the Grand Lodge, the Chairman of the First Convention to Form a Grand Lodge in Illinois, and a review of the first set of Proceedings of the Grand Lodge. This is being done to celebrate the 150th birthday of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Illinois which will occur on FEBRUARY 15, 2017. History is the backbone of who we are. If we lose our backbone, then we won’t be able to stand. So soak up the information that will be presented over these next few editions and use it to teach the Craft so that we never forget the source from whence we all came.

Right Worshipful Brother Daryl L. Andrews, 33^o

- M.W. Bro. Dwayne A. Smith, Ex-Officio Editor-In-Chief
- **R.W. Bro. Daryl Andrews, Editor-In-Chief (pictured)**
- M.W. Bro. Earl D. Scott, Consultant
- W. Bro. Homer Walton, Consultant
- W. Bro. Carl Pickett, Consultant
- W. Bro. Albert Bailey, Consultant
- W. Bro. Lloyd Womack, Columnist
- Sis. Carolyn Womack, Columnist
- Alvin Middleton, Photographer
- David Bonds, Photographer
- Bruce Owens, Photographer



NEXT EDITION CUTOFF IS **April 15, 2017**

Please utilize one of the following options to submit articles or photos for upcoming editions:

- EMAIL to: **Journal@mwphglil.com**
- US MAIL to: **Prince Hall Masonic Journal**
809 East 42nd Place,
Chicago, Illinois 60653

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Reach nearly **3,000** across the State of Illinois and beyond with information on your business or event by advertising in the Masonic Journal. Give it a try for our low advertisement costs and watch it pay dividends. To advertise, please contact our editor at Journal@mwphglil.com to determine space availability. The printing of ads in future editions of the Masonic Journal are subject to review.

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FEEDBACK FROM PRIOR EDITIONS

- “We have used the information on Prince Hall and the timeline in our Lodge School of Instruction.”
- “The last edition covered the top to the bottom of the state. That’s what I am talking about.”
- “Congratulations to your team (Wrightwood Little League) on winning the District 15 Title.”
- “I used the photo booth that was advertised in the last edition. Will be using his services again.”
- “1775 or 1778? The new book by John Hairston, ‘Landmarks of Our Fathers’, presents some interesting points. Would like to see a commentary on this in a future edition.”
- “Richard Pryor was a Mason? I always thought his jokes about living in Peoria was just jokes and not the truth. It would be good to see a deeper dig on him?”
- “Why do we have so many Elected Grand Lodge Offices?”
- “I see why Keystone Lodge #15 got Lodge of the Year. They stay busy in the community. Congratulations Keystone.”
- “Alright Joppa. Jackie Joyner Kersee looks like she can still go a few rounds in the Olympics down there in East Boogie.”
- “I am an apple and my wife is a pear. LOL! I enjoyed the health article by Sister Womack in the last edition. Planning on giving her tips a try... especially more sleep.”
- “Congratulations to the old and the new Mason of the Year. From where I live, I don’t see how or why some of the recipients were selected for the award. Can you post some information on this? ..maybe some background info.”
- “All I want to say is keep up the great work. I like that you are responding to the readers’ comments with articles.”

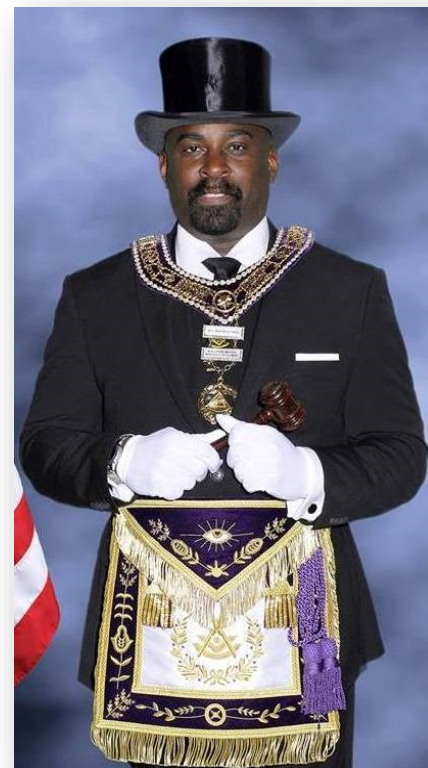
FROM THE OFFICE OF THE GRAND MASTER

I would like to thank all who participated in, contributed to the successful events of our Grand Lodge during the month of September. Through your donations to the **CENTURY CLUB** we were able to take almost **150 children** to the Chicago Football Classic at Soldier Field (shown below). It also allowed us to have a sponsorship ad in the souvenir journal and our logo displayed on the field and on the Jumbotron during the game. This event, in addition to supporting our youth, also aided us in improving our Brand.

During the month of September we also hosted, in conjunction with the Chicago Police Department, a Gun Buy Back Program (shown below), was attended and supported by several of our local and community leaders allowed us to take 77 guns out of circulation which could have eventually ended up on the streets being used in a crime.

Brothers, this is how MASONS act. We must continue these efforts. Please continue to support the Century Club and remember membership requires an Annual Donation. So, if you have not donated please do so and if you gave last year we look forward to your continued support. We need the support of EVERY member of the Prince Hall Masonic Family in order to really effect positive change in our communities. Please support all of the efforts of this Grand Lodge.

Most Worshipful Brother Dwayne A. Smith
Grand Master of Illinois Prince Hall Masons



Youth from the Wrightwood Little League, Order of the Junior Craftsmen and the 21st Ward Organization participated in the Football Classic under the directions of RW Steven Coleman, RW Daryl Andrews and MEGHP Ron Wilson. (above).

Over 77 guns were turned in to Chicago Police Officials at the Grand East under the direction of Deputy Grand Master Aubrey K. Barlow (right).



OVERVIEW OF 150 YEARS OF



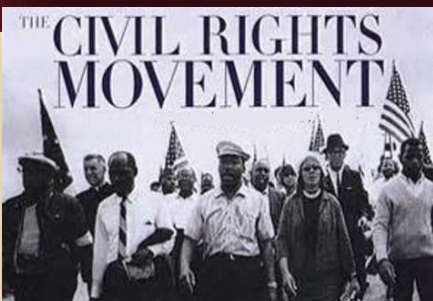
Abolitionist Efforts

Many members of the Illinois Prince Hall Masonic Lodges were active agents in efforts to free the enslaved. Several were Underground Railroad (UGRR) Conductors who risked their lives to save others.



Military Service

Illinois Prince Hall Masons have been active in ALL foreign wars since the Spanish-American War. Many held leadership roles in the military ranks.



Civics & Politics

The elections of Illinois Prince Hall Masons opened the door for the election of the first Black President of the United States of America.

Charity & Other Social Services

Since inception, the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Illinois has maintained a focus on community improvement through community involvement. Through charitable efforts, Lodges and the Grand Lodge have been able to extend the trend of providing social services to those in need.

SPECIAL THANKS FROM THE EDITOR OF



Earl D. Scott

Over the years, the Prince Hall Masonic Journal has received submissions on a regular basis from multiple individuals in Illinois. In honor of the 150th birthday of the Grand Lodge, I will spotlight several of these individuals who have contributed articles to at least ten editions of the publication.

In this edition, I give special thanks to three contributors. They are Honorary Past Grand Master Earl D. Scott, Sister H. Lorraine Jeter and Sister Aisha Ato. Thank You.

Past Grand Master Earl D. Scott is the type of Mason who puts his best foot forward in everything that he does. He regularly sends articles and photos for events that take place in the 4th District and does so without needing to be asked to do so. To me, this shows the high degree to which he cares about our organization. By his efforts combined with those of Worshipful Brother Sam Hurd and others, the Southern portion of the State of Illinois remains showcased in the editions of the Masonic Journal.

CIVIC AND SOCIAL SERVICE

- Illinois Lodges organized along UGRR routes
- Prince Hall Masons utilized their homes and businesses to conduct UGRR affair
- UGRR Conductors included John Jones, Isaac H. Kelly, Joseph Hudlin, Louis Isbell and several others.
- *See the article in this addition for more details*
- Members at all levels fought during every War in which the United States of America was engaged including the American Civil War and beyond
- Members held leadership roles in each war
- Eighth Illinois Regiment served during the Spanish American War under the leadership of Prince Hall Masons
- Many early members fought during the Civil War including Robert J.B. Ellington
- *More information coming in the next edition*
- Illinois Prince Hall Masons earned a number of “First Black” elected positions in the State of Illinois
- Through the Convention Movement, many self-improvement initiatives were implemented in the African American community
- John Jones was the first black elected Official in Illinois
- Oscar De Priest was Chicago’s first black alderman
- Harold Washington was Chicago’s first black Mayor
- Roland Burriss was the first black Comptroller
- *More information coming in the next edition*
- In the last ten years, over half a million dollars has been donated to support students pursuing higher education
- Community service hours for Masonic Lodges exceed over 6,000 hours annually
- Holiday Season donations ensure sustenance and resources for those in need during critical times
- Annual donations of more than \$20,000 are annually given to students to supplement their finances for college
- Over \$20,000 has been donated to the American Cancer Society over the last five years
- Annual Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners have helped to feed and cloth those in need

THE PRINCE HALL MASONIC JOURNAL



H. Lorraine Jeter

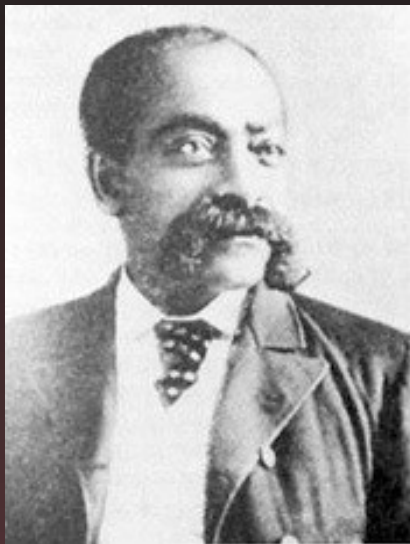
Sisters H. Lorraine Jeter and Aisha Ato served as an Associate Editors for the Masonic Journal during my early years as editor. It was Sister Ato who coined the phrase “there is no PHAmily dedication without PHAmily education”. While many attribute this phrase to me, I must unequivocally state that this phrase is hers and hers alone. This is one of the reasons why there is always a balance between photos/articles for current affairs and history. Sister Jeter has submitted countless articles over the years across several editions of the publication. At times, submissions from her and Sister Ato were the only submissions from sisters to the publication.



