

Clarion

Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, P.H.A. - Orient of Illinois

SUMMER-2010

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE MOST PUISSANT SOVEREIGN GRAND COMMANDER EMERITUS



ILLUSTRIOUS FRANK MYRON SUMMERS

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations and Felicitations to our newest Sovereign Grand Inspector General

JOEL WOODHOUSE, 33^o

Illinoisans of the Winston O. Williams Class of 2010:

Tyree Consistory #64

- James Campbell, 33^o
- Johnny Campbell, 33^o
- Steven Johnson, 33^o
- Suskin Lockett, 33^o

Western Consistory #28

- Daryl Andrews, 33^o
- Gene Chandler, 33^o
- Oliver Fry, 33^o
- Albert Lott, 33^o
- Jerald Prince, 33^o
- Jesse Smith, 33^o
- Richard Thomas, 33^o

FROM THE DESK OF THE DEPUTY

Dear Fraters and Loyal Ladies, Greetings and Salutations:

The first issue of the Scottish Rite Clarion PHA, the official publication of Scottish Rite Bodies in Illinois is now history.

We believe that communication is one of the lifelines of any organization, so it is with great pride and with great expectation that this newsletter will be the vehicle to provide valuable information and Scottish Rite news for members of the Orient of Illinois for years to come.

In our first issue, we chose to highlight Past Sovereign Grand Commander Frank M. Summers and Grand Inspector General Richard C. Buck. In future issues, we will communicate news and activities of the United Supreme Council, the Orient of Illinois and also we are offering the newsletter to you and your respective Consistories and Assemblies to submit articles of interest relative to Scottish Rite. You may begin submitting articles now for our next publication, however please be advised that at this time we are not open to advertisement and solicitations.

We hope you warmly receive and use the Scottish Rite Clarion as a means of communicating and disseminating information and articles concerning your valley. To submit your articles, please read the information on the last page captioned "OFFICIAL NOTICE"

More information will be forthcoming regarding the publication and circulation of this newsletter at this year's Council of Deliberation, October 15-17, 2010 at the Abraham Lincoln Hotel in Springfield, Illinois.



**Illustrious Melvin Frierson, 33^o
Deputy of the Orient of Illinois**

GRAND INSPECTOR GENERAL BUCK HONORED



The year 2010 will not only mark the 91st year anniversary of Cornerstone Lodge #91 but also the 91st year of life for Grand Inspector General Richard C. Buck as well as his 50th year

anniversary in the Masonic Order. Illustrious Buck served as the Worshipful Master of Cornerstone Lodge #91 in 1964. As the Senior Most Past Master, the Lodge saw fit to honor him in the company of his family and friends. The Orient of Illinois was well represented at the affair to honor this stalwart proponent of Scottish Rite Freemasonry. A past Vice President of the Commanders of the Rite of the Valley of Chicago, a past Thrice Potent Master, Illustrious Buck was crowned by the United Supreme Council over 40 years ago. Illustrious Buck received nomination during that period

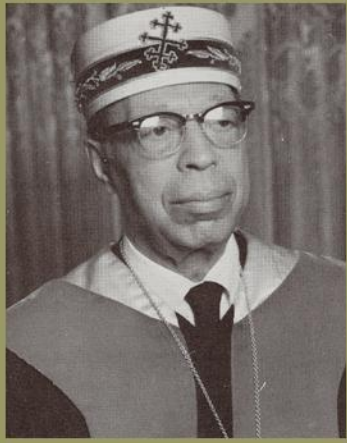
from Sovereign Grand Inspector General Charles Stewart who represented the Orient of Illinois along with Grand Inspector General Warren Gipson at the affair. The words of Illustrious Stewart and gift from the Orient of Illinois brought tears of joy to the family members and friends of Illustrious Buck. Worshipful Brother Sean Queen, Master of Cornerstone Lodge reiterated his words of thanks to the Orient of Illinois for her donation and participation in the execution of the affair.

Congratulations!



