

SPECIAL

PRINCE HALL MASONIC

2017

# JOURNAL

*Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free & Accepted Masons, State of Illinois*



- **Timeline of Freemasonry in England & America**
- **American Grand Lodge Recognized by the UGLE**
- **Photo Highlights of the 300th Anniversary of Freemasonry**  
*including an Original Letter by Prince Hall—November 7, 1789*



Prince Hall Grand Masters representing their Grand Lodges at the 300th Anniversary of Freemasonry in England.

## SPECIAL EDITION EDITORIAL

If ever there was a question about the legitimacy of Prince Hall Freemasonry, this edition should answer it.

The 300th anniversary of organized Freemasonry was celebrated by the United Grand Lodge of England (UGLE) and Grand Lodges across the world in October and November of 2017. Grand Lodge in amity with the UGLE were invited to participate in the gala celebration. Several Prince Hall Grand Lodges were among them because they are able to trace their roots to the source by virtue of their lineage through the charter of African Lodge #459 of Massachusetts.

It is indeed an honor to have the name of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free & Accepted Masons, State of Illinois and Its Jurisdiction present at this auspicious occasion in the person of Most Worshipful Brother Dwayne A. Smith, Grand Master of Illinois Prince Hall Masons.

### Photography Contributors:

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United Grand Lodge of England



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Right Worshipful Brother  
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# TIMELINE OF FREEMASONRY IN ENGLAND & AMERICA

Masonic scholars across the globe tend to agree that Freemasonry descends directly or indirectly from the organization of operative stone masons who built the great cathedrals and castles of the middle ages. The knowledge that was utilized to build those edifices is traced to different sources which are not limited to but do include the Normans and the Moors. As Freemasonry is built upon the principles of operative stone masons of ancient days, its legacy as an organized speculative order has its roots in England.

The first documented making of an English Freemason was that of Elias Ashmole at Warrington in the year 1646. While this instance is the first documented, it was certainly not the first instance in which a Freemason was made. After Ashmole, additional men were indoctrinated into the order which was under the control of individual Lodges until four Lodges of London came together to organize a Grand Lodge on June 24, 1717. These Lodges met at the Goose and Gridiron Tavern in St Paul's Churchyard, declared themselves a Grand Lodge and elected Anthony Sayer as their Grand Master.

By 1723, the new Grand Lodge had established rules and order. It published the Book of Constitutions of Masonry to serve as the rules for the organization and established quarterly meetings. With laws, rules and regulations in place, the Grand Lodge extended its authority outside London to surrounding locales by organizing speculative Lodges.

Additional Grand Lodges were organized along the same lines. In 1725, The Grand Lodge of Ireland



was established. In 1736, The Grand Lodge of Scotland was also established. These three Grand Lodges were the drivers of the extension of Freemasonry across the globe in the early half of the 18th Century.

The extension of Freemasonry had also made its way to the British Colonies in the Americas. By the 1730s, Lodges had been established throughout the colonies and, from those Lodges. From these Lodges, new Grand Lodges were organized within the colonial regions.

In 1751, the Grand Lodge of England experienced a split. A rival Grand Lodge arose from Irish Masons who claimed that the original Grand Lodge (Premier) no longer maintained the rules and regulations that were initially in place. The new Grand Lodge deemed themselves as the Antient Grand Lodge and worked to extend Freemasonry through its own authority. The two English Grand Lodges remained separated for more than sixty (60) years through which England found itself engaged in multiple wars at the national level. The revolt of the British Colonies in America drove a wedge between the American and British Freemasons. Subsequent wars between nations also stretched the bonds of brotherly love. It was during this period of separation that Prince Hall Freemasonry found its genesis.

During the American Revolutionary War, Prince Hall and several other veterans of the war were made Freemasons by John Batt of an Irish Military Lodge. After Batt took his leave, Hall and the others sought to align with the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts which had been organized in 1733. Unsuccessful in his attempts, Hall sought a charter from the Premier Grand

Lodge of England in 1784 which was granted in September of the same year. It is from this source that the Lodge, African Lodge #459, was chartered with Prince Hall as its first Master.