Aisha Ato

The First Address to the Grand Lodge of Illinois

Given on May 6, 1867 by Benjamin F. Rogers, Grand Master



Brethren, by the wisdom of the Supreme Architect of the universe and your suffrages, I have been called to preside as Grand Master over the First Grand Lodge of colored Masons for the State of Illinois, and had I not confidence in the ability of my brother officers, I feel that I should shrink from duty; but knowing their ability I shall, under God, endeavor to do my duty to the best of my judgment. Therefore, Brethren, let us at the commencement of our session give thanks to the Giver of all good for the many blessings and comforts which He is daily and hourly bestowing upon us, and in our deliberations through this session, may we constantly look up to him, and may he endow us with wisdom, patience and brotherly love. Not having any official acts to communicate to this Grand body

since my installation into office, I shall take pleasure in saying something to the craft, which I hope will be elevating in its nature, and inspire the brethren to perform every known duty, and live close to the principles of Masonry.

Brethren, in view of the origin and true nature of the institution of Masonry, its high importance to the world, the sacredness of its principles, its harmonizing influences, and the whole excellence of the system, whether it be considered in a historical, benevolent, moral, or religious point, your minds must be solemnly affected, and your hearts seriously engaged, to maintain the purity of its precepts, not only as a plain and reasonable duty, but as examples waiting to be imitated by those who shall receive the administration from your hands.

Brethren, your profession is built upon a tried foundation; you stand solemnly pledged to the world to maintain the cause of truth against all the assaults of vice, or the inroads of error. Your several lodges are, or ought to be, so many temples of virtue, and schools of moral and religious instruction; each individual should be a watchful sentinel over the happiness of mankind, ever on the alert to rescue injured innocence, or to avert impending dangers. Such, however, is the state of the world, and such the unhappy lot of all institutions, that none have been free from the unhallowed tread of unworthy members. Even in thy little family, O, Blessed Immanuel, was there a betraying Judas! Nor is thy sacred table always surrounded by sanctified hearts. This is greatly to be lamented, yet from the nature of man it can not be wholly prevented in our present state: much however, may be done to remedy this general evil. Let it therefore be remembered and written as with sunbeams on the heart of every Mason, that the harmony and happiness of your assemblies, and your true enjoyment as individuals, does not, cannot depend upon your numbers, but on the real intrinsic worth, the virtue, the integrity and the moral excellence of your members; this is a great point as respects the unity and fellowship of Masonic Brethren.

You are, therefore, to make a full and thorough examination as to the true character of those who may present themselves, for the benefit of our order. That is a point never to be left unguarded; all the internal social friendship and happiness of your communications vitally depend upon it: let the world know assuredly, that if any individual desires admission to your privileges, that the square of justice and the plumbline of rectitude must fit his character for that important place; let it be well-understood that vice is not to be winked at, that the doors of your lodges can never be opened for the reception of a doubtful character; that the sanctity of the institutions is not to be trampled under foot by the profane, that the precepts of Masonry present an insurmountable barrier against every immoral person; hence the effect would be of great consequence to yourselves, even in a private capacity, to the reputation of your lodge, as a wise institution, and to the general good of mankind as a standard and a rallying point for virtue. The pure, pious, and meritorious part of the community, many of whom now stand aloof, would crowd your assemblies; then might you enjoy more abundant social friendship in your stated communications, and the world in view of your regular tenets and increasing respectability be more deeply affected with the general utility of Masonry. However, should an unworthy person gain admission within the veils of your sanctum, remember something ought immediately to be done; adopt all probable and proper means to mend his heart, change his habits and establish his good character; persuade him to practice virtue from the love of it.

In relation to Masonic discipline, we all know that it is too remiss. Members are sometimes allowed to transgress the laws and pass with impunity. Each brother excuses himself on the ground that it will be more proper, or that it will be attended with more salutary consequences, for some other brother to enter complaint; in this way it is sometimes finally neglected, so that what is every man's duty, is eventually performed by none. Brothers, purge your Lodges of bad men; do your duty to the brotherhood; better, by far, that a limb be amputated, than to have the whole body affected with its poisonous matter. Do not fail to use the black ball in cases of necessity.

Temperance is one of the cardinal virtues of our order; but, I am pained to say to you, my brethren, that I have met intemperance in places where of all other it ought not to be. Do you look for virtue, morality, and brotherly love, to emanate from one of those sinks of iniquity? As well might you expect to pick "figs from thistles;" and when one of our number becomes so depraved, and all means have been exhausted to reclaim him, and he cannot be saved, do your duty by making him an example for other evil-doers.

Finally, brethren, let us keep the unity of the spirit in the bonds of peace. Let us love one another, for love is God. "Behold! How good and pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity. It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even --- Aaron's beard, that went down to the skirts of his garment. As the dew of Herman, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion, for there the Lord commanded the blessing, even life forever more."



Eureka Grand Chapter ~ STANDING STRONG TOGETHER ~ MWPHGL of Illinois

The Century Club

of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Illinois



The calls to service and charity are two of the major ideals that are acted upon by the Officers and Members of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Illinois and its subordinate Lodges. Masons serve in multiple capacities in various locations across the State of Illinois. With a presence in each quadrant of the state, acts of charity and other services are performed to make the communities in which Masons live and those communities that Masons serve better places for all.

Finances are a major portion of the efforts. Funds collected help to determine the ability of our organization to introduce proactive solutions or to react to societal problems in a large way. As such, Most Worshipful Brother Dwayne A. Smith, Grand Master of Illinois Prince Hall Masons, is looking for **CENTURIONS FOR SERVICE**.

Join the Century Club by donating **\$100.00** to help the Grand Lodge perform more charitable works. Your voluntary donation will be placed in a special fund that will be designated for charitable donations to benefit communities across the State of Illinois. You will also receive a special certificate denoting membership into the Century Club.

Donations can be sent to the Office of the Grand Secretary care of the Grand Lodge at 809 East 42nd Place, Chicago, IL 60653. Please denote "Century Club" in the notes section of your check or money order. For cash donations, please be sure to receive a receipt. You may also donate electronically via PayPal by clicking on the Century Club emblem on the Grand Lodge website located at www.mwphgil.com.



Scholarship Luncheon Celebrates \$31K in Educational Donations

At the 150th Annual Communication of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Illinois, the Grand Lodge approved the donation of \$31,000 in educational donations to students pursuing higher education. The recipients are scholars who set to attend collegiate institutions across America. Each recipient received a donation of \$1,000 each to assist them in their educational endeavors.

Right Worshipful Brother Aubrey Barlow, Deputy Grand Master, felt that a personal touch should also be extended to these recipients to further promote the degree to which the Grand Lodge supports their goals and future achievements. As such, by the recommendation of the Deputy Grand Master and the approval of the Grand Lodge, the Grand Lodge sponsored a scholarship luncheon to honor the students and their families on Saturday, August 20, 2016.

The luncheon was well attended and provided the Grand Lodge with a great opportunity to meet and interact with these deserving scholarship recipients. In a day and age where face-to-face communication has been overcome by text messages, it is of the utmost importance that our youth begin to see how much our organization believes in them and believes in opening doors for the future. Congratulations on a job well done and congratulations to our future leaders as they strive for greatness.

Photos by PM Bruce Owens



ILLINOIS PRINCE HALL



The Illinois Prince Hall Mentoring Committee engaged in an effort to provide opportunities for fun, education and leadership for youth during the Summer of 2016 by sponsoring a Summer Camp at the Grand East. The camp fell under the umbrella of the Grand Lodge Mentoring Program and provided mentorship and sustenance for several boys and girls in the City of Chicago during the Summer months.

Under the leadership of Past Master Charles Alexander and Sister Verona Portis, the team engaged in several activities and covered multiple subjects that the students were set to encounter during the course of the 2016-2017 academic year. Among the subjects were Social Studies and Mathematics.

Social Studies is a critical component to understanding the reasons why society is the way that it is today based on social events of the past. In addition to the core mathematical principles, logic is also promoted through the



SUMMER CAMP 2016



study of the science. Both subjects help students to logically review the state of society and calculate methods in which they can become active in society in the future.

The team also engaged the component of Martial Arts. Historically, Martial Arts has been a source through which physical fitness and discipline in actions have been promoted. Adding this component to the curriculum provided the youth with a well-rounded education covering the desired mental and physical aspects.

Special thanks are due to the entire committee for a job well done. Committee members included Bro. Alexander, Sis. Portis, Bro. Bill Harlan, Bro. Kenny Askew, Bro. Edward Taylor, Sis. Priscilla Jackson, Sis. Annie Price and Sis. Daphne McClain.



Keystone #15: Reading for Rides



ILLITERACY IS MALIGNANT. There is a concentrated cyclical relationship that exists between illiteracy and poverty. As Illiteracy tends to trickle down from one generation to the next, one child in four grows up not knowing how to read. The state of Illinois statistics are well below national data lines with 1st graders from low-income families having 68% smaller vocabularies than their peers from higher income families. Before they even enter school, children living in poverty face a host of challenges that their wealthier peers do not: dietary insufficiencies, housing insecurity, poor health care, unsafe environments, and limited literary exposure. Any one of these obstacles can affect their school performance, cognitive development, and ability to learn; some children face all of them, all at once. As adults, 43% of the low level literacy skills population continues to live in poverty compared to only 4% of those at higher proficiencies. Furthermore, according to Department of Health data, low literary costs \$73 million per year in terms of direct health care costs.

