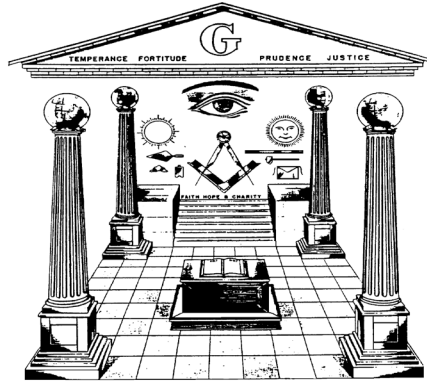


**THE ORIGINAL GENERAL GRAND MASONIC CONGRESS  
OF GRAND MASTERS**

ANCIENT FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



**BLACK FREEMASONRY**

**BY**

**BRO. CHARLES J. CLARKE**

PAST GRAND MASTER OF

**THE M. W. UNITED GRAND**

A. F. & A. MASONS OF ILLINOIS, INC

**PRESIDENT GENERAL**

OF

**THE ORIGINAL GENERAL GRAND MASONIC CONGRESS**

**OF GRAND MASTERS**

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**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

# HISTORY OF BLACK FREEMASONRY

In the United States of America

The Afro American Men in the state of Massachusetts that said they had been made Master Masons were Prince Hall, Boston Smith, Thomas Sanderson, and twelve others. Allegedly they have said that they were made Master Masons in a White Masonic Lodge that was called a Traveling Masonic Lodge and that it was connected with General Gages Military Regiment at Boston Massachusetts on the 6<sup>th</sup> of March 1775 and that this White Masonic Lodge in General Gages Military Regiment, they said, held a charter from the Grand Lodge of England.

The Grand Lodge of England during the 1700 hundredths has repeatedly said that they did not have any Masonic lodge in General Gages Military Regiment when that regiment was in the United States. And the question has time after time been asked the members of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Massachusetts and particularly those in Massachusetts that claim to know so much about it, to give the name and the number of that Masonic lodge that Prince Hall, Boston Smith and Thomas Sanderson was made Master Masons in, that was connected with General Gages Military Regiment which was then in the United States.

The P. Hall Masons have never been able to give any information as to what the name or even the number of this Masonic Lodge that they say was in General Gages Military Regiment. No person out side of William H Grimshaw has ever been able to furnish any genuine information on this issue.

The first Black Lodge of Masons in the state of Massachusetts was a lodge named African Lodge No. 459 which history shows that it was founded by Prince Hall. **Give Prince hall that credit.**

## Who was Prince Hall?

William H Grimshaw (A P. Hall Masonic writer), "History of free masonry among color peoples" states that "Prince Hall was free born in British West Indies . His father, Thomas Prince Hall, was an Englishman and his mother a free colored woman of French extraction. In 1765, he worked his passage on a ship to Boston, where he worked as a leather worker, a trade learned from his father. Eight years later, he had acquired real estate and was qualified to vote. Religiously inclined, he later became a minister in the African Methodist Episcopal Church with a charge in Cambridge."

Most of the history by Grimshaw 1903 book has been discredited, and is suspect in many areas.

Most of the history by C. L. Mitchell 1908 book has been credited, with research that is more historic then W. H. Grimshaw. (Please note; C. L. Mitchell was a friend of John G. Jones).

## The first Black Grand Lodge of Masons.

The first Grand Lodge of Black Masons was organized was in the state of Mass, and called African Grand Lodge of Modern Mason of Mass. And organized at Boston, Mass. On the 24<sup>th</sup> day of June in the year of our Lord 1791

The record shows that only one lodge took part in the organization of African Grand Lodge of Modern Masons that was organized at Boston Mass, on 24 June 1791.

This is all true in accordance with historian writers on both sides. Lets us for get about Prince Hall and let his bones rest in peace until judgment day.

## **John G. Jones**

John G. Jones was born on September 18, 1849 in Ithaca, New York, County of Tompkins. At seven years old, his family relocated to Chicago Illinois. At an older age, Jones studied law under W. W. O'Brien, who was a famous criminal lawyer in Illinois.

On March 24, 1881, the Supreme Court of Illinois admitted Jones to the Illinois Bar. He was later elected State Representative of the fifth District of Cook County Illinois.

