

Prince Hall Masonic Journal

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



Forged from Fire & Iron

The Extension of Prince Hall Freemasonry into Northwest Illinois

Spring 2011



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~ FROM THE OFFICE OF THE GRAND MASTER ~

DIGNITY, HONOR AND RESPECT.....ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS TO LIFE



M.W. Bro. Otis W. Cromartie Sr., Grand Master and Worshipful Brother Charles Brantley present Michael Brown with the MWPHGL Citizen of the Year Award.

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QUOTES ON DIGNITY, HONOR AND RESPECT

Dignity

“True dignity is never gained by place, and never lost when honors are withdrawn.” - P. Massinger

“Let not a man guard his dignity, but let his dignity guard him.” - Ralph Waldo Emerson

“I prefer to be true to myself, even at the hazard of incurring the ridicule of others, rather than to be false, and to incur my own abhorrence.” - Frederick Douglass

“In my day, we didn't have self-esteem, we had self-respect, and no more of it than we had earned.” - Jane Haddam

Honor

“He has honor if he holds himself to an ideal of conduct though it is inconvenient, unprofitable, or dangerous to do so.” - Walter Lippmann

“Honor isn't about making the right choices. It's about dealing with the consequences.” - Sophocles

“Rather fail with honor than succeed by fraud.” - Sophocles

“Nobody can acquire honor by doing what is wrong.” - Thomas Jefferson

“Mine honor is my life; both grow in one; Take honor from me, and my life is done.” - Shakespeare

Respect

“The best thing to give to your enemy is forgiveness; to an opponent, tolerance; to a friend, your heart; to your child, a good example; to a father, deference; to your mother, conduct that will make her proud of you; to yourself, respect; to all men, charity.”—Benjamin Franklin

“Men are respectable only as they respect.” - Ralph Waldo Emerson

“You should respect each other and refrain from disputes; you should not, like water and oil, repel each other, but should, like milk and water, mingle together.” - Buddha



MASONIC READER

- All versions of the Prince Hall Masonic Reader can now be downloaded from the Grand Lodge Website at:

www.Mwphglil.com

- *The Winter 2010 Edition is now available.*

SUBMISSIONS DEADLINE

- Please forward all submissions for consideration electronically to:

News@mwphglil.com

- Please forward your submissions along with photos no later than:

June 11, 2011

BLOCKED DATES

- **February 12, 2011**
Annual Valentines Dinner & Dance
Grand East, Chicago, Illinois
- **February 25-27, 2011**
MWPHGL Annual Mid-Year Session
Double Tree Oakbrook Hotel
Oak Brook, Illinois
- **April 22-23, 2011**
Mason of the Year Extravaganza
Hilton-Rosemont Hotel
Rosemont, Illinois
- **June 26, 2011**
Saints John Day Services
- **July 28-August 4, 2011**
MWPHGL Annual Unification Session
Double Tree Oakbrook Hotel
Oak Brook, Illinois

MASONIC TRIVIA

1. Which Most Worshipful Past Grand Master served non-consecutive terms as Grand Master of the Grand Lodge?
a) Perry b) Rogers c) Carter
2. Which Past Worthy Grand Matron represented the United States of America at the 1900 Paris Exposition and was a world renown for her "corn" creations? Hint, she was also the first Most Ancient Grand Matron of the Heroines of Jericho.
a) Lewis b) Boone c) Moody
3. How many Scottish Rite Deputies of the Orient of Illinois served as **Grand Master**?
a) Two b) Three c) Five
4. Which Mason of the Year has a school in his namesake in Central Illinois?
a) Wilson b) Stratton c) Barlow

39TH ANNUAL MIDWEST REGIONAL CONFERENCE

March 17-20, 2011

Detroit Marriott- Renaissance Center
Detroit, Michigan

CONFERENCE OF GRAND MASTERS, PHA INC.

May 11-15, 2011

Hyatt Regency Jacksonville-Riverfront
Jacksonville, Florida

www.ConferenceOfGrandMasterspha.org

www.mwphglil.com

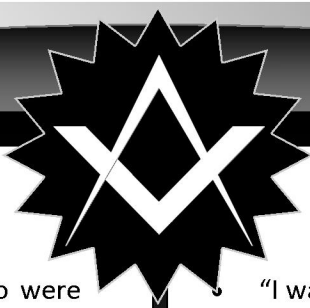
EDITORIAL

This edition is dedicated to the heroes who were the cause of the expansion of the Masonic Order into Northwest Illinois. The caliber of the men who were initially initiated in the counties of DeKalb, Kane, Rock Island, Will and Winnebago in the late 1800s were of extremely high character. It is from this stock that later growth occurred in the counties of DuPage and Stephenson. In this edition, you will learn how and why the African American population initially emerged in that region and meet some of the most prominent Masons from past years whose examples prompt our continued improvement.

Our future, also, depends upon how we prepare our youth **TODAY**. An excellent example is the recognition of Sister Daisy Brooks who was recognized by the President of the United States of America for her efforts with young women. Other examples include the resurgence of the Order of the Junior Craftsmen under the direction of Past Master Ron Wilson, the Illinois Child ID Program under the direction of our Deputy Grand Master Millard Driskell and the efforts of Past Master Norville Carter to establish Scouting Troops. The Velma J. Thames Youth Fraternity and the Anna Dunmore Junior Heroines Court also work to develop girls and boys into young ladies and young men. Our support of **ALL** of these efforts is critical to our future.