STAKES ARE HIGH. There is an undeniable link between literacy skills, crime and incarceration rates. While national headlines espouse claims of State Departments of Corrections using third grade reading scores to predict the number of prison beds

they'll need in the next decade, the essence of the headlines is not too far away from the truth. Early reading deficiencies lead to increased school dropout rates. A student not reading at his or her grade level by the end of the third grade is four times less likely to graduate high school on time or at all. A recent study from university concluded that those high school dropouts were 63 times more likely to be incarcerated than their college grad counterparts. Early illiteracy... increased dropout rates...related crime and incarceration.

THERE IS HOPE. In order to support the youth of our community and their pursuit of scholarly excellence, Keystone #15 implemented our "Reading-For-Rides" initiative seven years ago. In the spring of 2016, the Lodge provided bicycles for (6) participating City of Aurora public elementary schools. The bikes serve as a prize stimulus to Kindergarten - 5th grade students who documented their reading endeavors by completing an estimated 6,000

corresponding literary projects. As an incentive, each completed assignment was placed as an entry into a raffle to win a bicycle. At the end of the school year, one girl's bike and one boy's bike was raffled off during a presentation at each school.

At C.M. Bardwell Elementary school's Reading-For-Rides assembly, Most Worshipful Brother Dwayne A. Smith addressed the crowd by effectively communicating the "educational gospel" of a direct connection between reading proficiency, academic success and overall quality of life. Extrapolated on a masonic level, it stands to reason that if a Freemason sincerely seeks to pursue the truths of our tenants, then his life will drastically improve...Good men will truly become better men!

Prospects are bright.

Through the program's future expansion, Keystone Lodge #15 remains resolute in actively supporting the Grand Master's immediate goals to: "enhance the image of Prince Hall Masonry in the state of Illinois, secure the future of the Prince Hall Masonry in the state of Illinois by making our presence a relevant and integral part of our communities and develop and implement programs for our youth and young adults".

The work continues...

W. Bro. Haniff Morris, #15



God's On the Block

The Greater Institutional AME Church sponsored “God’s On The Block” on August 20, 2016 to provide faith outreach and promote community improvement. With the assistance of the Illinois Prince Hall Masonic Family, the event was a grand success. The Illinois Child Identification Program (IL CHIP) team was on site providing their **FREE** services to the community. The families of the youth who participated received pertinent information and artifacts that can be utilized by authorities to track their children should he or she come missing. This combined effort reinforces the bond that exists between Prince Hall Freemasons and the AME Church. Working together with God on our side, we cannot be defeated.

—Sister Cilicia Johnson



Bike the Hood

Before the end of Summer, the City of Chicago surpassed 500 murders. Of those murders, a high portion occurred on Chicago’s South Side. In an effort to take a public stance against violence, the brethren of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Illinois banded together to bike the hood.

In conjunction with Alderman Brother Howard Brookins Jr., #64; Honorable Howard Brookins Sr., #64; and the 21st Ward Block Club, the Grand Master along with over 50 brethren rode their bikes in unison through the Auburn-Gresham neighborhood where they received words of support from many along the path. Several made their way from the starting point on 95th and Ashland through the Dan Ryan Woods Forest Preserve.

This effort was well-received by the community and provided evidence to the true nature of Freemasonry to the public—community service.

Photos by PM Bruce Owens
and PM Christopher Preston





Sister Annie Allen 100 Years Old

On Saturday, July 23, 2016 the members of Princess Orpah Chapter #127 celebrated 100 years of life with their eldest member Sister Annie Allen PM at Aperia Care Nursing Home along with their Brother Lodge, Jachin Lodge #133, and North Star Lodge #1 to which her husband, the late PM Henry Allen, was a member.

Sister Allen has shown sisterly love through the qualities we represent—fidelity, constancy, loyalty, faith, and love. She is a dedicated member of her chapter, and she serves as President of the Past Matron and Patron council. She attended every chapter meeting until her health started to fail. She continues to recite all of the stations in the chapter but her favorite station is of Adah. She also has a tradition of inviting the incoming Worthy Matron out for dinner before she was installed. Her sophistication and selfless acts continue to show the true definition of sisterly love.

Sister Annie Allen is truly Fairest, Among Thousands, Altogether, Lovely. Her biggest joy is when she witnesses two Worthy Grand Matrons come from her chapter Sister and Sister Sandra D. Smith and now two Grand Master's Bro Willie B Evans, Sr and Bro Dwayne A. Smith, Sr.

Sister Detria Matthews, #127 OES

North Star #1 Adopts Food Pantry

In January 2016, Bro. Kenny R. Askew, Worshipful Master of NSL#1 charged his Community Service Committee with identifying at least four community service projects for the year. Bro. Wallace Hodges, Chairman and Bro. Steven Wright, Co-Chairman identified Mother Betty Price's Food Pantry known as FCHN (Feed, Clothe & Help the Needy) located at 1234 W. 59th Street in Chicago's Englewood Community.

Often hungry as a child Betty Price, affectionately known as "Mother Price", promised herself and God that her own family would always have enough to eat and clothing to wear. She also promised the Lord that she would do all she could to help provide for those around her that were hungry and cold. She has been keeping this promise in Englewood since the 1960's after she decided to leave her job of 23 years. She began feeding and clothing people out of her own home. Her outreach to the community quickly grew and she acknowledged that this had become her mission in life.

In 1997, Mother Price was blessed to acquire the old meat packing facility at 1234 West 59th Street. She renovated the old plant and moved FCHN into the facility. Her ministry and outreach has grown exponentially ever since. Today Mother Price feeds over a 1,000 hungry men, women and children per week, and as a result of the 2008 economic recession many working poor were added to the rolls she needed to feed.

NSL#1 started out donating bags of clothes and cleaning products. At our next visit we helped Mother Price paint, clean and repair the building to correct



code violations that were cited by the City of Chicago. The relationship between NSL#1 and Mother Price continued to grow and flourish to when the Lodge started assisting with the preparations and serving of food to people in the community while continuing to provide needed supplies to the facility. Our bond with the facility and the staff grew to the point where the Lodge knew we were in the right place to provide any services. So we decided to have our 2nd Annual Book Bag Give Away at the Englewood location and giving away about 75 Book Bags to the kids that visited that day.

NSL#1 has since brought this passion for this organization to a Lodge vote, and on September 2, 2016 the motion passed to adopt FCHN. NSL pledged to continue to assist in the great work Mother Price and her volunteer staff are doing and are also making strides to Partner with the new Whole Foods Market in Englewood in an effort to negotiate weekly food donations to the pantry. NSL is also initiating a "GoFundMe" account to raise needed funds to help offset operation expenses. In addition, NSL#1 is looking to Partner with Lodges in the Jurisdiction in the near future to bring on other skills, talents and/or connections that will continue to further the work in the community in hopes to eradicate hunger and the need for clothing in the Englewood community.

Wor. Bro. Kenny R. Askew, #1

Dads Take Your Child to School—Lincoln Middle School

On Tuesday, September 20, 2017, the brethren of the fourth district provided breakfast for and supported the “Dads Take Your Child to School” effort held at Lincoln Middle School in East St. Louis, Illinois. The brethren showed up in strong force to provide sustenance and support to the effort which found fathers stepping up to the plate to ensure that their children made it to the first day of school. —Photos by Brother Michael B. Thomas



Joppa Lodge Donates to Arthur Johnson Foundation

The brethren of Joppa Lodge #79 continue their efforts in supporting The Arthur Johnson Foundation. The foundation was established in 2001 by its Founder and Co-Founder Arthur and his wife Latanya Johnson. Arthur is a former 1988 Olympic boxer who became the first to capture 12 National titles a record that has stood for 24 years and counting along with being the first American boxer to win Gold in the Inaugural Goodwill Games held in Moscow Russia in 1986. As a professional he conquered 3 world titles and throughout his amateur and professional career he earned a grand total of 4 world titles. Arthur prides himself in giving back to his community and beyond. The Arthur Johnson Foundation is committed to rebuilding our inner city communities by inspiring our youth to achieve success in life and by assisting families in crises. Our mission is to give hope, vision and positive direction to our youth through the medium of athletics.





Alexandria #148 in Englewood

The needs of many Chicagoans do not appear only during the holiday seasons. Many have needs throughout the course of the year. Some do not know where their next meal will come from. Others do not have a stable roof over their heads and are not able to call a single dwelling as a home. It is during these times that Santa Claus is not able to deliver packages to those in need or to meet them where they are to provide immediate assistance close to the locations that several call home. For in these times, the men of Alexandria Lodge step up to the plate to fill the gap and to provide sustenance for those who appear to be knocking on hope's doorstep.

In Chicago's Englewood Community, you will regularly find the men of Alexandria Lodge #148 serving home cooked meals to those in need. Posted on the corner of 63rd and Ashland by the Chicago Transit Authority's elevated train station, the men of Alexandria serve the homeless, clothe the needy and provide words of hope to help them through the next day.

The effort began as a personal journey for Past Master Tommy Harris who decided to help someone else as his birthday wish a few years ago. The effort was adopted by Alexandria Lodge and their Junior Craft Council as a viable

means to provide practical charity to the Englewood Community.

The team has been actively serving meals, providing clothing and school supplies to the community throughout the course of the 2016 year. Many in the community tend to view their efforts as tremendous acts of hope for the work that they do.

"I thank them for what they are doing. I didn't know where my next meal was going to come from. Out on these streets, any help we can get is good." - Darius B.

"...the kids helping made me want to do more for myself. You know, when you see the kids and the families out there like that, it lift(s) me up. Makes me want to do better." - Paul S.

"People come around to help but they only do it during Christmas or Thanksgiving. I see these cats out here a lot. They not doing it for show." - Tommy P.

The community certainly appreciates the efforts.

Past Master Harris recently commented that "the meals that we provide are actually very inexpensive but go a long way. You would be surprised at how far soup can go and how effective it can be as a meal. Fried chicken without the flour to soak up the oil works well. Spaghetti without the meat fills people up because of the pasta. We do corn also. Together we give a well rounded meal." To paraphrase, he concluded that the work that is being done is not getting done because of popularity. It is being done because it needs to get done and we are doing it. What greater sentiments can be portrayed by a Freemason?