A veteran and abolitionist, Hall had the focus of African Lodge on community improvement and freeing the enslaved. These efforts were done in conjunction with other organizations including the Free African Society. From these relationships, Hall organized additional Lodges in the region in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and Providence, Rhode Island. Together they implemented solutions to educate the youth and to aid the newly freed in becoming self-sufficient.

Considering that Slavery had not been established in the Americas, the efforts of the African Lodge to extend itself were quite remarkable. Within the country, the racial divide was great. Without the country, tension between England and America still fostered. Despite the tides, Hall continued to engage in correspondence with the Premier Grand Lodge as evidenced by his letters in order to maintain a link to the Mother Grand Lodge.

After the death of Hall and a lack of correspondence between the Lodge and the Premier Grand Lodge, the three Lodges organized themselves into the African Grand Lodge in 1808 and worked to extend Freemasonry among African American men along with the expansion of America.

During this period, England and France were engaged in war. Napoleon's French forces caused England to stretch her resources to contend. The War of 1812 between America and England



stretched the English resources even further as they were fighting wars on two fronts. The Treaty of Paris ended both wars in 1815.

To many historians, the wars became a factor in the reunification of English Freemasonry. The efforts to begin reconciliation had actually begun in 1809, yet, in the midst of the wars, the Premier and Antient Grand Lodges in England reunited on December 27, 1813 to form the United Grand Lodge of England (UGLE).

The reunion led to a great deal of change within the order. Rituals, procedures and regalia were standardized and Lodges were renumbered in order to solidify the new union. Several American Lodges whose initial charters emanated from the Premier or Antient Grand Lodges were not incorporated in the renumbering process. This is most likely due to the fact that most had organized themselves into Grand Lodges. As such, the American Grand Lodges were viewed as Independent Grand Lodges sovereign unto themselves.

By 1814, approximately 647 Lodges with allegiance to the UGLE were in existence. By the turn of the 20th Century, over 2,800 Lodges under the UGLE had been organized across the globe. In addition, Prince Hall Grand Lodges had been established in the majority of the states in the United States of America. The Prince Hall Grand Lodges were organized along the pathways of the Underground Railroad and paths of expansion of the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church. Yet, despite the mass expansion, the relationship relative to recognition

between American Grand Lodges and the UGLE was non-existent.

Through the 20th Century, Freemasonry had extended itself to virtually every corner of the Earth. Yet, formal recognition between the UGLE and American Grand Lodges had not been reconciled. In order to reconcile the breach, several Grand Lodge took steps to re-establish lines of communication. These efforts proved fruitful by the end of the century.

Although a Grand Lodge is sovereign unto itself as outlined in accordance with Masonic principles, recognition between Masonic bodies is a privilege that many seek to obtain in order to practice the arts with others across the jurisdictions. It is also a major factor in identifying the legitimacy of Masonic jurisdictions. There are multiple Grand Lodges that have been organized without a linkage to a legitimate source. As such, recognition or the lack thereof serves as a point of reference to highlight those Grand Lodges whose source is not true.

By the end of the 20th Century, the majority of American Grand Lodges including Prince Hall Grand Lodges had re-established amity with the UGLE through their ability to show a lineage to a charter emanating from the Premier or Antient Grand Lodges. Recognition by the UGLE has become a standard by which Grand Lodges across the globe seek to obtain for this purpose. In doing so, they enjoy the privileges that brotherhood provides on a global scale.

#### Sources:

*United Grand Lodge of England, [www.ugle.org.uk](http://www.ugle.org.uk) (11/20/2017)*

*Restoration of Amity by Nicholas B. Locker, PGM, MWPHGL of Massachusetts, 4/7/2007*

*Masonic Abolitionists: Freemasonry and the Underground Railroad in Illinois by Daryl Lamar Andrews*



# UNITED GRAND LODGE OF ENGLAND

## Photo Highlights of the 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of Organized Freemasonry



Grand Master Smith and the Grand Master of Japan



Freemasons Hall in London, England is the scene for the 300th Anniversary of organized Freemasonry.

Welcome Dinner



Sunday 29th October 2017  
Grand Entrance 8



HRH Duke of Kent, Grand Master of the UGLE, receives visiting Grand Masters from across the world.





Grand Master Smith and other Grand Masters were received by the United Grand Lodge of England.