Lastly, for some, this is the first time in a long time that you have received this publication in the U.S. Mail. It is with great pride that we announce that this product was printed and mailed by our own Printing Department. We look forward to continued success as our capabilities evolve.

Darryl L. Andrews
Editor



FEEDBACK

"I was very impressed with the history on Central Illinois and appreciated the consolidated view of the First Annual Grand Lodge Communications."

- "As an organization, we perform a ton of charitable work. Why isn't this information broadcasted more across the regular media? What do we need to do to make that happen? Do we have contacts?"
- "I want to commend Holy City on the work that they are doing. The essays were remarkable and insightful. The Holy City formula should be duplicated across the state. Just a thought."
- "The work on the Historical Galleries was awesome. Great vision! What is next Brother Andrews? We want to see more."

AFRICAN LODGE #459

On March 2, 1784, African Lodge #1 petitioned the Grand Lodge of England, the Premier or Mother Grand Lodge of the world, for a warrant (or charter), to organize a regular masonic lodge, with all the rights and privileges thereunto prescribed. The Grand Lodge of England issued a charter on September 29, 1784 to African Lodge #459, the first lodge of Blacks in America.

Become a member of African Lodge #459 TODAY!!!

Visit Www.PrinceHall.org

PHYLAXIS SOCIETY

THE PHYLAXIS SOCIETY is an international organization of Prince Hall Freemasons dedicated to studying the life of Prince Hall and researching the history of Prince Hall Freemasonry.

Any Regular Master Mason may become a member of the Phylaxis Society and thus may participate in all the Society's activities. He must be a member in good standing of a regularly constituted Masonic Lodge.

Become a member of the Phylaxis Society TODAY!!!

Visit Www.ThePhylaxis.org

~ Phamily Affairs ~



Dr. Daisy Brooks Receives High Honors from the Honorable Barack H. Obama President of the United States of America



On August 4, 2010 Sister Daisy Brooks was among thirteen citizens of the United States of America to receive the 2010 Presidential Citizens Medal, the nation's second-highest civilian honor from the Honorable President Barack H. Obama in a ceremony held at the White House in Washington, D.C. Founder of Daisy's Resource and Developmental Center in North Chicago and wife of the 1987 MWP HGL Mason of the Year Wadell Brooks, Daisy was recognized for her efforts in helping troubled women re-enter society. In her endeavors she has provided young pregnant women a place to live and attend school, helped to rebuild the lives of many after prison and provided vocational training and social services for girls coming from dysfunctional families. These efforts clearly define her as one of the "shining examples of what it means to be an American" in President Obama's words and brings a sense of great pride to the Illinois Masonic Family. Congratulations!!!

Central Lodge Annual Anniversary Banquet Photos in Springfield

Photos by Sister Teresa Haley



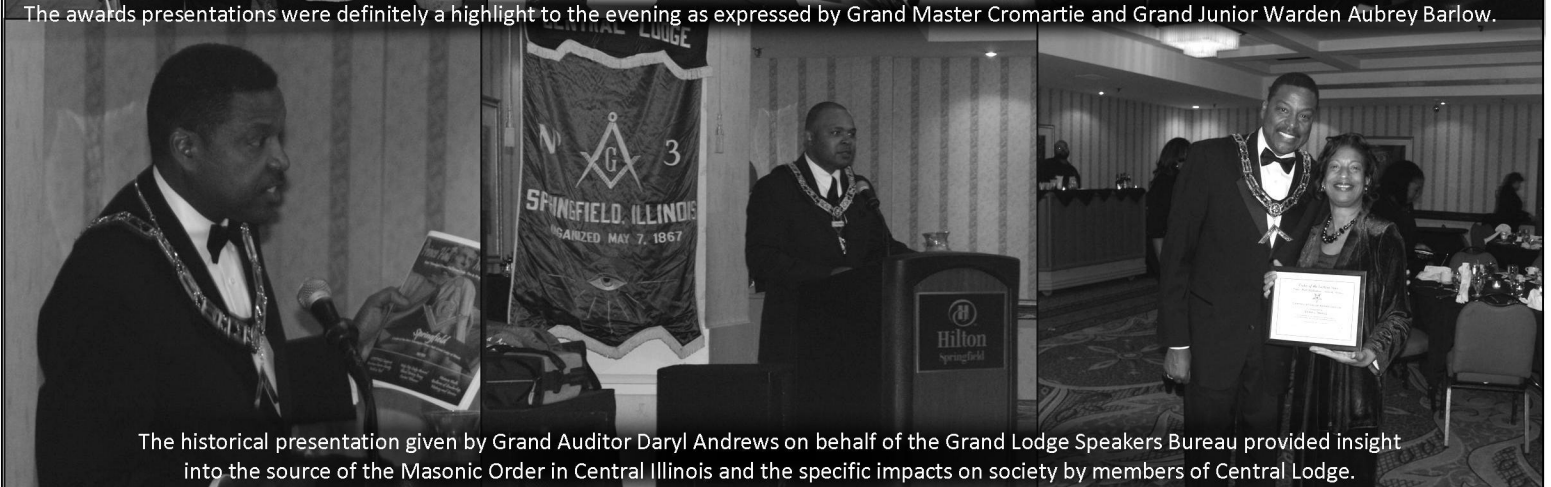
Under the direction of W. Bro. Kenneth Page, the Anniversary Banquet for Central Lodge and Estella Chapter highlighted the great accomplishments achieved by both bodies this year. Grand Master & Mrs. Cromartie were in attendance to witness this great event held on October 30th in Springfield.