Congratulations on a job well done and best wishes on your continued efforts. As stated in the comments from community members and those who have been aided, your efforts are appreciated. My God's blessings flow upon you and your efforts continue unimpeded.

Photos by PM Tommy Harris, #148 and RW Tony Stafford, #128



Grand Lodge Contributes to Community First Medical 5K

Community First Medical Center is a part of Community First Healthcare of Illinois, Inc., whose mission is to serve patients of the hospital, treating them as guests. As a premier medical center on Chicago's northwest side, the hospital is certified as a Primary Stroke Center and accredited Chest Pain Center, providing inpatient and outpatient services for adults.



In September of 2016, the hospital sponsored a 5K walk/run to promote physical fitness during the Fall. The certified 5K course kicked off from Portage Park on Chicago's Northwest side and wound through the Logan Square Community. More than 7,000 participants participated in the event. With sponsors and



contributors from across the City of Chicago and beyond, the proceeds were designated to go towards the continuing development of educational health and wellness programs for the community.

Sponsorship for the event included various organizations and business from across the City of Chicago and beyond. Of its sponsors, the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Illinois contributed a nominal sum and helped to register participants for the event. These efforts were driven by the Grand Lodge Charity in Action Committee whose efforts, under the direction of Brother Tim Davis (pictured), have spanned across multiple charitable genres.

—Photos by Past Master Tim Davis, #59

Lodges and Chapters—Being Each Other's Keepers Regularly

The bond between Cornerstone Lodge #91 and Princess Syene Chapter #114, Order of the Eastern Star has been in existence for nearly 92 years. Annual visitations have occurred throughout the years to reinforce the bond that is continuing to grow stronger and stronger. Being each other's keeper though is not just a term that expresses itself only once per year. It should, in fact, be like the bond that this Lodge and Chapter shares. Mutual support of events is a key factor in addition to leveraging the expertise in both bodies for a common cause. Whether it be joint ventures at Ronald McDonald House or the Chicago Food Depository or breakfast on a Sunday morning, these ventures are engaged together as an expression of the bond that exists. As such, visitations should not only be in December but throughout the year for mutual benefit. Congratulations and keep up the great collaboration.



—Photo by

Sister Gwen Howell-Andrews, #114 OES



THE CITY OF CHICAGO PROCLAIM DECEMBER 3, 2016

GENE CHANDLER “THE DUKE OF EARL” DAY

By: Worshipful Brother Lloyd Womack, Grand Historian

On December 3, 2016, history was made on Chicago’s Southside Englewood Community. The City of Chicago Proclaimed this Day, Gene Chandler “The Duke of Earl” Day. The legendary musical icon was recognized for his musical and show business works that expanded over sixty years and his charitable contributions to his community. In addition, to proclaiming December 3, 2016, Gene Chandler, “The Duke of Earl” Day, the City of Chicago also named the Street, 5900 South Racine Street, where he was raised, in his honor.

“The Proclamation Ceremony and the Street Naming Ceremony” in Mr. Chandler’s honor was executed with class, dignity, and nobility. Mr. Chandler was very humble and appreciative of this great honor. His family beamed with pride. In attendance were Mr. Chandler’s family, friends, fans, musical artist, community residents, Chicago’s finest, politicians, and the Prince Hall Masonic Family of brothers and sisters.

Mr. Chandler, aka, “The Duke of Earl” or simply “The Duke” is a singer, songwriter, music producer and entrepreneur. Mr. Chandler served his country as an Army Airborne Ranger. Some of his legendary musical hits are, The Duke of Earl, Groovy Situation, Just Be True, Nothing Can Stop Me, What Now, A Man’s Temptation, and Rainbow, just to name a few. In fact, Rainbow was recorded three times during his career, becoming a hit each time.

Mr. Chandler during his early musical career teamed with two other Chicago musical icons, the legendary Curtis Mayfield and Jerry Butler, aka, “The Ice Man”. Great music was made with them as well. In fact, Mr. Chandler and Mr. Butler recorded an album together title “Gene and Jerry”.

Mr. Chandler is a Grammy Hall of Fame Inductee. Mr. Chandler is the recipient of numerous awards. In 1998, he received the Hal Award (Heroes and Legends) Life Time Music Award. He received the Doo Wop Hall of Fame American Life Time Achievement Award. On August 24, 2014, Mr. Chandler was inducted into the Official Rhythm and Blues Music Hall of Fame. Mr. Chandler is also the recipient of the National Association of Television and Radio Announcers “Producer of the Year Award. Mr. Chandler’s recent 2016 awards are the Rhythm and Blues Foundation’s Pioneer Award, and the AMG Award-Artist Music Guild Life Time Achievement Award.

Brother Chandler is a Prince Hall Mason. He was introduced to Prince Hall Masonry by his friend Past Most Worshipful Grand Master Jerry Butler, 33° Mason. PMWGM Butler is a member of North Star Lodge No. 1, Western Consistory No. 28, and Talma Chapter No. 2, Order of the Eastern Star (OES). Brother Chandler is a Past Master and an active member in King David Lodge No. 100. He is a Past Worthy Patron in Talma Chapter No. 2, Order of the Eastern Star (OES). Brother Chandler is also a Thirty-Third Degree Mason, created a Grand Inspector General, a member of Western Consistory No. 28, and a member of the Commanders of the Rite, Valley of Chicago, Orient of Illinois.

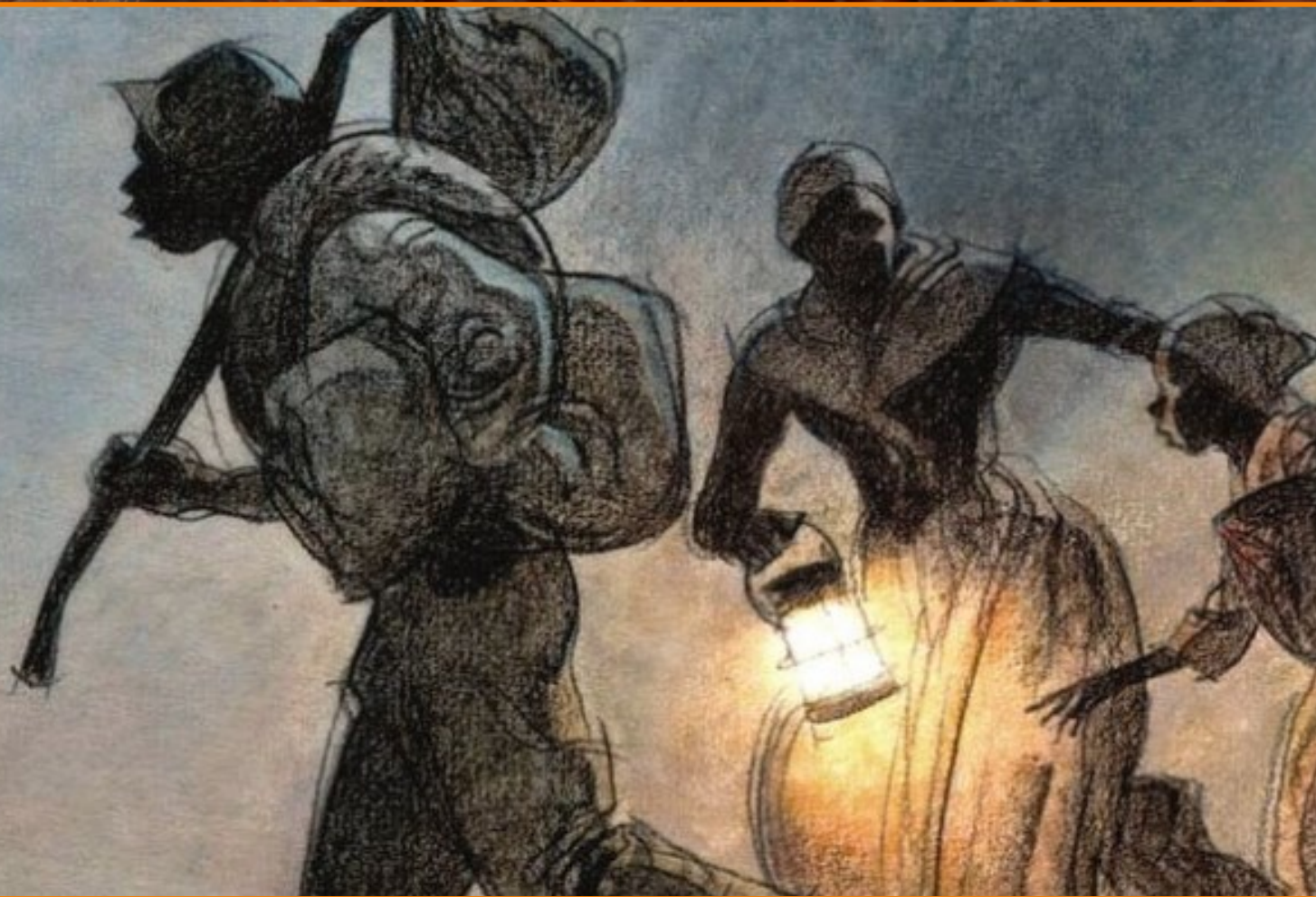


Brother Chandler is known for his charitable works serving the less fortunate throughout the Chicago land. In fact, Brother Chandler was doing charitable work before becoming a Prince Hall Mason. But joining this great fraternal organization only enhanced his charitable work in the community and for the less fortunate. In 2005, Brother Chandler created a 501c3 benevolent organization titled “Project Happiness”. Every year he gives out hundreds of turkeys for the Thanksgiving and Christmas Holidays. He helps churches and families who need assistance during the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons. During the Christmas season he gives away Christmas trees and toys to public housing residents and school supplies for kids. Brother Chandler’s huge charitable contributions bring “happiness” to him during the Holiday Season.