John G. Jones was a member of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, F. & A.M., of the State of Illinois. He was initiated, passed, and raised in John Jones Lodge No. 7. This lodge was named after his uncle, John Jones. John G. Jones served as Master of his Lodge. He was elected Grand Secretary in 1873 & 1874 and served as such until being elected Deputy Grand Master in 1875. He was not re-elected there after, but became very active in Scottish Rite Masonry in 1876.

He was instrumental in the organizing the Congress of Grand Lodges that was organizing in Chicago in 1877.

In 1887, he was suspended by Grand Master J. W. Moore for contumacy until Grand Lodge Session in October, and reinstated by that body after many denials. He was retried in 1903 by a Grand Lodge Commission for fraudulently conferring the degrees of Masonry without authority upon persons who had not petitioned any lodge in the Jurisdiction of the MWPHGL of Illinois. The records of Illinois show Jones had preferred charges against the P.H.G.L. of Massachusetts, but the Committee of Appeals and Grievance of Illinois declared those charges without foundation.

The same records contain charges by Massachusetts. Vs. Jones for "affiliating and working with suspended, irregular, and clandestine masons in the City of Boston.

He was found guilty, and suspended indefinitely by Grand Lodge, and in 1903 expelled by P. H. Grand Lodge of IL.

The following is found in the Illinois records: "John G. Jones and William Gray charged, tried, and expelled from all the rights, benefits, and privileges of Masonry for gross Un-Masonic conduct, October 14, 1903. Their false statements relating to a "split in the Grand Lodge of Illinois," and their fraudulent scheme of pretending to confer legally the degrees of Masonry from the first to the thirty-third degree exposed."

The records of Illinois, 1904, pages 180-181, contain further charges against Jones and Gray as follows:

- a. Following their suspension, both Jones and Gray went about the state setting up Lodges with Gray as Grand Master, and Jones as Grand Secretary.
- b. They sent notices throughout the state saying a schism had occurred in the Grand Lodge.
- c. Jones had officers of the G.L., arrested on several occasions.
- d. Took the G.L., into court but as they never were re-instated into the craft.

In compliance with said vote, the following declaration was issued: "That the MWPHGL, Free and Accepted Masons, State of Massachusetts, does not and will not affiliate with or in any way recognize Masonically, any person affiliating with, recognizing or in any way having Masonic intercourse with John G. Jones, recently

expelled from Masonry by the MWPHGL of Illinois, or with those with whom he is in affiliation.” This was signed by GM William H. Jackson, and attested by Benjamin C. Hazel, Grand Secretary”.

## UNION OF SUPREME COUNCILS IN THE UNITED STATES.

### *Minutes, October 1894*

The Supreme Councils were united by the following resolutions:

The United Supreme Council of the Sovereign Grand Inspectors General of the thirty-third and last degree of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry for the Southern and Western Jurisdiction of the United States, having its See at Washington, D. C., the Grand Orient, aforesaid, duly and lawfully assembled in annual session at Kansas City, in the State of Missouri, on the 16th and 17th days of October, 1894, V. E., do hereby order and ordain the following:

Greeting:

We do hereby make it known unto you that there are only two regular and legal Supreme Councils of the thirty-third and last degree of the A. A. S. Rite of Freemasonry among colored Masons in the United States of America.

One with it is See at the Grand Orient of Philadelphia, in the State of Pennsylvania, and presided over by the Ill. George W. Roper, 33 rd, M. P. Sov. Grand Commander, and known by the style of United Supreme Council of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry for the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction of the United States of America;

The other, with it's Holly See at the Grand Orient of Washington, in the District of Columbia, and presided over by the Ill. Thornton A. Jackson, 33rd, 96th, M. P. Sov. Grand Commander, and known by the style of the United Supreme Council of Sovereign Grand Inspectors General of the thirty-third and last degree of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry for the Southern and Western Jurisdiction of the United States of America.

These two Supreme Councils of the thirty-third degree are the only true, lawful, and legitimate Supreme Councils among colored Masons in the United States of America, with relations of correspondence and amity established and the appointment by each of a Grand Representative near the other.

At one time there existed in this country, as late as 1881, five Supreme Councils among colored Masons, all claiming the right and authority to confer the several degrees and establish bodies of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite.