Many were acknowledged for their stellar services to the Lodge and Chapter earning Brother Dannel Vinson the title of "Central Lodge Mason of the Year".



The awards presentations were definitely a highlight to the evening as expressed by Grand Master Cromartie and Grand Junior Warden Aubrey Barlow.



The historical presentation given by Grand Auditor Daryl Andrews on behalf of the Grand Lodge Speakers Bureau provided insight into the source of the Masonic Order in Central Illinois and the specific impacts on society by members of Central Lodge.

Lily of the Valley #56

Thanksgiving Volunteer Efforts

By W. Bro. David Ballard Jr. and PGM Earl D. Scott

Thursday, November 25, 2010 Thanksgiving Day, culminated the week-long event of the annual Mayor Ed Quaglia Memorial Thanksgiving Dinner in Herrin, Illinois. Lily of the Valley #56 members logged in a combined total of 75 hours of community service work during the week doing various duties such as baking turkeys (40), setting up facilities, cooking sides, delivering food, and even washing dishes. The dinner took place at the Herrin Civic Center on Thursday, November 25th from 11am until 2pm.

The event started twenty years ago when then Mayor Ed Quaglia of Herrin along with several of his closest friends decided to start a community Thanksgiving Dinner. The dinner was hosted at the Herrin Civic Center and employed dozens of volunteers. The event was not just to feed the poor, but to bring together those from all walks of life and to celebrate community spirit. Now, in 2010, attorney Bart Mann has stepped up to the mantle to keep the tradition going, serving Herrin, Colp, and any surrounding towns who wish to participate. This year, Lily of the Valley #56, based in Mounds, Illinois, decided to participate in order to bring some Thanksgiving cheer to the area as well as to show the involvement of Prince Hall Affiliated Masons within the Southern Illinois community.

Lily of the Valley members were welcomed by the community and worked from day one of the event to the closing moments of clean-up. Four members, PM Josh Hamilton, PM Alvin Childress, Bros. Bomani Spell and Larry Anthony Elliott were featured prominently in the Daily Republican (Marion) newspaper for their volunteer efforts. The event's philanthropist, Bart Mann, even featured pictures of the brothers as well as a special thank you acknowledgment on his Facebook page along with the pictorial recognition of the brothers in the local Herrin newspaper as well as the local news affiliate KFVS, news channel 12.

This volunteer event fed over 1,100 people in the Herrin/Colp area. Lily of the Valley members, along with Tuscan #44 member Matt Oscar, worked diligently to bring cheer to the area and were already asked to spearhead efforts for the following year.



R.W. Bro. James Jones, R.W. Bro. Andrews and PM Richard Andrews comment on the affair and the excellent turnout from the Central Illinois area. Overall, the effort under the direction of Brother Page and Estella Chapter OES was one to remember and pledges to be even grander next year.



Cornerstone Lodge #91 and Princess Syene Chapter #114 OES show their children practical examples of charity in a visit to the adoptive shelter of the Lodge "It Takes A Village Foundation" (above). The Junior Craftsmen of Union Lodge #155 clean Lincoln Highway which was adopted by the Lodge in 2010 (below).



SANTA CLAUS HAD A FULL SCHEDULE



Aahmes Temple in East St. Louis



In Chicago with Imani and Union



At the Grand East with the OES Feed the Needy Project

The million dollar question is "How was he able to be in so many places in such a short period of time on the SAME DAY?"

Well, only he knows the answer.....

Ruth Chapter OES—Thanksgiving & Christmas Community Service

By Sister Claire Walker, Worthy Matron and Brother Reinaldo Walker, Worthy Patron



Ruth Chapter # 9 wanted to do something to help some of the families in their community that were having a hard time making ends meet. They decided they wanted to help some of the families in the community to have a nice Thanksgiving and Christmas. A committee was formed and they contacted some of the social service agencies, churches, and senior citizens organization to get names of families that were having a hard time. They contacted those families and ask them to come to Stone City Lodge on Saturday, November 20, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. and on Tuesday December 14, 2010, at 6:30 p.m. to pick up food baskets that would be waiting for them and their families. The baskets had hams, turkeys, potatoes, apple, oranges, mixed nuts, and a variety of canned vegetables. The families were all so thankful to have the baskets. Pictured above are some of the members of Ruth Chapter and the families that received their baskets for Thanksgiving. (Left to right) Devon Branch, Associate Matron, Claire Walker, Worthy Matron, of Ruth Chapter #9, Chiquita Carter the mother of four small children. Angela Jefferson and one of her small children and she has three others that are not pictured, Sharon Fields, secretary of the chapter, Annie Jo Reed, treasurer of the chapter, and taking the pictures the Worthy Patron Reinaldo A. Walker. Not pictured are Phyneice Casey and her family.