Yes, Brother Chandler is worthy of this historical recognition. He never forgot where he came from and he continues to serve his community and the less fortunate. Charity is the brightest ornament of our Masonic profession. Whoever emulates the character of a good and worthy Mason should always be ready to assist and to aid the less fortunate in a time of necessity. This is the best description that describes my brother and friend, “the Duke”, Brother Gene Chandler, “The Duke of Earl”. Congratulations on a recognition well earned and deserved and may your light continue to shine ever so brightly.

Arrangements to share your personal documents can be made by contacting Brother Lloyd Womack, Grand Historian at (708) 383-2339, Assistant Grand Historian Brother Taej Murray at (773) 915-3395, Assistant Grand Historian Brother Albert Haynes, III., at (708) 829-5146 or you may wish to contact Assistant Grand Historian Sister Tammy Hampton at (773) 982-4236.





The formation of the United Grand Lodge of England in 1813 and subsequent actions led to a separation of the African Lodge from England. Despite the break in amity, Prince Hall and his brethren continued to operate in the United States of America. The continued operation and acts of charity performed by them in the name of Freemasonry, despite the break, reinforced the true ideals of the organization –inspiring faith, hope and charity through the tenets of brotherly love, relief and truth.

The African Grand Lodge, which was formed after the death of Prince Hall, continued to expand Freemasonry among men of African descent, predominantly. Extensions to Pennsylvania, eventually led to the formation of a Grand Lodge for that state in 1815. Although subsequent attempts to regain amity with England failed, the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts (African Grand Lodge) formally declared its independence from England in 1827 and worked to extend Freemasonry among men of color across the expanding United States of America. On June 4, 1847, a National Grand Lodge was organized to meet the aforementioned goal. It was through this new organization, the Freemasonry among African American men extended to the State of Illinois.

With expansion as the key point of focus, the National Grand Lodge was also organized as a forum to settle jurisdictional disputes and provide alignment for recognized Grand Lodges. To facilitate expansion, deputies were appointed to identify qualified individuals within cities with whom they could indoctrinate into the Masonic ranks. The travels of the deputies often found themselves travelling along routes that had been established by the Underground Railroad. At



Early Illinois Lodges Founded Along Routes of the Underground Railroad

*By Right Worshipful Brother Daryl L. Andrews
Part 2 of “Prince Hall History in American
History” from the Summer 2016 Edition*

critical points in these locales, Master Masons were indoctrinated and Lodges were organized from these prominent men. As a Lodge, they were left to provide relief to those in need through the bonds of brotherly love and, in doing so, provide hope for brighter tomorrows.

Lodges were organized in the State of Illinois in the 1850s from some of the state’s most prominent men. In 1849, the Grand Lodge of Ohio was organized from Lodges that were established by the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania within that state. In 1851, the Grand Lodge of Ohio, subsequently, indoctrinated men in the City of Chicago through Richard Howell Gleaves, Deputy for the National Grand Lodge. From this group of men, North Star Lodge was organized in the city in 1852. Ohio, again, indoctrinated men in the City of Alton, which was the largest city in the state at the time, and organized G.T. Watson Lodge in 1856. Shortly thereafter, men were indoctrinated in the City of Springfield and Central Lodge was organized in 1857. It is from these three Lodges, that a Grand Lodge for the State of Illinois was organized in 1867.

History provides evidence to the fact that the cities of Chicago, Alton and Springfield were key points on the Underground Railroad within the State of Illinois. In fact, Chicago was a major destination for those who entered the state through Alton and travelled through Springfield to the destination. From Chicago, the route led to Michigan and, eventually, to Canada which had abolished Slavery in the 1830s. Prince Hall Masons in Illinois can announce with great pride that many of those men who participated as conductors and civil rights activists along the way were in fact Freemasons.

Of the founding members of North Star Lodge, noted abolitionists like John Jones and Louis Isbell were active in the movement to free the recently liberated. Isbell was one of Chicago's most prominent barbers who used his business in a Chicago hotel to aid fugitives on their way to Michigan en route to Canada. Jones not only utilized his properties to host meetings for Allan Pinkerton, Frederick Douglass and John Brown but also drove efforts to end the Illinois Black Codes which were laws designed to keep African American citizens under control. His home and shops were also used as stops on the Underground Railroad.

G.T. Watson Lodge of Alton was home to Isaac H. Kelly, one of the most prominent Underground Railroad conductors in Illinois history. Alton is situated at the convergence of the Mississippi, Missouri and Illinois Rivers and served as a major port for industry for the State of Illinois. This city was the mouth for commerce into the center of the state via the Illinois River and not only served as a major business port but also as a pathway to freedom. Fugitives who escaped through St. Louis often entered Illinois through Alton, followed the Illinois River to the Sangamon River to either Springfield and Bloomington and then headed north to Chicago from there. An alternate route was to stay along the Illinois River to Jacksonville to the hands of abolitionist Ben Henderson who guided them to the City of Chicago. Fugitives either boarded the trains of William Dyer inconspicuously or carted their way through Central Illinois to Chicago.



With Springfield as a thoroughfare for the Underground Railroad, a vast majority of her citizens aided many to freedom. For those who stayed in the city, Benjamin F. Rogers (left) of Central Lodge and others worked to provide education and protect them. Similarly, in the City of

Bloomington, men like Samuel Witherspoon and others provided aid and relief. Together, their efforts secured many on their way through Central Illinois to points that would eventually lead to freedom in Canada. Happy it is, indeed, to note that the four aforementioned locations serve as the points of establishment for the Freemasonry among African American men in Illinois.

Following the same path as the State of Ohio, the original three Lodges, namely North Star Lodge, G.T. Watson Lodge and Central Lodge, convened on

February 15, 1867 in the City of Chicago to organize a Grand Lodge for Illinois. With Harrison D. King, Senior Warden of North Star Lodge, elected as the first chairman, the meeting was called to order and it was unanimously agreed that the Lodges would leave the Grand Lodge of Ohio to form a Grand Lodge for Illinois. The election of officers for the new Grand Lodge returned the names of Benjamin F. Rogers of Springfield as the first Grand Master; King of Chicago as the first Deputy Grand Master; E. White and W.L. Darrow (top) as the first Grand Wardens, Isaac Kelly (right) of Alton as the first Grand Treasurer and G.L. Thomas of Chicago as the first Grand Secretary. Thus, February 15, 1867 is retained by Illinois Prince Hall Masons as the Birth of the Grand Lodge.



A letter to the National Grand Lodge was issued from the February Convention outlining the steps taken and efforts in Illinois. On May 6, 1867, the convention reconvened under the leadership of Rogers to review the reply from the National Grand Lodge which was delivered by John Jones. Jones, who had become elected Grand Master of Ohio, was also serving as a deputy of the National Grand Lodge. In doing so, he opened a Lodge of Master Masons in the hall of Central Lodge and proceeded to consummate the new Grand Lodge and install the officers that were elected in February.

On May 7, 1867, Grand Master Rogers called a Special Session of the Grand Lodge to present warrants to North Star Lodge as Lodge #1, G.T. Watson Lodge as Lodge #2 and Central Lodge as Lodge #3. He further ordered that a communication be sent to other Lodges that were under dispensation to inform them of the formation of the Grand Lodge of Illinois. After which the first Special Session of the Grand Lodge closed to meet in the City of Chicago on June 20, 1867.

The opening of the Chicago Session marked the first Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of Illinois. At this session, communications were received from the Illinois Lodges that were under dispensation from the Grand Lodge of Ohio. These Lodges, namely, Morning Star of Galesburg, Evening Star of Bloomington, Lincoln Lodge of Cairo and Freemont Lodge of Shawneetown, answered the call and

petitioned membership to the Grand Lodge of Illinois. Of the four Lodges, three were granted warrants— Evening Star Lodge #4, Lincoln Lodge #5 and Freemont Lodge #6. The petition for Morning Star was held for additional investigation of the Lodge. The Chicago Session concluded with the election of officers in which Darrow was elevated to Senior Grand Warden and L.A. Coleman of Springfield to Junior Grand Warden. All other officers retained their stations and places and the next Annual Communication was set for June 20, 1868 in the City of Alton.

The Alton Session yielded three new Lodges under the umbrella of the Grand Lodge. John Jones Lodge #7 of Chicago became the namesake of Past Grand Master John Jones. St. Johns Lodge #8 of Jacksonville and Siloam Lodge #9 of Quincy were also added. No communication was received from Morning Star Lodge of Galesburg preventing the renewal of its dispensation to move forward as a Lodge.

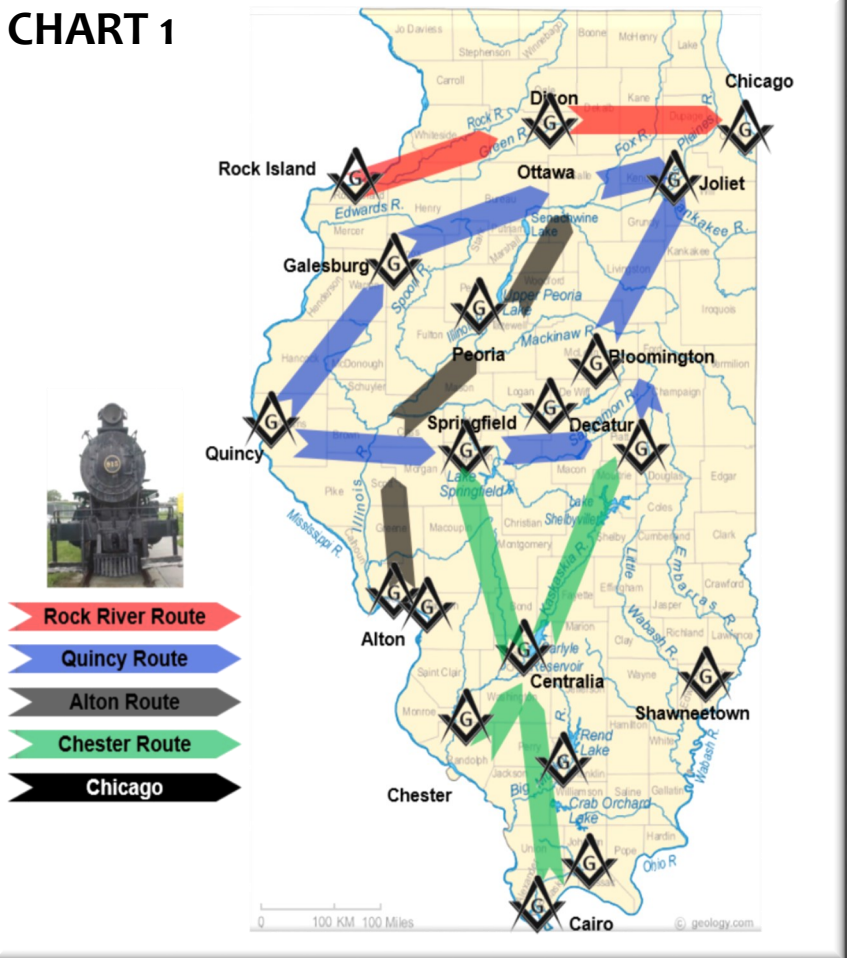
Two new Lodges were organized under dispensation at the 1869 Session. Although Morning Star Lodge of Galesburg never received a warrant, William L. Darrow Lodge was constituted under dispensation in that city. I.H. Kelly Lodge was also warranted under dispensation in the City of Belleville. The 1870 Session added B.F. Rogers Lodge of Upper