The Supreme Council of the United States of America, it's Territories and Dependencies, Grand East at New York, and presided over by Ill. Peter W. Ray, 33rd, as its M. P. Sov. Grand Commander, said to have been organized in 1864 by one Baron A. Hugo De Bulow, at one time a member of the Supreme Council of France.

The Supreme Council for the Southern Jurisdiction, Grand East at Baltimore, Md., and presided over by Ill. Lemuel D. Griffin, 33 rd as its M. P. Sov. Grand Commander was organized by and under the De Bulow authority.

The Supreme Council for the Northern Jurisdiction, Grand East at Philadelphia, Pa., and presided over by Ill. J. D. Kelly, 33rd, as its M. P. Sov. Grand Commander, and known as King Frederick Supreme Council, was duly open by the Supreme Council for the Southern Jurisdiction near this Grand East;

Thornton A. Jackson  
M. P. Sov. Grand Commander

James A. Handy is listed as a member of the Baltimore (Southern) Supreme Council, In the 1881 NY meeting, James A. Handy represented the Southern Supreme Council. Thornton Jackson represented the Southern and Western Supreme Council. It shows that members had membership in both Supreme Councils.

In 1894 John G. Jones, Lt. Sovereign Grand Commander of The United Supreme Council Southern and Western, set up John G. Jones Consistory #1 in Washington D.C. Members were becoming members in this new Consistory. Grand Master Hamilton Smith issued an edit forbidding any member to hold membership in this Consistory. These members had to renounce their membership or be expelled. The members felt that the edit from Grand Master Hamilton Smith was wrong and appealed to the Grand Master who denied the appeal.

The Grand Lodge split and became the present day Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge and the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge A. F. & A. M. These two Grand Lodges are still active in Washington , DC . (Note: John G. Jones Consistory #1 has been active in Washington, D.C. since 1895 and is the oldest Consistory in the Supreme Council).

### **OUR LEGAL MASONIC BIRTH**

Doing this time H.C. Scott was employed by the U.S. Government Department Scott formed an acquaintance with the Rumanian (Romanian) Diplomat plenipotentiary, who was a Grand Lodge officer. After proper negotiations and the submission of an approved petition to the Grand Lodge of Romania (Romania) issued charters to King Solomon Lodge #1, Jerusalem Lodge #2 Hiram Abiff Lodge #3, , and Joppa Lodge # 4. These lodge was part of the compact of grand lodge of 1877 they assembled in convention, and formed the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Washington D. C., and elected M.W. Mingo Sander the first Grand Master the grand lodge was incorporated by an Act of Congress in 1895.

These lodges met at a convention and formed the M. W. Grand Lodge of Washington, DC, Incorporated by an Act of Congress, August 12, 1896, and elected M. W. Mingo Sanders as the first Grand Master.

The Lodges were King Solomon No. 1, Jerusalem Lodge No. 2, Hiram Abiff No. 3, Joppa No. 4, St. John No. 5, Trinity No. 7, Southgate No. 8, and St. Joseph No. 9, with a membership of three hundred or more.

Under the M.P.S.G.C. Thornton A. Jackson 33° John G. Jones 33° was appointed Deputy Chairman of the committee on foreign relations for the United Supreme Council and Deputy for the states of Illinois, Missouri, Iowa, Arkansas, and California.

The election of them M.P.S.G.C. Of United Supreme council held on 17th of October 1895, in Washington, D.C. at the Masonic Hall on Virginia St. ILL. John G. Jones 33° of Chicago, IL, received sixteen (16) votes out of twenty-two votes cast. John G. Jones was elected Sovereign Grand Commander of The United Supreme Council.

**In 1897** John G. Jones organized St John Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. Illinois and served as it Grand Master .In 1901 he established and organized The Supreme council of O.E.S. at Buffalo, NY. **(Note; PH expelled him in 1903)**

A former decision was rendered by Judge Wright on November 11, 1908 against H. C. Scott was reversed and set aside by Justice Seith Sheppard of the Court of Appeals. Therefore, all Lodges receiving Charters from the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Washington DC named in that case are legitimate.

February 1, 1910 Court case No. 2007 was heard by Chief Justice Seith Sheppard of the Court of Appeals of Washington, D. C. The United States of America Court of Appeals rendered that because H. C., Scott, and others had received proper charters from the Grand Lodge of Romania (White) that this made them the only regular and legal Colored Grand of Washington D. C.