Ruth Chapter #9 was able to give a helping hand to two additional families on Tuesday, December 14, 2010. They received some additional funding from Eureka Grand Chapter that enabled them to help the families that are pictured above. (Pictured in front of the tables are the families on the left Lucy Woods and on the right Yvette Meyers. The members of Ruth Chapter that were present are pictured from left to right Mae Ruth Carson, Shirley Milsap, Sharon Fields, Claire Walker, Reinaldo A. Walker, Annie Jo Reed, back row Frankie Green, Virgie April, Nancy Matthews, Lettie Wheat, Devon Branch, and Thelma Kirkland.



Forged from Fire and Iron

THE EXTENSION OF PRINCE HALL FREEMASONRY INTO NORTHWEST ILLINOIS

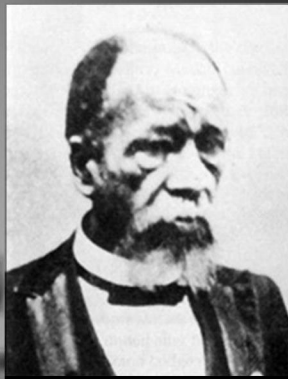
By Right Worshipful Brother Daryl L. Andrews

The mid-19th saw the boom of the Railroad Industry across America. Prior to the invention of the automobile, trains served as a major force in the transportation of people and cargo and the main industry within which many found employment. They were also a means through which many fugitive slaves were carried to freedom. These factors serve as sources for the population of the counties in Northwest Illinois particularly DeKalb, Kane, Rock Island, Will and Winnebago. It is from this pool that Prince Hall Masonic Lodges were formed in this region.

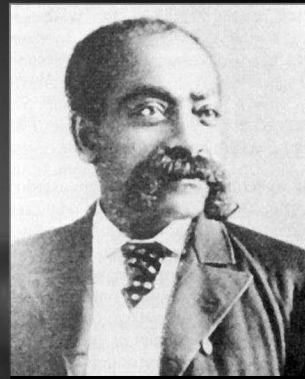
Established in 1834, the City of Aurora was known for its support of the abolitionist movement as she served as a stop on the North Star Line of the Underground Railroad. Through the Quincy Route many fugitive slaves were freed through the rail car services by the efforts of the Railroad President Dr. Charles V. Dyer and other abolitionists including John Jones, Henry Bradford and others. Aurora's initial commercial growth, though, was directly attributed to the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad which employed many through its rail car construction and repair shops. By 1856, Aurora had grown to the stature of a prominent "railroad town" due to its reliance upon the industry.

The Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific

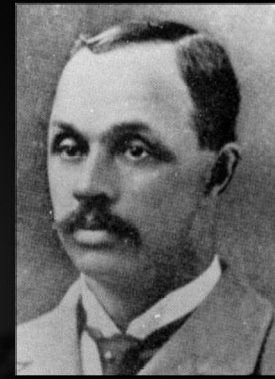
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William L. Darrow



Benjamin F. Rogers



Henry E. Burris

Railroad was founded in the City of Rock Island in 1851 and served as the primary point of industry in this city as well. Located on the banks of the Mississippi River, Rock Island also served as a point for abolitionist activities which drew many African Americans to the locale as permanent residents to aid in the endeavors. Its industrial potential also drew many citizens as permanent residents because of the employment opportunities and created stability during a time of much growth within Illinois and strife at the national level from the Civil War.

During the war, railroad traffic in the North grew to a significant stature as the Mississippi River Blockade by the Union forces was in full effect. This forced the migration of stockyards in Southern Illinois to the North as southbound traffic was prohibited. Trains and boats were used to complete the transports up the Illinois River to the Northern cities through the Illinois and Michigan Canal to the Des Plaines River by Joliet to Chicago. Other ties were carried up the Mississippi River to Rock Island and other ports and carried eastward by train to Chicago. Once in Chicago, they were transferred all world. As such, the significance of the railroad increased dramatically because to transport products in an efficient manner.

(next page)

After the conclusion of the Civil War and the end of Slavery, many African Americans flocked to the North to take advantage of the opportunities. By 1870, the Railroad and Stockyard Industries held the destiny of multitudes as they had become the major employers in Cook, Kane and Rock Island Counties. As a result, the population of African Americans in these counties quadrupled between 1860 and 1870 with the reciprocal migration to neighboring counties through which railroad and other common pathways were chartered:

- **ROCK ISLAND COUNTY:** In 1860, the City of Rock Island had a total of 21 Free African American residents which represented nearly 88% of African Americans in the county. By 1870, 69 resided in the city and increased growth in neighboring towns grew the county total from 24 to 137.
- **WINNEBAGO COUNTY:** In 1860, Rockford had a total of 33 Free African American residents which represented nearly 97% of African Americans in the county. By 1870, 91 resided in the city and increased growth in neighboring towns grew the county total from 34 to 121.
- **DEKALB COUNTY:** In 1860, Sycamore had no Free African American residents. By 1870, 4 resided in the city and increased growth in neighboring towns grew the county total from 7 to 53.
- **KANE COUNTY:** In 1860, Aurora had a total of 12 Free African American residents which represented nearly 32% of African Americans in the county. By 1870, 16 resided in Aurora, 81 in the City of Elgin, and increased growth in neighboring towns grew the county total from 34 to 367.
- **WILL COUNTY:** In 1860, Joliet had a total of 38 Free African American residents which represented nearly 67% of African Americans in the county. By 1870, 160 resided in the city and increased growth in neighboring towns grew the county total from 57 to 242.
- **COOK COUNTY:** In 1860, Chicago had a total of

955 Free African American residents which represented nearly 82% of African Americans in the county. By 1870, 3,696 resided in the city and increased growth in neighboring towns grew the county total from 1,307 to 3,858.