Grand Officers from across the world view the awesome displays of architecture at Freemasons Hall in London.





# AMERICAN GRAND LODGES

*American Grand Lodges recognized as adhering to the same*

*Grand Lodge of Alabama*

*Grand Lodge of Alaska*

*Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alaska*

*Grand Lodge of Arizona*

*Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Arizona*

*Grand Lodge of Arkansas*

*Grand Lodge of California*

*Prince Hall Grand Lodge of California*

*Grand Lodge of Colorado*

*Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Colorado*

*Grand Lodge of Connecticut*

*Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Connecticut*

*Grand Lodge of Delaware*

*Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Delaware*

*Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia*

*Prince Hall Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia*

*Grand Lodge of Florida*

*Grand Lodge of Georgia*

*Grand Lodge of Hawaii*

*Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Hawaii*

*Grand Lodge of Idaho*

*Grand Lodge of Illinois*

## **PRINCE HALL GRAND LODGE OF ILLINOIS**

*Grand Lodge of Indiana*

*Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Indiana*

*Grand Lodge of Iowa*

*Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Iowa*

*Grand Lodge of Kansas*

*Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Kansas*

*Grand Lodge of Kentucky*

*Grand Lodge of Louisiana*

*Grand Lodge of Maine*

*Grand Lodge of Maryland*

*Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Maryland*

*Grand Lodge of Massachusetts*

*Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Massachusetts*

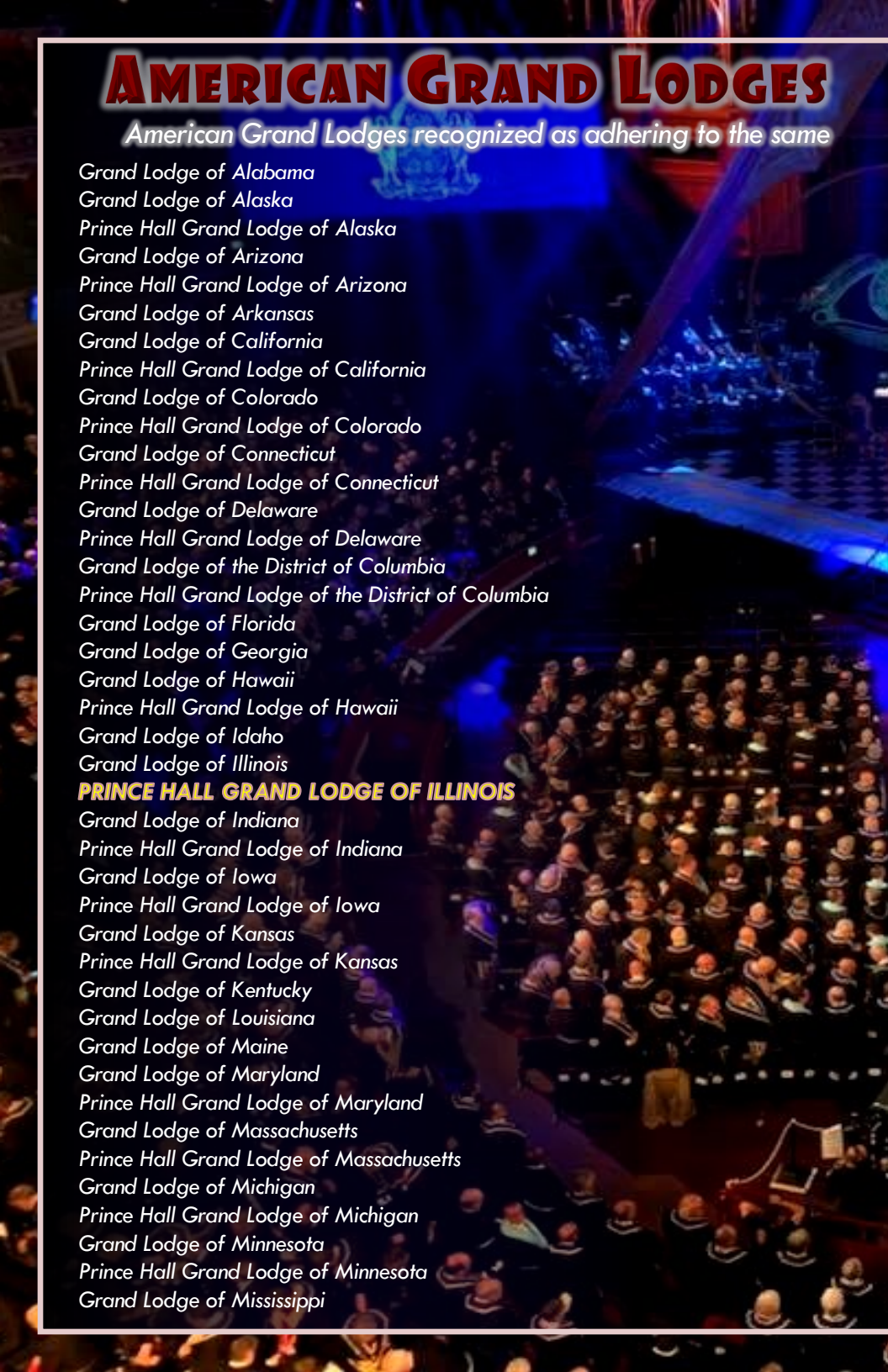
*Grand Lodge of Michigan*

*Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Michigan*

*Grand Lodge of Minnesota*

*Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Minnesota*

*Grand Lodge of Mississippi*



# RECOGNIZED BY THE UGLE

principles and 'landmarks' as the United Grand Lodge of England.

- 
- Grand Lodge of Missouri
  - Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Missouri
  - Grand Lodge of Montana
  - Grand Lodge of Nebraska
  - Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Nebraska
  - Grand Lodge of Nevada
  - Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Nevada