This Court action was to settle a long, and bitterly contested law-suit that had been in Court nearly four years between the two (Colored Grand Lodges) W. H. Grimshaw Grand Master of Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Washington D. C. vs. H. C. Scott Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge A. F. & A. Masons of Washington D. C.

The Court ruled in favor of H. C. Scott. The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge A.F. and A.M. Scottish Rite Masons of which H. C. Scott was Grand Master and was incorporated under the laws of Washington D. C. and all sister Grand Lodges and subordinates are legally recognized. (This is your legal birth right)

Grand Lodge of Florida, Brother S. P. Pratt, Grand Master; Grand Lodge of Illinois, Brother John G. Jones, Grand Master; Grand Lodge of Alabama, Brother J. H. McGhee, Grand Master; Grand Lodge of New York, Brother J. J. Burnell, Grand Master; Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia, Brother H. C. Scott, Grand Master; Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, Brother H. T. Breadus, Grand Master; Grand Lodge of California, Brother R. J. Fletcher. Grand Master; Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, Brother J. C. White, Grand Master; Grand Lodge of Texas, Brother Charles Mitchell, Grand Master; Grand Lodge of Arkansas, Brother R. Amos, Grand Master; Grand Lodge of Tennessee, Brother J. W. E. Reed, Grand Master; Grand Lodge of Louisiana Brother George C. Williams, Grand Master; Grand Lodge of Mississippi Brother James F. Fagon, Grand Master; and Grand Lodge of New Jersey, Brother L. Gordon, Grand Master.

Since then, there has been a circle of contention among the Masonic Order. With its members trying to claim ownership of Freemasonry. Freemasonry is based on the belief in a Universal God, which provides Freemasonry with no boundaries within its existence. Having no boundaries, Freemasonry has found itself not bound by race, creed or color. There are many different Masonic Rites. To own Freemasonry is like trying to own the Holy Bible. Universal God & Universal Brotherhood are the thread that runs through all Masonic literature, lessons and rites, binding us all as ONE. Harmony is the strength of All societies most especially OURS.

I do feel both sides of the arguments and as a Mason myself, I share in some of the grievances that have been waged and whether they are legitimate or not, it must be determined by each individual, which will require doing their own research in which to determine whose right and wrong in this Masonic divide. Some time I am led to believe that this divide is being festered by ego and superego driven Grand Masters and Masonic jurisdictions who are suspended in time and are fearful of moving forward from a debate that is over two hundred years old.

I took my oath on the Bible of my choice. I did not promise Prince Hall, John G. Jones (two dead men) anything. If I am in distress and I am forced to give the Grand Hail sign and whisper the word in a low voice, it would not matter to me if an PH mason or AF&AM mason came to my rescue and nor will I be asking what Masonic affiliation do they belong to.

The Masonic law of Freemasonry states that in order to organize a right and regular Grand Lodge of Masons, it requires not less than three warranted lodges. That has been the universal Masonic law both in this country and in Europe and has been followed and strictly adhered to by every well regulated and lawful Masonic Grand Lodge since the year of 1717 down to the present day.

The study of Masonry leads man to the correct knowledge of God. The correct knowledge of God leads to the true worship of Him. The true worship of God places man in harmony with all that is true and good. It enlarges his powers for usefulness in every vocation, station, position, or condition in life, thereby making him a good citizenship, in whom we find a true neighbor, a generous friend, and a clear-cut and well defined power of circumscribing our desires and keeping our passions in due bounds.

The principles of Freemasonry have survived the fall of man, the destruction of the flood and the confusion of tongues. They have survived the rise and fall of empires and the decay of republic; these principles were matured at the cradle of new-born nations, and have hallowed the graves of sleeping heroes; were triumphant as the mighty flood and everlasting as the mountains. They have spanned the vast oceans and planted the banner of Masonry in every nation under the sun.

We must pursue our researches until we find the thought that lay in the minds of those who created the institution and founded our mysteries. Then we shall know precisely what they mean; we shall see in them a grand series of moral and philosophical dramas, most eloquent and instructive., gleaming with sublime ideas, as the heavens glow with stars.