Alton as a new Lodge under dispensation. The 1871 Session warranted William L. Darrow Lodge #10, I.H. Kelly Lodge #11 and B.F. Rogers Lodge #12. In addition, Lodges were also warranted under dispensation in Mattoon (Eureka Lodge) and in London, Ontario, (Osiros Lodge). As such, by the conclusion of the year 1871, Lodges had been organized at locations of safe houses along the Underground Railroad in Illinois.

Remnants of the pathways of the Underground Railroad are still alive and well in the State of Illinois. The current highway interstate system is one of the most significant landmarks to these paths. Chart1 provides the Underground Railroad Routes which were most frequently travelled in Illinois. Superimposing the paths of Interstate 55 and Interstate 57 over these routes will provide a close match. This speaks volumes regarding the efficiency of the path and the ability to communicate through these common ties.

The fact that several of the brethren were Underground Railroad conductors provides an indication of the true nature of Lodge activity during this period. Lodge meetings could not have been only about Lodge finances considering that many worked in collaboration to improve the community. It can be assumed that the early Lodges were simply conduits for freedom and community upliftment.

CHART 1

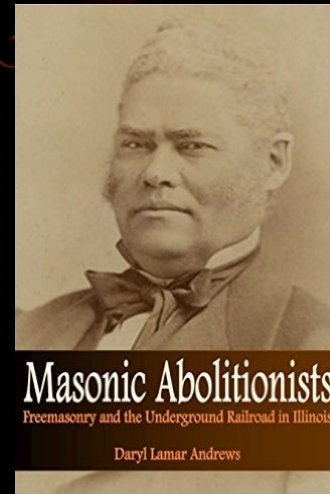
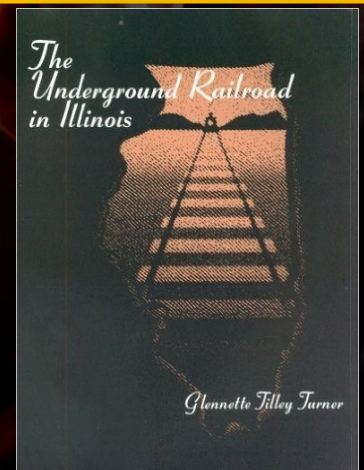
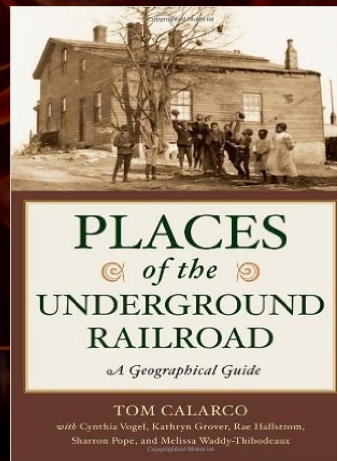


Like Prince Hall, the goal of many Freemasons is to improve the communities in which Masons live and serve. As such, with Slavery being the common issue of the day and age, it is no surprise that the brethren in the early Lodges were activists in the struggle of Slavery and the residual circumstances which stemmed from it. Some of these effects include the settlement and establishment of strong communities among African American citizens and political influence from organizing within these communities. These effects serve as the basis upon which civic and political gains were achieved across the State of Illinois. As such, it should not be a surprise that several Prince Hall Masons were of the most prominent civic and political leaders of the day.

<<MORE TO COME IN THE NEXT EDITION>>

The following works serve as the source for this article:

- "Places of the Underground Railroad" by Tom Calarco (photo of Isaac H. Kelly's cabin is in this book)
- "The Underground Railroad in Illinois" by Glynette Tilley Turner
- "Masonic Abolitionists: Freemasonry and the Underground Railroad in Illinois" by Daryl Lamar Andrews



NOMINATE A MASON IN GOOD STANDING FOR THE MASON OF THE YEAR AWARD

WHO WILL BE YOUR LODGE'S CANDIDATE FOR 2017-18

MASON OF THE YEAR???

EVERY LODGE SHOULD HAVE THE NAME OF AT LEAST ONE BROTHER TO SUBMIT FOR THE HONOR!!!

DOWNLOAD THE APPLICATION FROM THE MEMBERS SECTION OF THE GRAND LODGE WEBSITE AND SUBMIT THE COMPLETED APPLICATION TO THE OFFICE OF THE GRAND SECRETARY BY JUNE 30, 2017.





SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

Submitted by Past Master Homer Walton, #109

I'm the Guy

Author unknown

I'm the guy who asked to join your organization. I'm the guy who paid his dues to join.

I'm the guy who stood up in front of all of you and promised to be faithful and loyal.

I'm the guy who came to your meetings and no one paid any attention to.

I tried several times to be friendly to some of the fellows
but they all had their own buddies they talk to and sat next to.

I sat down several times but no one paid any attention to me.

I hoped very much that somebody would have asked me to take part
in a fund raising project or something, but no one saw my efforts when I volunteered.

I missed a few meetings after joining because I was sick and couldn't be there.

No one asked me at the next meeting where I had been.

I guess it didn't matter very much to the others whether I was there or not.

The next meeting I decided to stay home and watch TV.

The following meeting I attended, no one asked me
where I was when the last meeting was held.

You might say I'm a good guy, a good family man
who holds a responsible job, loves his community, and his country.

You know who else I am? I'm the guy who never came back!

It amuses me when I think back on how the heads of the organization
and the members were discussing why the organization was losing members.

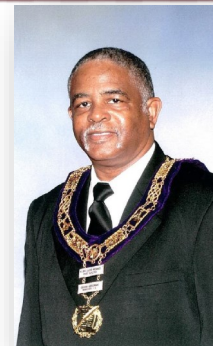
It amuses me now to think that they spent so much time
looking for new members when I was there all the time.

All they needed to do was make me feel needed, wanted and welcome!

THE GREAT MIGRATION NORTH TO CHICAGO

Were Prince Hall Masons a Contributing Factor in This Journey?

By: Worshipful Brother Lloyd Womack, Grand Historian



As the Grand Historian, again, I am honored to write this article on the “The Great Migration North to Chicago”. It is a great feeling to be able to write a story that we all in some way can relate too. We as Prince Hall Masons are continuing in our attempts to educate our future generation regarding the charitable works of our organization.

The migration of African Americans from the southern states to the northern states was one of the most important developments in the history of the United States. At its core, the migration was a protest to the conditions in the south. African Americans left the south for the north because it was the only safe way to voice their displeasure over the way they were treated. Slavery had ended but segregation, discrimination, disrespect, and mistreatment, still continued. Some moved to Chicago to establish roots so that friends and family from the southern states would have a place to live when they migrated. Others moved to Chicago to rejoin family and friends.

At the helm of this great migration were Prince Hall Masons. The period of the migration north lasted from 1916 until 1970. At one point during the migration north, 3000 African Americans were arriving weekly in Chicago. Between 1916 and 1919 more than 50,000 African Americans migrated to Chicago from the south. Between 1940 and 1960, the population of the south side of Chicago increased 77 percent.

As concern the question, were Prince Hall Masons at the helm of this great migration? The answer is yes. This charge was lead by Brother Robert Sengstacke Abbott, a Prince Hall Mason. Brother Abbott is the founder of The Chicago Defender Newspaper, founded on May 5, 1905. Through the Chicago Defender, Brother Abbott instigated the Great Migration, resulting in the movement of six million Blacks out of the Rural Southern United States to the Urban Northeast, Midwest, and West that occurred between 1910 and 1970.

The Chicago Defender newspaper had become very popular in the southern states and would routinely run features detailing violence in the south alongside job opportunities in Chicago. It was Brother Abbott’s writings through the Chicago Defender where he told stories of migration to the north giving hope to the disenfranchised and oppressed people of the south. He encouraged blacks to leave the south for the north for better opportunities. Brother Abbott’s newspaper editorials were often sold or distributed on the trains by the Railroad Porters who were Prince Hall Masons who were highly respected men among blacks. The Rail Road Porters were unionized in 1925. In-depth research by the Grand Historian disclosed that Prince Hall Masons in Chicago eagerly awaited and welcomed other blacks when they arrived in Chicago with open arms and gave needed assistance and guidance.

For those that do not know the history of Brother Robert Sengstacke Abbott, he was born on November 24, 1870, in St. Simons Island, Georgia, now Savannah, Georgia. He died on February 29, 1940 at the age of 69. Brother Abbott was a lawyer and newspaper publisher/editor. He was educated at Hampton Institute (1892-1896) now Hampton University, an Historically Black College. In 1898, he earned a law degree from Kent College of Law in Chicago. Brother Abbott attempted to establish law practice in Gary, Indiana and Topeka, Kansas, but return and settle in Chicago. On May 5, 1905, he founded the Chicago Defender Newspaper with a small investment and began printing in a room at his boarding house. In 1929, in Chicago, he founded the Bud Billiken Parade and Picnic which has developed as a celebration in Chicago of African American life. Brother Abbott lived and housed the Chicago Defender Office in Chicago’s Bronzeville community as did many of the community’s black entrepreneurs.