  - Grand Lodge of New Hampshire
  - Grand Lodge of New Jersey
  - Prince Hall Grand Lodge of New Jersey
  - Grand Lodge of New Mexico
  - Prince Hall Grand Lodge of the State of New Mexico
  - Grand Lodge of the State of New York
  - Prince Hall Grand Lodge of New York
  - Grand Lodge of North Carolina
  - Prince Hall Grand Lodge of North Carolina
  - Grand Lodge of North Dakota
  - Grand Lodge of Ohio
  - Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Ohio
  - Grand Lodge of Oklahoma
  - Grand Lodge of Oregon
  - Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Oregon
  - Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania
  - Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania
  - Grand Lodge of Rhode Island
  - Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Rhode Island
  - Grand Lodge of South Carolina
  - Grand Lodge of South Dakota
  - Grand Lodge of Tennessee
  - Grand Lodge of Texas
  - Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas
  - Grand Lodge of Utah
  - Grand Lodge of Vermont
  - Grand Lodge of Virginia
  - Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Virginia
  - Grand Lodge of Washington
  - Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Washington
  - Grand Lodge of West Virginia
  - Grand Lodge of Wisconsin
  - Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Wisconsin
  - Grand Lodge of Wyoming





Opening ceremonies of the 300th Anniversary were filled with extraordinary displays of light and brotherhood.







Graphic displays similar to those shown at the London Olympics were employed during the ceremonies.



HRH, the Duke of Kent, addresses the body of Freemasons from recognized jurisdictions across the globe.





Grand Master's Reception

Grand Temple  
Freemasons' Hall, Great Queens Street

30th October 2017

Grand Master Smith enjoys the reception along with Johnathon Spence (below center), UGLE Deputy Grand Master.



Prince Hall Grand Masters in attendance at the 300th Anniversary of organized Freemasonry at the reception.







Grand Master and Sister Smith toast with Grand Masters from Bosnia, Spain, China, Mexico and other nations.

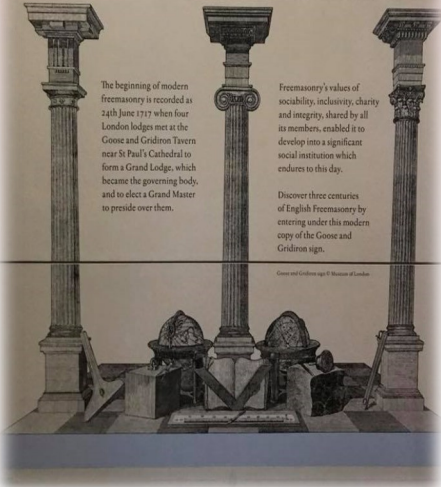


Grand Master and Sister Smith toast with the Grand Master and first Lady of India (below left) and English brethren.