The real object of Freemasonry, **in a philosophical and religious** sense, is the search for truth. This truth is therefore symbolized by the world from the first entrance of the apprentice into the Lodge and until his reception of the highest degree, this search is continued. It is not always found; yet whatever may be the labor he may perform, whatever the ceremonies through which he may pass, whatever the symbols in which he may obtain, the true end of all is the attainment of truth.

This idea of truth is not the same as that expressed in the lectures of the first degree when brotherly love, relief and truth are there said to be the "three great tenets of our profession." In that connection, truth which is called a divine attribute, the foundation of every virtue, with sincerity, honesty, and plain dealing.

The higher idea of truth which pervades the whole Masonic system, and which is symbolized by the world, is that which is properly expressed in a knowledge of God.

Independent of God, there is no knowledge, there is no wisdom and there is no truth, and without God, they cannot exist. It is impossible for man to discover the truth, which has always existed; unless he believes in God, therefore, we say, the truths of Masonry are co-equal and co-external with the Supreme Ruler of the universe.

Masonry has helped to civilize nations, establish law and order, upheld personal liberty and human rights, patronized the liberal arts and sciences, disseminated knowledge and wisdom, proclaimed the universal brotherhood of man and the great central truth one eternal and immutable Grand Master of Heaven and earth, to whom every Mason owes his **unswerving** and undying allegiance.

Like all truths, the principles of Masonry are founded on the everlasting belief in God, and nothing can shake him.

**Masonry is the great highway leading from wrong to right**, from falsehood to truth, from evil to good, and from earth to heaven. It is the champion of wisdom, strength, beauty, virtue and purity, and it is the eternal enemy of ignorance, weakness, ugliness, libertinism, vice and corruption.

If he is true to the teachings of the order and true to himself. his whole being is dominated and ruled by the Grand Master of all Worlds, and wherever you find. him, at all times under all circumstances, he is a valiant soldier in the front ranks, battling for home, for family, for good society, for education, for all the noble and useful institutions, for law and order, for human rights and good government.

**Back to the legitimacy of Prince Hall Masonry. I no that you will not be satisfied until you have the Masonic ammo to shoot P. H. Masons down.**

The records of the War department of the English Government show that General Gages Military Regiment was in the United States of America and located at Boston, Mass. **in the year of 1772 - 1773 and in the middle part of the year of 1774.** It appears from the record of the English War department that General Gages Military Regiment which was stationed at Boston Mass, was **in the middle part of 1774** recalled to England and did not return back to the United States again.

No record as of to date appeared in our American Military Generals records relative to the occupation of British soldiers on American soil in the year of 1774, 1775, 1776. You will find that they do not mention or refer to the name of **General Gages Military Regiment** being present in Boston Mass, in the year 1775 at Boston Mass. But they do refer to General Gages Military Regiment being in the United States at Boston in the year of **1772 and 1773** and the middle part of the year of 1774 and having been recalled by the English government. In the National Magazine of the month of June 1907 an article there appeared in that magazine relative to the withdrawal by the English War Department of General Gages Regiment from Massachusetts in the year of 1774.

This was published by a circular issued by James Barnett Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of New York. See the proceedings of the organization of the second Grand Lodge of Colored Masons of the state of New York James Barnett in the year of 1848. **See the circular letter of Jacob Francis Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of New York on Oct, 25th 1848, and they state the same thing that General Gages Military Regiment was not in the United States of America March the 6th 1775 and that being true how can it be possible that Prince Hall, Boston Smith, Thomas Sanderson and their associates could have been made Master Masons in a Lodge in General Gages Military Regiment on the 6th of March 1775 at Boston Mass.**

#### **AFRICAN GRAND LODGE OF MODERN MASONS OF MASSACHUSETTS ORGANIZED WITH ONLY ONE LODGE ON THE 24th OF JUNE 1791 AT BOSTON, MASS.**