After the formation of the Grand Lodge of Illinois in 1867, it was from these populations that additional Lodges within DeKalb, Kane, Rock Island, Will and Winnebago counties were sourced.

In the early 1870s, the Masonic Order experienced much growth in Central and Southern Illinois through relationships which existed from the Underground Railroad days. By 1871, a total of 13 subordinate Lodges had been established from quality citizens in the respective African American communities. The efforts of heroes from the City of Aurora in 1871 served as the catalyst for the first extension into the Northwest portion of the state which promoted continued expansion in the region through men of like character and quality.



Rubble left from The Great Chicago Fire of 1871.

The Great Chicago Fire of 1871 drew the hands of many African Americans from surrounding locales. Despite the destruction of the halls of the two Chicago Lodges, namely North Star Lodge #1 and John Jones Lodge #7, the brethren, under the leadership of Most Worshipful Brother William L. Darrow, Grand Master, worked with the citizens of Chicago to put out the blaze when assistance and support was received from a group of African American men from Aurora. Their efforts were never forgotten by Grand Master Darrow. As such,

he maintained the relationship which evolved into the establishment of a Lodge under dispensation in Aurora the following year.

At the 1873 Annual Grand Lodge Communication, the Grand Lodge approved the recommendation of the Committee on Dispensations and Charters to grant the Lodge an official charter. On August 23, 1874, Keystone Lodge #15 of Aurora was consecrated, dedicated and set to work by the hand of Worshipful Brother W.D. Berry, District Deputy Grand Master, by the authority of Grand Master Darrow under the leadership of Brother John H.C. Hall, Worshipful Master; Brother M. DeCowey, Senior Warden; Brother J.S. Jackson, Junior Warden; Brother J.C. Thomason, Treasurer; Brother J.H.W. Collins, Secretary; Brother W.J. Hisom, Senior Deacon; Brother M. Webb, Junior Deacon; Brother Calvin Bogar, Senior Steward; Brother J.W. Moss, Junior Steward; and Brother James Steward, Tyler.

Freemasonry in Northwest Illinois was further extended by Most Worshipful Brother Benjamin Rogers during his second term as Grand Master in 1875. Grand Master Rogers granted District Deputy Grand Master G.J. Smith a dispensation to initiate, pass and raise Master Masons in the vicinity of Rock Island for the purpose of establishing a Lodge in the city. After inculcating a sufficient number of members in the area, Grand Master Rogers granted a dispensation for the formation of King Solomon Lodge U.D. with Brother J.F. Van Pelt as Worshipful Master. At the 1875 Annual Grand Lodge Communication, the Grand Lodge approved the recommendation of the Committee on Dispensations and Charters to grant the Lodge an official charter and that the Lodge be granted #20 on the official rolls of the Grand Lodge.

During the administrations of Most Worshipful Grand Masters John J. Bird, James W. Taylor, and James Hollinger, several Lodges were formed within this region. By their authority, the following Lodges had been organized under dispensation in the Will and Winnebago counties between 1877 and 1882:

- **ST. MARKS LODGE** was warranted under dispensation by District Deputy Grand Master

Richard M. Hancock on December 21, 1877 in the City of Braidwood in Will County shortly after the city was founded under the administration of Most Worshipful Brother John J. Bird, Grand Master. The African American population of Braidwood represented nearly 7% of the city's population at the time the Lodge was organized under the leadership of Worshipful Brother J.S. Milton. The Lodge was chartered and granted #24 at the 1878 Annual Grand Lodge Communication and remained active through 1928.

- **WELCOME STAR LODGE** was warranted under dispensation by District Deputy Grand Master A. Barnett on January 14, 1878 in the City of Rockford in Winnebago County under the leadership of Worshipful Brother Ryan Tucker during the term of Grand Master Bird. The dispensation for the Lodge was continued for 4 years under the terms of Grand Master Taylor until the requirements of the Grand Lodge were met in full under the term of Grand Master Hollinger. The Lodge was chartered and granted #36 at the 1882 Annual Grand Lodge Communication with Worshipful Brother Ryan Tucker, Worshipful Master; Brother Samuel Armstrong, Senior Warden; and Brother James Reed, Junior Warden.
- **STONE CITY LODGE** was warranted under dispensation by Grand Master Hollinger on August 30, 1881 in the City of Joliet in Will County. The Lodge was chartered and granted #35 at the 1882 Annual Grand Lodge Communication with Worshipful Brother Tyler Barton, Worshipful Master; Brother Henry Morris, Senior Warden; and Brother Joseph Stephens, Junior Warden.