Following Brother Abbott’s death in 1940, John Sengstacke, also a Prince Hall Mason, Mt. Hebron Lodge No. 29, became the successor and heir to the Chicago Defender Newspaper who took the newspaper to an even greater height.

In conclusion, I hope in some way we all can relate to this article, as we all should have had a relative who could have told their story about “The Great Migration to Chicago”.

Arrangements to share your personal documents can be made by contacting Assistant Grand Historian Brother Taej Murray at (773) 915-3395, Assistant Grand Historian Brother Albert Haynes, III., at (708) 829-5146 or you may wish to contact Sister Tammy Hampton at (773) 982-4236.



NUTRITION: How Good is Fruit or Juice for You?

RESEARCH BY CAROLYN S. WOMACK, PAST WORTHY MATRON, #90

I. FRUIT

Do you ask yourself, is fruit good for my diet? In my research, the answer is yes, but you have to “choose wisely”. Accordingly, fruit is high in vitamins, minerals, and fiber making it an excellent substitute for sugary deserts. Yet it also contains sugar and carbs, therefore, you need to watch portion sizes. Work with your dietitian to figure out how many carb grams you should eat per meal, and per day.

One 15-gram serving of carbs is equal to one and one fourth cups whole strawberries, 1 medium peach, or 1 cup of cubed cantaloupe. Dried fruit is a much more concentrated source of sugar, so a serving will be smaller. For example, you could eat two whole plums or three small dried prunes for the same 15 grams of carbs. If you eat based on the glycemic index (GI) a measure of how much certain foods raise your blood sugar, most fruits are fine because their fiber puts them low on the index. Higher GI fruits to watch out for are pineapple, watermelon, bananas, and dried fruits.

II. FRUIT JUICE

Further research shows according to a certified diabetes educator and dietitian, “timing is everything”. Juice is high in sugar and carbs, which raises blood sugar. However, that can come in handy at times because it is used by many people to raise their sugar if they’re having a low.

If you drink juice regularly, look for brands labeled 100% fruit juice with no added Sugar. Also, watch how much you drink. A 4-ounce glass of juice supplies about 15 carb grams.

III. FRESH, FROZEN OR CANNED

Fresh fruit is always best. Canned or frozen fruits make good substitutes. Most frozen fruits are taken from the field and frozen very quickly, therefore, they are not losing that many nutrients. However, you want to avoid products with added syrup, sugar, and salt. Read the labels.

In closing, keep in mind how certain fruits might affect your medications. Grapefruit and its juice, as well as orange and apple juices, can interact with drugs used to treat high blood pressure, high cholesterol, and other conditions. Check with your doctor before eating citrus fruits or drinking their juice.

So, now you have it. Be careful, choose your fruit and juice “wisely”. Stay Healthy and Happy.



PRINCE HALL AMERICANISM DAY ACROSS ILLINOIS



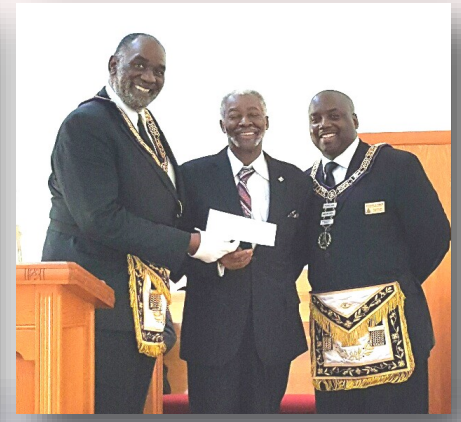
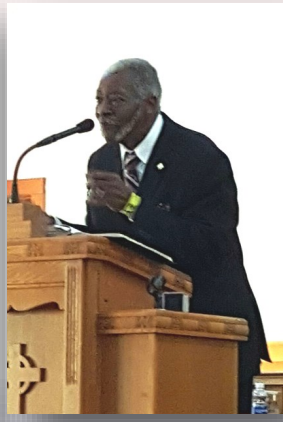
The efforts of Prince Hall and the members of African Lodge were done in conjunction with the community. These efforts included transforming homes of the brethren in to schools for African children. It also included aiding those in search of freedom to various destinations through the Underground Railroad. Claiming civil rights and standing on the promises of the government were also efforts that help to end Slavery in Massachusetts in 1788. These efforts provide evidence to the ideal that Freemasonry in America among men of color was not being done just as a means for

socialization. It had become a tool for progress.

This ideal has carried its way through the centuries to the current era. So that we do not forget, Prince Hall Americanism Day is celebrated annually. The ideals and values that Hall and his brethren stood for are still relevant in today's day and age. Remembering these efforts reminds Freemasons of their solemn duties to provide relief, brotherly love and truth. The efforts to meet these tasks improve the communities in which Freemasons live and serve.

“Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am like a clanging symbol or sounding brass.” - 1 Corinthians 13:1.

Many Freemasons take this verse from the Holy Bible to heart and push forward with the intentions of putting their faith to work. Thus, Prince Hall Americanism Day reminds us that the words of service, duty and honor are actually worthwhile because the work is being done. These works of charity through faith provide hope for a better tomorrow.



Prince Hall Americanism Day 2016 was celebrated in all four Grand Lodge Districts simultaneously on Sunday, September 11, 2016 in the cities of Danville (above), Alton, Joliet and Chicago (opposite page). In each district an overview of the efforts of early Prince Hall Masons to improve society was presented.



CHARITABLE EFFORTS ACROSS ILLINOIS



Brethren and sisters in the first district expended countless hours in support of the Pacific Gardens Mission under the direction of Past Master Dontane Farmer (above). His leadership and efforts in serving this charity are remarkable. The brethren of Dunbar Lodge #97 cooked and provided food to youth during the Thanksgiving Holiday in Alton, Illinois (below). Brethren in East St. Louis, Illinois serve the community during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays (opposite page).



DURING THE 2ND HALF OF 2016



EAST ST. LOUIS—The Prince Hall Masons of the 4th District joined Walgreens East St. Louis in a community flu shot affair. This year's slogan, "Stay healthy and protect those you love by receiving a vaccine at your neighborhood Walgreens." This is the 3rd consecutive year that the 4th District, the Grand Lodge and the local Walgreens have partnered to do outreach within the community. Spearheaded by Worshipful Brother Charles McDonald of Southern Cross Lodge #112, the Prince Hall Masons of the 4th District provided the facility and assisted in registration. The 2016 event was the strongest community turnout since the partnership evolved. Thanks to Worshipful Brother Charles McDonald, #112, Sister Anita McDonald, and Brother Allen Johnson for their hard work in organizing this event. Special thanks to Mr. Shawn Noll, Walgreens Manager, East St. Louis, Illinois. Also, special thanks to the 4th District Past Masters Council for their contributions and showing of concern for greater involvement of Prince Hall Masons within the Community. - Submitted by Past Master Charles McDonald, #112; Photos by PM Chris McKinley, #112

THANKSGIVING & CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

BLOOMINGTON—Elijah S. Betts #23 had an opportunity to provide a Thanksgiving Dinner at the Lincoln Center Boys and Girls club here in Bloomington (right). The meal consisted of Turkey, Ham, Mashed Potatoes, Macaroni and Cheese, Sweet Potatoes, Green Beans, Peach Cobbler and Banana Pudding. We had the food catered by Selenia's Creations. A estimated 100 kids were fed. The Deputy Grand Master, Right Worshipful Brother Aubrey K. Barlow spoke to the kids. Also present were Worshipful Master Michael C. Johnson, PM Danny Miller and members of our sister chapter Anwar #149. They were represented by Worthy Matron Kim Turner, Sis. Joselyn Miller and Sis. Amelia Mailey.

CHICAGO—Talma Chapter #2 and North Star Lodge #1 “Fall Into Giving” Thanksgiving Charity event was held November 15, 2016 at the Bria Forest Home , 8001 South Western Avenue, Chicago, IL. Approximately 100 residents were served a wonderful meal consisting of ham, turkey, chicken, mac and cheese, dressing, cranberry sauce, with all the trimmings; desserts of homemade pies and cakes (below). The expressions on the faces of the Residents showed just what a good time they had enjoying the meal and the fellowship with the members of Talma and North Star. Their evening ended with gift bags filled with personal hygiene products – toothbrush kit, soap, Kleenex, lip balm, lotion, shampoo and conditioner. Brother Matt Williams, PM North Star and Brother Bobby Winton, Senior Warden North Star commented, “we are converted” we will not miss another event as this. North Star #1 and Talma #2 working together – Great Team Work!



SEASON EFFORTS AT ALL LEVELS



On the Saturday November 19 Officer Daliah Goree (Sis Vivian Howell #151) and Officer Claudette Knight (wife of Bro. Greg Knight of Jachin #133) were asked to be a part of The BMO Harris Bank Lights Festival of Magnificent Mile. These officers were selected due to their works in the Englewood Community. They spread holiday cheer on the float along with the representatives of The BMO Harris Bank. We salute you for your dedication to community engagement in the Englewood Community. - Submitted by Sister Stephanie Atwood, WGM

AURORA—The brethren of Keystone Lodge #15 provide sustenance for those in need during the holiday season in the second District. Visit www.Keystone15.com to see ALL of their efforts.