By Chas. L Mitchell, Grand Master, of the M. W. King Solomon Grand Lodge, State of Texas.( The first Grand Lodge of Colored Masons in the State of Mass, was named African Grand Lodge of Modern Masons of Mass, and it was organized with only one Lodge and the name of that Lodge was African Lodge No. 459 this occurred on the 24th of June 1791 at Boston Mass. See the circular of the proceedings of the organization of African Grand Lodge of Modern Mason of Mass, organized June the 24th 1791 at Boston Mass, and signed by Prince Hall Grand Master and Prince Taylor Grand Secretary of the African Grand Lodge of Modern Masons of Mass. See the printed proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Illinois in 1867. See the printed proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Iowa when it was organized in the year of 1881 when John Page was elected Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Colored Masons of the State of Iowa in 1881. See the circular and the Masonic proceedings issued by J. H. Hall Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of New Jersey in the year of 1873. See the proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Tennessee when Nelson Mc-Gavoc was Grand Master and Abraham Smith was Grand Secretary in the year of 1874. See the circular issued by the Grand Lodge of New York in 1874 when W. C. H. Curtis was Grand Master, and Albert Woodson was Grand Secretary. See the printed proceedings of the various sessions of the Grand Lodge of Mass. See the history of Freemasonry in the United States among Colored Men by J. N. Conna of Connecticut together with the Published statements of a number of other Grand Lodges and they all emphatically state and agree in language that is not uncertain, that the first Grand Lodge of Colored Masons organized in the State of Mass, was African Grand Lodge of Modern Masons which was organized with only one lodge and that was on the 24th day of June 1791 at Boston Mass.)

**There cannot be any doubt by any Masonic scholar or student in this day or time nor there can be any uncertainty in the manner by the officers and members of any well and regulated and lawful Grand Lodge of**



Freemasonry in the whole world, but that the establishing of African Grand Lodge of Modern" Masons of Mass, on the 24th of June 1791 with only one Lodge but that it is a clandestine spurious and irregular body for it has been since the year of 1717 that well established Masonic law of Freemasonry that it requires not less than' three warranted Lodges to organize a regular Grand Lodge. The Masonic authorities on that proposition both in this country and Europe are uninformed and no Grand Lodge has ever been recognized as being a legal Grand Lodge that has been organized with a less number than three warranted lodges.

### **The Name of the African Grand Lodge of Massachusetts was Changed to the Name of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Mass, in 1808**

After the Death of Prince Hall which occurred in the year of 1807, at the session held in the year of 1808 the name of African Grand Lodge of Modern Masons of Massachusetts was changed to the name of Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Modern Masons of Mass.

On the 24<sup>th</sup> of June 1791 they called themselves Modern Masons, in 1847 they called themselves Compact Masons, in 1880 they styled themselves as Free and Accepted Masons.

### **Letter to John G. Jones from the Grand Lodge of England**

London England  
Freemasonry Hall  
Office of the Grand Sec.

London England, May 10, 1874.

To John G. Jones, Esq.,  
Grand Secretary,

Dear Sir and Bro:

On the 27th of December of 1873 I addressed you a letter which I hope will reach you in due time giving you the information that you seek concerning a Lodge that was said to have belonged to the Grand Lodge of England in General Gages Military Regiment that was in the United States of America. As I stated to you in my former letter that there was no Masonic Lodge in General Gages Military Regiment in the United States and I beg to state to you and the brethren in your country as to a provincial Grand Master by the Grand Lodge of England. Any person having such papers claiming to be such is a fraud. I enclose you a copy of a letter that I addressed to Mr. B. F. Rogers of Springfield 111., who is Grand Master of your State.

I trust this will supply you with all the information that you desire

Yours Fraternaly,  
John Hervey,  
Grand Sec'y.

London England,  
Freemason Hall  
Office of the Grand Sec.

London England, May 4th, 1874.

Mr. B. F. Rogers,

Grand Master of Masons of the State of 111.

My very Dear Sir and Bro:

Your letter was received. I take pleasure in stating to you that in the latter part of December 1873 I forwarded a letter to Bro. John G. Jones of Chicago who is Grand Secretary of your Grand Lodge in which I gave him the information that you now desire.

I now beg to say to you that the Grand Lodge of England never had any Masonic Lodge in General Gages Military Regiment whose occupation was in the United States at the time that you mentioned nor has our Grand Lodge any record of any such appointment as Prince Hall to be Provincial Grand Master in the United States. If any such appointment is presented and claims to have been made by the Grand Lodge of England you are at liberty to deny it, and give the same information if you wish to the craft in the United States as we do not wish our Grand lodge to be misrepresented.