Further expansion in the region did not occur until a son from King Solomon Lodge #20 was elevated to the Office of Grand Master in 1898. A Mail Carrier and editor of the self-published "Mystic Light" monthly magazine, Henry E. Burris was initiated, passed and raised into King Solomon Lodge #20 in the late 1880s and quickly rose through the ranks of

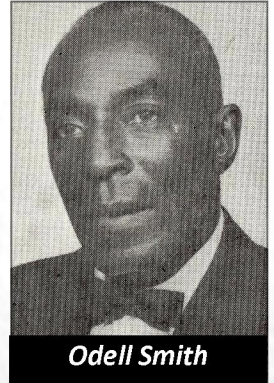
his Lodge to the office of Worshipful Master in 1895. His leadership and charisma were of such a high character that he experienced swift elevation in the Grand Lodge as well. Only two years removed from the seat of Worshipful Master, he was elected Right Worshipful Grand Senior Warden of the Grand Lodge in 1897 and elected Most Worshipful Grand Master in 1898.

Grand Master Burris served through 1906. Of his accomplishments, he is most noted as the Grand Master who permanently expelled John G. Jones from Freemasonry for clandestine activities in 1903. He also continued the extension of Freemasonry into the Northwest. He established Arsenal Lodge #60 in the City of Moline in 1901 in Rock Island County and Tube City Lodge #69 in the City of Kewanee in 1905 in Winnebago County. In addition to the aforementioned Lodges, he also established 17 others at multiple points across the state which increased the reach of the organization into new territories. His degree of expansion is unrivaled.

Under the terms of Most Worshipful Grand Masters Thomas H. Samuels, Dr. John C. Ellis, Ashby B. Carter and Obed Vanderburg, expansion continued in the Northwest. Meridian Sun Lodge #89 was chartered in the City of Freeport in Stephenson county, western neighbor of Winnebago County, in 1919. This marked the initial presence of Prince Hall Freemasonry within the county. Grand Master Samuels also chartered Jephtha Lodge #90 in the City of Maywood, western cousin to Chicago, that same year. Henry E. Burris Lodge #113 was also chartered in the City of East Moline in Rock Island county under his term in 1923. Grand Master Ellis chartered Sons of Solomon Lodge #122 in the City of Argo, just east of Will County, in 1925. Grand Master Carter chartered Watch City Lodge #131 in the City of Elgin in Kane county and Pythagoras Lodge #132 in the City of Sycamore in DeKalb county in 1946 and 1947 respectively. Following the untimely death of Grand Master Carter in 1954, Grand Master Vanderburg chartered Ashby B. Carter Lodge #138 in the City of Wheaton in DuPage county in 1956 which marked the last Lodge formed in Northwest Illinois.

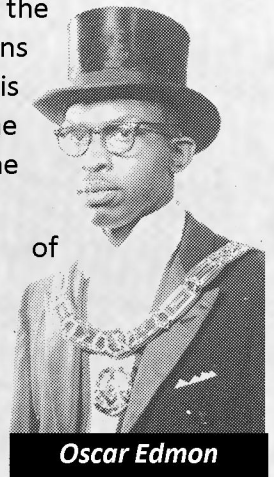
From these Lodges hail some of the most influential Masons. Men such as Calvin Bogar, Civil War Veteran, Aurora community activist, and founding

member of Keystone Lodge #15, was a successful Stonemason Contractor at a time when it was uncommon for African American men to own their businesses. At his death, he had become renown as one of the best known men of color in the region. Odell Smith, a Masonic Legend, served as the



Worshipful Master of Keystone Lodge for 19 years during four non-consecutive terms. His extreme activity at the subordinate and Grand Lodge levels and in the community not only earned his selection as 1969 Mason of the Year for the Grand Lodge but also prompted Aurora to name August 16th "Odell Smith Day" for the city. Oscar Edmon was an active member of Stone City Lodge #35 of Joliet and a permanent fixture on many boards within the city. His efforts as the Grand Lodge Public Relations Director were tremendous and his reciprocal actions prompted the Grand Lodge to name him the 1976 Mason of the Year.

While many other examples of strength, character and courage can be obtained from the Northwest Region, it is important to note that the essence of the aforementioned was the same substance which fueled the fires of those initial heroes from Aurora who worked to save and rebuild the City of Chicago from that massive tragedy in 1871. It is this substance which fuels the Masonic Order today and resides in the hearts and minds of those who promote her tenets in the Northwest Region today. It is with this in mind that we salute those pioneers that their spirit may continue to live on and be promoted through future generations.



Sources:

- *Masonic Abolitionists: Freemasonry and the Underground Railroad in Illinois* by Daryl Andrews
- *Keystone Lodge #15: Tale of Heroes* by Antonio Terry, *Prince Hall Masonic Journal*, Fall 2007

Why the Bloodline

Part 1 of 3

By Past Master
James A. Mitchell, 33°

In Prince Hall Masonry it is commonly believed that we are the caretakers of an Ancient Bloodline; be it of the legacy of Jesus or Prince Hall. The so call sacred legacy of the Prince Hall bloodline lives today; however, barely. Some view the “bloodline” as a commonality that exists throughout humanity. In other words, we are all cousins in some ways. According to historical readings on Prince Hall, his interpretation of the bloodline is much more in-depth.

During this brief presentation, I will attempt to address the subject/question “Why the Bloodline? From this presentation, other questions will emerge such as why the bloodline is significant to Prince Hall Masons? Should the bloodline remain in tact? What is the purpose of the bloodline? We will attempt to answer these and other similar questions in our presentation.