A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE ELECTIVE GRAND LODGE OFFICES OF THE

Today, there are fifteen (15) Elective Grand Lodge Offices of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Illinois. However, the original number of elective offices was six (6) and they included:

- Office of the Most Worshipful Grand Master
- Office of the Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master
- Office of the Right Worshipful Senior Grand Warden (*later changed to Grand Senior Warden*)
- Office of the Right Worshipful Junior Grand Warden (*later changed to Grand Junior Warden*)
- Office of the Right Worshipful Grand Treasurer
- Office of the Right Worshipful Grand Secretary

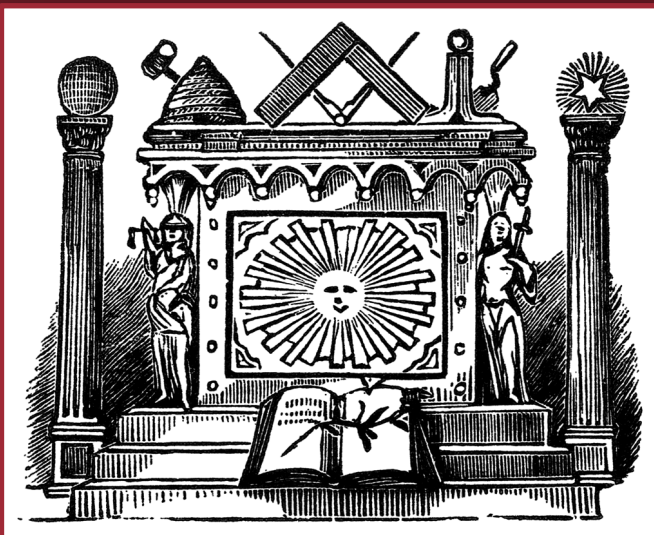
These offices were initially the only six (6) electives because they were the key administrators of the Grand Lodge. With the Deputy Grand Master and Grand Wardens serving, effectively, as Vice Presidents, the Grand Master, Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary were free to focus on the administrative aspects of the Grand Lodge in the jurisdiction. The preferred line of succession to the Oriental Chair of the Grand East was also defined along these lines. The Deputy Grand Master presided in the absence of the Grand Master and the Grand Wardens presided in the absence of their seniors. This implies that “line” officers were involved in all administrative aspects of the Grand Lodge and were able to conduct the affairs of the Grand Lodge when called to do so. The Bylaws of the Grand Lodge provide the lines of succession thereafter should a tragedy have occurred.

The Office of Grand Lecturer was initially established as an appointed office in 1867. Right Worshipful Brother Edwin R. Williams, Past Grand Warden of Ohio, was the first appointed Grand Lecturer. In the initial hierarchy, this office fell below the Office of Grand Junior Deacon. Its importance was stressed by the first Grand Master, Most Worshipful Brother Benjamin Rogers, who felt that a focus on the ritualistic works of the Craft needed to be increased. As such, he introduced the elevation of the office to an elective office at the 3rd Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge.

With the approval of the Grand Lodge, the rank of the Office of the Grand Lecturer was elevated above the

GRAND LODGE SEALS

1867 TO 2016



A seal is an emblem that is utilized to make an impression or an embossment of the emblem of a leader or organization to identify the source of an official correspondence. Kings, Potentates and other leaders have used creative and distinct seals to identify themselves. Over the years, the seals of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Illinois have changed.

The initial seal which was introduced at the formation of the Grand Lodge (left) is an emblem of a Masonic altar adorned with Masonic symbolism. This seal was adopted at the formation of the Grand Lodge in 1867 when the name of the Grand Lodge was the “Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, Ancient Free and Accepted York Masons, State of Illinois.” It is this seal which appears on the cover of the first set of Proceedings of the Grand Lodge from 1867.

This seal was commonly utilized by other Grand

MOST WORSHIPFUL PRINCE HALL GRAND LODGE OF ILLINOIS

Office of Grand Senior Deacon but just below the Office of the Grand Secretary because the office does not focus on administration. After passing the chair to Grand Master Isaac H. Kelly at the same session, Most Worshipful Brother Rogers was subsequently elected as the first “elected” Grand Lecturer in 1869 which boosted the number of electives to seven (7).

The Offices of Grand Auditor (3) and Grand Trustee (4) were added in 1915 under the term of Most Worshipful Brother Alexander A. Martin due to the efforts of the Grand Lodge to purchase a home for elderly members and a permanent Grand East. With three Grand Auditors and four Grand Trustees provided for in the law, these additions boosted the number of electives to fourteen (14). Relative to the hierarchy, these offices fell just below the Office of the Grand Lecturer respectively as they were not initially full-time roles. The Grand Auditors primary focus fell on auditing transactions that were presented at Grand Sessions. The roles of the Grand Trustees initially focused on the preservation of Grand Lodge regalia particularly during Grand Sessions but would later evolve as the Grand Lodge purchased property.

The addition of the Office of the Grand Relief Secretary, the fifteenth (15) elective, was added in 1961 by Most Worshipful Brother Obed Vanderburg to manage benefits paid to the families of deceased members. The first Grand Relief Secretary would become the 29th Grand Master in 1975, namely, Most Worshipful James H. Black Sr. Relative to the hierarchy, this office was ranked below the Office of Grand Secretary but above the Office of Grand Lecturer because it was an administrative and financial office. With the benefit abolished at the turn of the 21st Century, the duties of this office were no longer needed. It was approved by the Grand Lodge at the 145th Annual Communication in 2011 to abolish the office. This took effect in 2012 and reduced the number of electives to fourteen (14).

The addition of a new Grand Auditor was introduced at the 146th Annual Communication. The new role was introduced to aid with new duties that were placed upon the office during the term of Most Worshipful Brother Otis W. Cromartie Sr. District Audits were introduced in 2010 requiring the books of subordinate Lodges to be reviewed annually by the team. Thus, the number of electives stands at fifteen (15).

Sources: Proceedings, MWP HGL of Illinois, 1867-68, 1869, 1915, 1961, 2011, 2012

Lodges in America during the same era with the only distinction being the name of the Grand Lodge. The seal, however, remained in tact through the subsequent name changes of the Grand Lodge in which the shift from “Ancient Free and Accepted York Masons” (AF&AYM) to “Ancient Free and Accepted Masons” (AF&AM) occurred in the early 20th Century. It also remained in tact with subsequent shift to “Free and Accepted Masons” (F&AM) and the incorporation of “Prince Hall” in the name.

The seal shifted to the current look (right) under the term of Past Grand Master James H. Black Sr. from 1975 to 1977. The seal shifted from the altar to a more modern symbol with the emblem of a wreathed Past Master centered in the middle. It also placed the name of the Grand Lodge on the official emblem itself. This change clearly identified the Grand Lodge in the eyes of all

onlookers and eliminated the possibility of confusion between Grand Lodges.

The word “CHARTERED” appeared on the seal until 2014 when the Grand Lodge approved the replacement of the word with “ORGANIZED” under the term of Past Grand Master Millard Driskell. This was done because no Prince Hall Grand Lodge is chartered as there is no higher authority than it in a particular state. They are **organized** and **recognized** by one another. The current seal is that emblem that is recognized as the seal of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Illinois today.





EUREKA GRAND CHAPTER



Eureka Grand Chapter's annual Christmas effort and toy giveaway was held at the Grand East in December of 2016. The event was a huge success. Accompanied by a new "Old St. Nick", the Officers and members of Eureka Grand Chapter Order of the Eastern Star provided toys for the multitude of Youth in attendance and meals for those in need. The effort this year fed and provided holiday cheer for hundreds. Congratulations to Sister Stephanie E. Atwood, Worthy Grand Matron and the members of the Order on a job well done.



*- photos by Sister Syidah Sabur James, Sister Moia Gamble
and Sister Gwen Howell-Andrews*

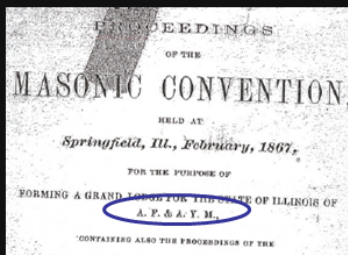


CHRISTMAS TOY GIVEAWAY

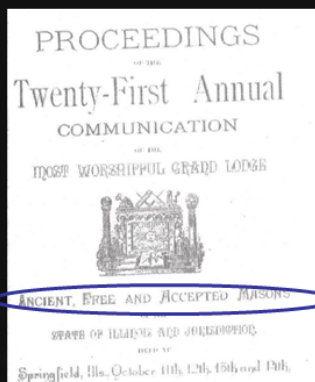


FYI—5 LETTER, 4 LETTER, 3 LETTER—WE WERE ALL 3

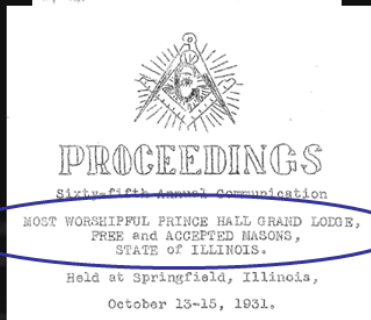
Contrary to popular belief, the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Illinois was not only a 4 Letter Grand Lodge at one time but also a 5 Letter Grand Lodge. **FYI — The 3 letters that MATTER ARE P.H.A.**



- **1867 - 1885 (AF&AYM – Five (5) Letter)**
 - *Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, Ancient Free and Accepted York Masons, State of Illinois (1867)*
 - ***Withdrawal from the National Grand Lodge (1877)***
 - ***Incorporated*** as Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, Ancient Free and Accepted York Masons, State of Illinois (1882)



- **1885 - 1922 (AF&AM – Four (4) Letter)**
 - *Changed name to Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, AF&AM, State of Illinois to distinguish itself from irregular York Masons (1885)*
 - ***Re-incorporated*** as Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, AF&AM, State of Illinois (1909)



- **1922 - Present (F&AM – Three (3) Letter)**
 - *Amended articles of incorporation to change name to Most Worshipful **Prince Hall** Grand Lodge, F&AM, State of Illinois*
 - *Removed “Ancient” and added “Prince Hall”*
 - ***PRINCE HALL AFFILIATED (PHA)***

SOURCES: Proceedings, MWPHGL of Illinois, 1867, 1877, 1880, 1882, 1883, 1885, 1890, 1893, 1909, 1910, 1913, 1919, 1922, 1973, 1984, 1992, 1997, 2000



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