Yours fraternally,  
John Hervey,  
Grand Sec'y.

Lawyer John G. Jones 33,  
Sov. Grand Commander,

Paris, France, Nov. 4th, 1907.

Illustrious Sir and Bro: Your letter reached me on yesterday and many thanks. You will kindly remember me to all brethren in Chicago. I like America better than I do this country, or the places that I have been in since I left Chicago probably that is owing to the fact that having been born and reared in Chicago I feel more at home. But the French people, and particularly those that are members of Masonic fraternity, are very pleasant and kind. I visited one Lodge last night and last week I visited the consistory of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite. Before you are admitted In any of the Masonic bodys, here you are required to stand a very rigid examination, you know about what that is. There is no prejudice in this section of the country against man because he may be of a dark complexion, in all of my travels the Masonic body of which you are the head of in America among colored Masons is the only one that is known and recognized In this part of the country where I have been. We will go to London, England, next week. I will write you when I get there.

Yours Fraternally,  
H. S. COLLINS, 33.

London, England, Nov. 28th, 1907.  
Illustrious John G. Jones, 33,  
Grand Master of Masons of Illinois.

Very Dear Brother We arrived here last week and will remain here probably for a month. Will you kindly see Bro. Geo. Standwood, the Secretary of **Chicago Lodge No. 5**, and pay him my dues to the Lodge? We will be in Chicago the latter part of February, 1908. I have much to tell you when I get home. I visited the Masonic Lodges since I have been here and was treated with the utmost courtesy. The diploma from my Lodge and Consistory that you signed has been a great service and benefit to me.

I hear your name quite highly spoken of by the members of the Masonic Fraternity this side of the Atlantic Ocean. The Lodges and Masons that you are connected with in America among colored Masons are the only ones that are recognized over here.

Yours Fraternally,  
H. S. COLLINS, 33.

**BOGUS PRINCE HALL GRAND LODGE OF MASSACHUSETTS NEVER  
HAS BEEN HEALED, BY C. L. MITCHELL.**

In order to place the matter before the Masonic fraternity some one might inquire and ask the question that since the time that African Grand Lodge of Modern Masons of Massachusetts was organized with only one Lodge. On the 24th of June. 1791, which is now the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Massachusetts have they ever been healed and legally Masonically set right?

The answer to that is that they have not and only a short time ago they admitted by saying that they had never been healed, and Masonically set right, and that being true they were established in an unlawful manner and are clandestine and irregular Masons to this very day, and I challenge them to present any proof to the contrary.

**CAN A SUBORDINATE LODGE GRANT A LICENSE OR CHARTER TO  
ORGANIZE ANOTHER LODGE? BY C. L. MITCHELL.**

**THEY CANNOT.** In order to justify the irregular and unlawful Masonic work that has been done in the State of Massachusetts by the Colored men who belong to the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Massachusetts they attempt to justify their actions by saying that it was legal and lawful for African Lodge 459 to grant a license or charter to organize another Lodge and they have published in a circular of two cases of that kind that occurred in the year 1625. I have taken particular pains to thoroughly investigate the cases that The Following .Excerpt of a Letter From 111. John G. Jones, of Chicago, 111.,

Relative to Law Suit Pending in the District of Columbia between the Old Compact Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia and the Legitimate Grand Lodge A. F. & A. Masons of Which Bro. H. C. Scott is Grand Master Shows That the Question at Issue is Purely a Local Matter and does Not in Any Way Affect Any Other Grand Lodges in This Country and Shows Conclusively That the Claims Made by W. H. Grimshaw Amount to Nothing.

Chicago, 111., Dec. 2, 1908.

Bro. Charles L. Mitchell, 33, Grand Master.

The law suit between the two Grand Lodges in the District of Columbia is as follows:

The Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia that Bro. H. C. Scott is the Grand Master of, over two years ago commenced a law suit against the old Compact Grand Lodge in the District of Columbia to prohibit them from using the word "ancient" the old Compact Grand Lodge in the District of Columbia filed a cross bill and saying that they were the first Grand Lodge in the District of Columbia to use the word "ancient" and Judge Wright of the Equity Court in giving his opinion rules and held that the old Compact Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia was entitled to use the word "ancient" and enjoined the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia that Bro. H. C. Scott is the Grand Master of from using the word "ancient" and Bro. Scott and his Grand Lodge has appealed the case to the Court of Appeals in the District of Columbia where they can get justice in the matter.