The presentation will cover factual information coupled with suppositions; emphasis being placed on our revered Brother Prince Hall. As of this writing, research on the topic in question is on going.

We will view the topic briefly from

three perspectives. They are as follows:

- Sociological and Anthropological perspective
- Biblical Perspective
- Masonic Perspective (PHA)

Sociological & Anthropological Perspective

From Pharaoh Egypt, to Europe, to North America and beyond the “family tree of humanity” bloodlines remain in tact; however, due to man’s ability to migrate, the family trees’ off springs have brought about cultural differences throughout the four corners of the earth. These differences have changed the way we interpret the bloodline.

There are several concepts that we must consider as we muddle our way through the complexities of bloodlines. One such concept is kinship. Both sociologist and anthropologist agreed that kinship is a network of people who are related by blood, marriage, adoption, or close friendship. The type of close friendship Prince Hall espouses is what anthropologist call “fictive” kinship. An example of “fictive kinship,” is a god parent. Such kinship may not include lineage or a direct bloodline. It is here where Prince Hall and his



associates/close friends bring to bear a different interpretation of the “bloodline”, a metaphor, if you will.

Another important piece to the puzzle of the bloodline is the descendant. Descendant is the result of kinship that links families and other close friends together. After closely examining the writings concerning Prince Hall, this presenter has come to the conclusion that Prince Hall felt very strongly about family and friends....

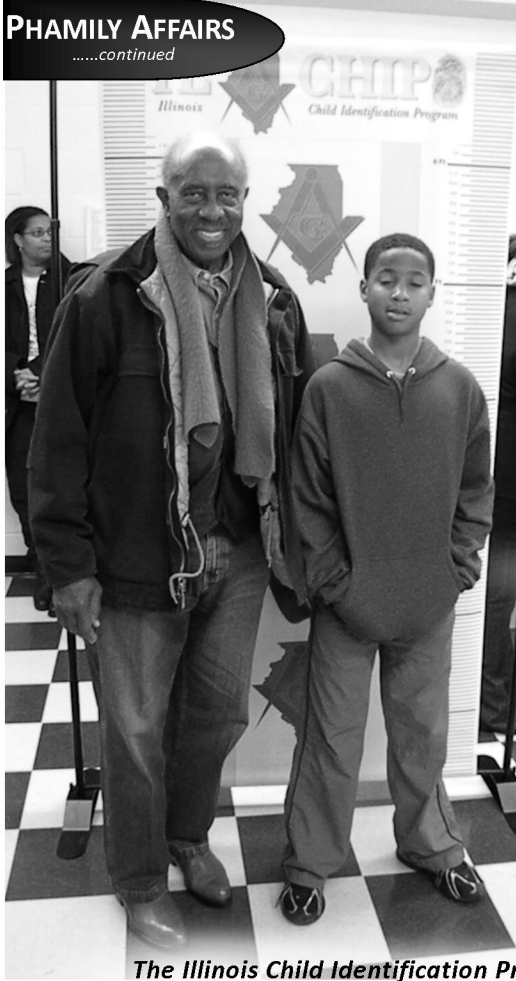
In spite of Prince Hall being a “freeman”, social woes and injustice were most prevalent during those times to say the least. In order for Brother Hall to fight against “social injustice” effectively and continuously he needed support from people whom he could trust. Among the trusted ones were his immediate family, friends, and associates.

This issue of interest will be addressed in Part II of this presentation.

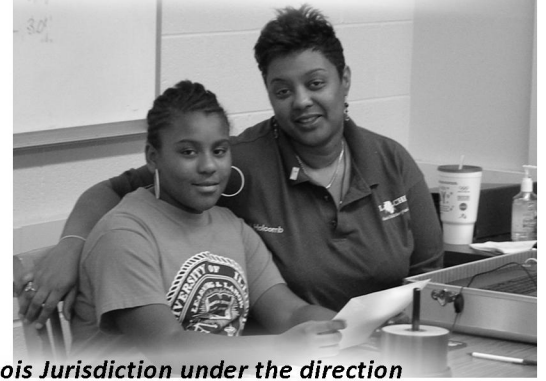


PHAMILY AFFAIRS

.....continued



The IL-CHIP team captures the height, fingerprints and voice prints of each child.



The Illinois Child Identification Program (IL-CHIP) has flourished in the Illinois Jurisdiction under the direction of RW Millard Driskell, DGM and his committee of brothers and Sisters from across the state.



Several Lodges and Chapters have sponsored IL-CHIP events across the State of Illinois.





Grand Master Cromartie and Sister Paulette Brown, Worthy Grand Matron offer congratulations on a job well done.



Eureka Grand Chapter Order of the Eastern Star provided meals and toys for hundreds during their Feed-the-Needy Drive (above). The Grand Joshua's Toy Giveaway on behalf of the Grand Court Heroines of Jericho was a huge success (below).



The Grand Secretary tallies the totals as Jesse Smith, Grand Joshua and Heroine Maretta-Brown Miller fill the bags.





The Junior Craft Council of Jachin Lodge #133 restored.



The Order of the Junior Craftsmen is experiencing phenomenal growth under the leadership of Grand Craftmaster Ron Wilson (seated) and RW Bro. Aubrey Barlow. The Statewide initiation produced a large group of young men.