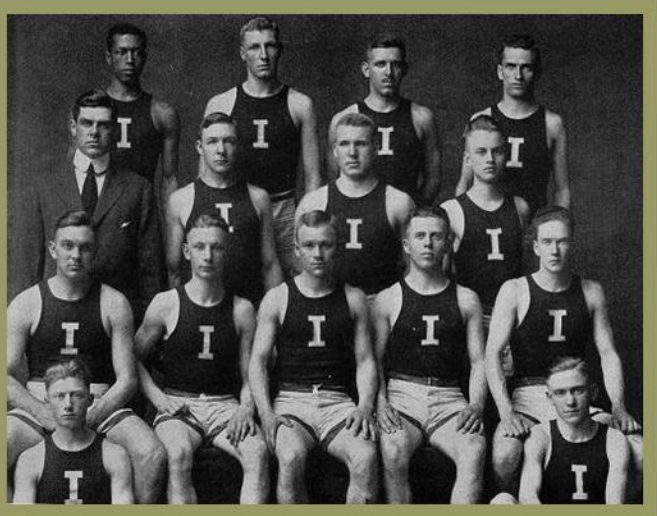
FRANK M. SUMMERS—FIRST SOVEREIGN GRAND COMMANDER FROM ILLINOIS

By Sublime Prince Kaysee Fortenberry, 32°, Edited by Grand Inspector General Daryl Andrews, 33°



Born Frank Myron Summers on August 13, 1893 in Mt. Carmel, IL (Marion, IL), Summers was the 2nd of ten children. His family moved to Bloomington, Indiana where he attended high school and, subsequently, Indiana University in 1911.

A scholar and an athlete, Summers was also one of the first Initiates of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity (KAPΨ) at Indiana University. Prior to 1915, the fraternity was originally named Kappa Alpha Nu. However, racial slurs directed at Frank Summers while running track for the Indiana University Track and Field Team would result in a name change for the organization. Despite being one of a handful of athletes to receive the coveted "I" for Indiana University athletics, spectators referred to Summers as that "Kappa Alpha Nig" during track meets. As such, Kappa Alpha Nu Fraternity officially changed its name to Kappa Alpha Psi in April 1915 to separate itself from racial disparities.



Frank Summers is considered an "icon" in Kappa and was instrumental in the growth of the fraternity. His high level of activity within Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity which extended well beyond his years at Indiana University was, undoubtedly, fueled by the inequitable treatment of African

Americans during a time of much racial unrest. He became the first editor of the Kappa Alpha Psi Journal in 1914 while at Indiana University and retained that role after graduation in 1915 through 1921. He received a Bachelor of



Science Degree in Economics at Indiana University and attended Harvard Law School and Chicago Kent Law School after graduation. While attending Harvard Law School, he was selected Grand Strategus in 1918 and helped with the formation of the Kappa Alpha Psi ritual, constitution, and chapters across the country. He continued these efforts at Chicago's Kent College and eventually rose through the ranks to become the 14th Grand Polemarch of the fraternity from 1951 to 1952.

Frank Summers is considered an "icon" in Kappa

The Masonic career of Summers began in Chicago in 1922 upon conclusion of his education at Kent College. He was raised in North Star Lodge #1 of Chicago in 1922 but transferred his membership to Joppa Lodge #79 in East St. Louis after moving to the city to open a law firm with fellow Masonic Brother Louie F. Orr. The law firm of Summers & Orr fought many legal battles against racial discrimination and represented the City of East St. Louis on several occasions. Summers' success in these battles led to his elevation to the office of Assistant States Attorney of St. Clair County in 1935 which is an office that he held for 16 consecutive years. A proven legal warrior, his actions on behalf of African Americans and his popularity within various locales led to additional elevation within the ranks of the Grand Lodge of Illinois and her Concordant Bodies.

A Past Worshipful Master of Joppa Lodge, Summers was also a Past Commander-in-Chief of Tyree Consistory #64, AASR, PHA, and a Past Potentate of Aahmes Temple #132, AEAONMS. In addition, he served multiple terms as Grand Lodge Attorney and was eventually elected to the offices of Grand Junior Warden in 1941, Grand Senior Warden from 1942 to 1944 and Deputy Grand Master from 1945 to 1948. Although he did not serve as Grand Master, he was

the first to receive the distinction of Honorary Past Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Illinois in 1974.