# THREE CENTURIES OF ENGLISH FREEMASONRY



The beginning of modern freemasonry is recorded as 24th June 1717 when four London lodges met at the Goose and Gridiron Tavern near St Paul's Cathedral to form a Grand Lodge, which became the governing body, and to elect a Grand Master to preside over them.

Freemasonry's values of sociability, inclusivity, charity and integrity, shared by all its members, enabled it to develop into a significant social institution which endures to this day.

Discover three centuries of English Freemasonry by entering under this modern copy of the Goose and Gridiron sign.

Copyright © British Museum of London



Freemasons' Hall was built as a memorial to the freemasons who died in the 1914-1918 War. The Victoria Cross is the highest decoration which can be conferred on members of the British armed forces and is awarded for conspicuous bravery in the face of the enemy. During the 1914-1918 War and its immediate aftermath, the Victoria Cross was awarded to over 60 English freemasons. Fortunately not all of these men were casualties of the War and many joined their lodges in the years afterwards.

This timeline shows the dates of the actions for which these awards were made.

The individual wooden figures represent the men themselves and each shows the name, rank, military unit and masonic lodge of one of the Victoria Cross holders and a brief description of the action for which the award was made.

Paving stones outside the lower entrance were laid in April 2017 as a permanent commemoration of these men

Masonic museum holds a variety of historical Masonic objects dating back to the early days of Freemasonry.



The formation of the United Grand Lodge of England in 1717 led to the development and formalisation of ceremonies, the laying on of hands and the regularisation by freemasons. Freemasonry now had a public face with national buildings, its events and civic and involvement with civic life.



Proston November 9 1709

To the Most Worshipful William White Esq

Dear Sir there comes to acquaint you, that we have sent Smudrey Letters, to our Right Worshipful Rowland Holt Esq; and to your Worship, according to my orders in the charter, and which those we sent you latter August 2 1708 we sent Sen Gollers for the grand charity, but have not had answer whether you had Received them or not, and the Lodge in uneasie with me on that account as I said the money to Mr Benguen Greene of our one of Captain James Cooks, Mr. Cooks and Received his Receipts for the money to be sent to him with the letters for you as I did not now were to Direct them to you, and if you have not Received them that must be the Reason: therefore Sir be so good when you send us answer to this you send me word were to Direct them that you may have them which we hope will be by the Berris hand of I have sent you a sermon preached on 4. Johns day by our Brother John Marrant for our Grand Masters and a letter for you which I hope you will Receive our Brother Sanders son is Dead, all the Rest of our Bre are in health, so we at present But must be leave to subscribe my self your revei Humbel Servant and W<sup>th</sup> Prince Hall



Museum holdings are intricate and even include original letters from Prince Hall himself (above).





Prince Hall Masonic Journal  
MWPHGL of Illinois  
809 East 42nd Place  
Chicago, Illinois 60653



## LINEAGE TO AFRICAN LODGE #459

- 1784—Warrant for African Lodge #459 granted by the Grand Lodge of England (Premier) to Prince Hall and the brethren
- 1797—Prince Hall organized Lodges in Pennsylvania and Rhode Island
- 1808—African Grand Lodge (Massachusetts) organized from the three Lodges emanating from African Lodge #459
- 1815—Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania organized from Lodges established by the African Grand Lodge
- 1849—Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Ohio organized from Lodges established by the Pennsylvania Jurisdiction
- 1852—North Star Lodge #12 (#1) of Chicago organized by Ohio Jurisdiction
- 1856—G.T. Watson Lodge #16 (#2) of Alton organized by Ohio Jurisdiction
- 1857—Central Lodge #19 (#3) of Springfield organized by Ohio Jurisdiction
- 1867—Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Illinois organized

### IN THE NEXT EDITION OF THE MASONIC JOURNAL:

- **African Origins of Freemasonry**
- **Reasoning Behind the Style and Rank of Grand Officers**
- **Veterans Day Services across Illinois**
- **Holiday Season Charity Efforts**

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