PHOTO SUBMISSION OF THE EDITION



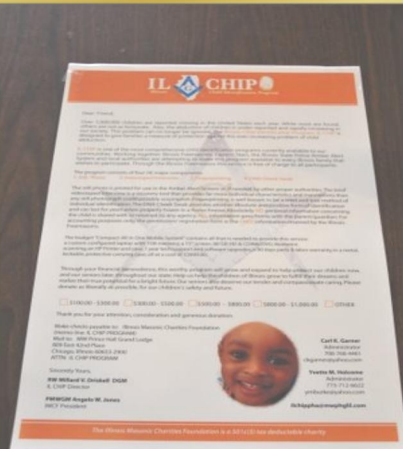
Most Worshipful Brother Otis W. Cromartie Sr. awards the Junior Craft Council of Jachin Lodge #133 their warrant.

Support Grand Lodge Youth Initiatives

ORDER OF THE JUNIOR CRAFTSMEN

ILLINOIS CHILD ID PROGRAM

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA



ORDER OF THE JUNIOR CRAFTSMEN

Worshipful Brother Ron Wilson (PM)

John C. Ellis Lodge #17

ILLINOIS CHILD IDENTIFICATION PROGRAM

Right Worshipful Brother Millard Driskell

Deputy Grand Master

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Worshipful Brother Norville Carter (PM)

North Star Lodge #1

PRINCE HALL HOPE BENEVOLENT FUND

Right Worshipful Brother Vincent Sykes

Grand Treasurer



Prince Hall Hope Benevolent Fund

809 E. 42nd Place * Chicago, IL 60653 * 708-455-8130 Phone

Email: PHHope@princehallhopebenevolentfund.org

A NONPROFIT 501(c)3 ORGANIZATION

Vincent N. Sykes, Sr. – President Nadine Dillanado - Vice President Cordale Brown – Treasurer
Carl Richardson – Secretary Lucas Rawls - Financial Secretary

Greetings Illinois Prince Hall Family:

Happy New Year to all, I hope that this letter finds you and yours in the very best of health and spirits. As you know for the past several months we have been in the process of establishing a 501(c)3 non-profit organization for the purpose of providing assistance in communities throughout the State in the following areas: Education, Feeding the Needy and the Illinois Child Identification program. This non-profit organization will provide: relief to the poor, distressed and or underprivileged; assist with the advancement of educational endeavors; and participate in preventing cruelty to children via several outreach programs. I am pleased to announce that as of December 2010 the Prince Hall Hope Benevolent Fund has been established to meet these needs. The distinguished board of this very necessary non-profit has been established and is now fully functioning. Please allow me to introduce the board members to you:

- Verona Portis -Member
- Teresa Abner - Member
- Henry Womble - Member
- Lena Roberts - Member
- Millard Driskell - Member
- Samuel Hurd - Member
- Vicki Yarborough - Member
- Reinaldo Walker - Member

In order for this 501(c)3 non-profit to be truly successful, the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Illinois and its Appendant and Concordant bodies must be completely committed to partnering with the non-profit Prince Hall Hope Benevolent Fund to reap the tax and financial benefits associated with the status of a 501(c)3. This newly established non-profit organization, Prince Hall Hope Benevolent Fund, will allow the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Illinois and its Appendant and Concordant bodies to realize the Tax Benefits, Partnerships and professional contacts that will prove to be a benefit to all members.

This 501(c)3 Benevolent Fund will be open to all PHamily members in good financial standing. This measure has been put in place to ensure total transparency and openness between the Prince Hall Hope Benevolent Fund and the Prince Hall Family statewide membership, and the board. The overriding accountability for the non-profit Prince Hall Hope Benevolent Fund resides with the Board of Directors. As such, the by-laws of this 501(c)3 are wholly and altogether autonomous from the MWP HGL of IL and its Appendant and Concordant bodies. It is the prayer of this non-profit organization and its Board of Directors that the MWP HGL of IL, its Appendant and Concordant bodies and each member of the PHamily be entirely supportive of these endeavors. Donations can be mailed to 809 E. 42nd PL Chicago, IL 60653 or made in person at 809 on each Tues and Thurs from 7pm-9pm. All donations are tax deductible.

Fraternally,

Vincent N. Sykes, Sr.

Vincent N. Sykes, Sr.

President –Prince Hall Hope Benevolent Fund

GRAND LODGE TO ORGANIZE SCOUTING UNITS

Meeting to be held at the Grand East on April 12, 2011 at 7:00PM

There will be a meeting at the Grand East on Tuesday, April 12, 2011 at 7:00PM to put into place the groundwork for establishing the following Scouting Units under the umbrella of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Illinois:

- **Cub Scouts (Boys) & Brownies (Girls):** Children range from 7 years old or First Grade to 11 years old
- **Boy Scouts & Girl Scouts:** Children range from 11 years old to 18 years old
- **Venturers, Explorers and Sea Scouts:** Co-Ed programs consisting of youths ranging from 14 years old to 18 years old

We must have the cooperation of the parents, relatives and/or guardians of the boys and girls that will be forming the units. If you are interested in this venture, **YOU NEED TO BE PRESENT AT THIS MEETING**. Join us in shaping the minds of the future.

Norville R. Carter

North Star Lodge #1

District Commissioner, Greater Southside District, Chicago Area Council
Boy Scouts of America