...first to receive the distinction of Honorary Past Grand Master

In the 1930s and 1940s, Summers' advancement and expertise in the Masonic, legal and civic arenas gained him additional notoriety in all of the circles in which he traveled, particularly, within the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry. His character and charisma led to his elevation to the 33rd Degree and his, subsequent, election to the Active grade of the United Supreme Council, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Northern Jurisdiction in 1936. He was appointed Deputy of the Orient of Illinois in 1942, was, supplementally, appointed Deputy of the Orient of Wisconsin in 1950, and served in those roles through 1968 despite his election as Lieutenant Grand Commander of the United Supreme Council in 1965 under Sovereign Grand Commander Leland D. French, 33°. His ability to manage multiple jurisdictions, to mentor African American athletes and to fight legal and civic battles while experiencing political advancement were extraordinary. Some examples include:

- Denied participation in a Missouri USLTA tournament in 1948, Summers sued the national organization to gain Oscar Johnson, a black man, readmission to the tournament in which he advanced to the quarterfinals and semifinals in individual and doubles play respectively. Johnson became the first black tennis player to win an integrated championship match.
- In 1961, Frank Summers served as a sponsor of Arthur Ashe for the National Clay Court Championships. Ashe advanced to the third round in this tournament which serve as a stepping stone for his victory as the first black to win Wimbledon and the first black named to the Davis Cup Team.
- In the 1960s, Summers mentored Harry Thomas Edwards, a multi-sport athlete from East St. Louis, to a successful collegiate career at San Jose State University and graduation with distinction in 1964. Edwards turned down an opportunity to play professional football to continue his studies in the field of Sociology. Dr. Harry Thomas Edwards became

Professor Emeritus of Sociology at the University of California at Berkeley and a leading sports sociologist.

- The civic and political service of Illustrious Summers includes service as Assistant States Attorney for St. Clair County, four years as Commissioner of Illinois Court of Claims, Chairman of the St. Clair County Housing Authority and Board Member of Supreme Life Insurance.



While the aforementioned list of achievements and service is not complete, his efforts designated him as a man among men and would be further extended in 1973 when illness prevented Illustrious Leland French from serving as Sovereign Grand Commander of the United Supreme Council and completing the renovation of the Scottish Rite Cathedral. As such, Summers assumed the mantle of leadership and was elected Sovereign Grand Commander in May of 1974. Despite the challenges experienced during this period, Illustrious Summers was able to complete the renovation of the Cathedral at 1514 Fitzwater Street in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1977. His success in this endeavor and the expansion of the Scottish Rite under his terms of service made him a permanent fixture in Ebony Magazine's Top 100 Influential Black Americans from 1974 to 1976.

...the first to receive the distinction of Sovereign Grand Commander Emeritus

The 96th Annual Session of the United Supreme Council in Philadelphia also marked the conclusion of Illustrious Summers' leadership as Sovereign Grand Commander as he retired to the ranks of the Active and Emeritus membership. However, his efforts to complete the renovation and subsequent advances as the purveyor of Scottish Rite Freemasonry in the Northern Jurisdiction did not go unnoticed. As such, by the powers vested in United Supreme Council, Summers was the granted the honor of being the first to receive the distinction of Sovereign Grand Commander Emeritus in 1977. *(next page)*

OFFICIAL NOTICE

The Scottish Rite Clarion, the Official Publication of the Illinois Council of Deliberation, is officially launched to provide Scottish Rite Masons across the Orient of Illinois the opportunity to showcase the activities of their respective Valleys on a quarterly basis. Please feel free to forward your submissions by US Mail or electronically to:



Daryl Andrews
3728 West 83rd Place
Chicago, Illinois 60652



Daryl@AndrewsPress.com

Your submission will be reviewed for placement in upcoming editions. Please be advised that due to space limitations, articles may be edited to size.

The Submissions Deadline for the next edition:

September 1, 2010

Thank you in advance for your submissions and we look forward to your participation in the near future.

Daryl L. Andrews, 33rd—Editor
Daryl@AndrewsPress.com



Sovereign Grand Commander Emeritus, Past Grand Polemarch, Past Grand Master, Illustrious Frank Summers was not only a force in Freemasonry but also a force in society as well. His efforts secured civil rights for many and his leadership served as an example which many would follow. His life and legacy are worthy of remembrance and recall as they benefitted many others whose stories are not told within these pages. However, the fact his home in East St. Louis was declared a historical landmark in 2004 is evidence that his efforts extended well beyond the lines of Freemasonry and into the hearts of those external to the organization as well. This landmark should serve as an ever-present reminder to one and all that the primary focus of Freemasonry must be the improvement of the communities in which we live. In doing so, our examples will prepare a better future for those who may be impacted in the age of tomorrow.



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