The law suit is a local matter between the two Grand Lodges in the District of Columbia which does not in the least or in any manner whatever affect any other Grand Lodge in this country and does not alter or affect the Masonic legal status of the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia that Bro. H. C. Scott is the Grand Master of except using the word "ancient" of which I am satisfied that the higher court will reverse the decision of Judge Wright in the matter they referred to and no such action of that kind was ever done by any Masonic Lodge in the places that they referred to. All the Masonic authorities, both in this country and Europe, have made it plain how a Masonic Lodge could be organized and it must be done by the authority of a Grand Lodge.

No intelligent Mason and no genuine and regular Mason, either Black or White, in the whole world, can find any authority or precedent where one Subordinate Lodge can grant a charter to another Subordinate Lodge.

**PRINCE HALL AND HIS ASSOCIATES MADE MASONS WITHOUT ANY  
CHARTER OR AUTHORITY. BY C. L. MITCHELL.**

According to the statements made and published by the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, that from March the 6th, 1775 to 1787, that African Lodge had no charter of any kind, and still in the face of all of that we find that Prince Hall, Boston Smith, Thomas Sanderson of Massachusetts, conferred the degrees of Free Masonry upon certain men without any charter or without any authority whatever and still they wish to call themselves regular Masons.

**CLANDESTINE. SPURIOUS AND UNLAWFUL NATIONAL COMPACT GRAND  
LODGE OF MASONS OF NORTH AMERICA THAT WAS ORGANIZED  
AT BOSTON, 'MASSACHUSETTS, ON THE 24th OF JUNE, 1847.**

For many years past a great deal has been said and written about the establishing of the Irregular and Illegitimate National Compact Grand Lodge of Masons that was organized without a shadow of Masonic power and authority in 1847 at Boston, Massachusetts and of all of the absurd and ridiculous ideas which have ever incorporated itself in the minds of any man who is a Mason there seems nothing so utterly weak and imbecile as the doctrine that is advocated by the followers and adherents of that Clandestine National Compact Grand Lodge which was founded upon everything that was irregular and clandestine and predicted upon fiction fables and falsehoods, these and nothing else.

The numerous statements that have been made and are being made now by the exponents of the National Compact Grand Lodge purporting to be genuine and historical, are solely unreliable and cunning inventions of their own devised for the purpose of misleading the people.

On the 24th of June, 1847, at Boston, Mass., John T. Hilton, Grand Master, Henry Harris, William Bruce, of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, and James Bird, John G. Bias, James Richmond, of the African Grand Lodge of North America, with its headquarters at Philadelphia, Pa., and the Hiram Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, represented by James Newman, John Anderson, Samuel Brackles, Phillip Buckhammond and several others from the Hiram Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, and from the Boyer Grand Lodge of New York was William H. Clark, Lewis Hayden, Alexander Elston, together with several others, met in Boston, Mass., and organized the National Compact Grand Lodge of North America.

They elected John T. Hilton, of Boston, Mass., National Grand Master, and William E. Ambush was elected National Grand Secretary. This National Compact Grand Lodge of North America has done nothing but breed dissention among Colored Masons in the United States.

From its earliest period of existence down to the present date, and it has never been recognized as a regular and legal Masonic Grand Body and never will as long as intelligent men have their right senses about them.

**THE GRAND LODGE OF ENGLAND HAS NEVER RECOGNIZED  
PRINCE HALL GRAND LODGE OF MASSACHUSETTS. BY C. L. MITCHELL.**

If it was true that the Grand Lodge of England granted a charter to African Lodge No. 459 at Boston. Mass., on Sept. 29th, 1784, and this same African Lodge organized the African Grand Lodge of Modern Masons of Massachusetts on the 24th of June, 1791, which now is the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, what

was the matter or cause and reason that the Grand Lodge of England has failed and refused to recognize the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Massachusetts?

It must be self apparent to every intelligent Mason that it shows and proves conclusively that the Grand Lodge of England never did grant a Charter to African Lodge No. 459 at Boston, Mass., as the leaders of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Massachusetts would try to have you believe.

Who in the world ever heard of a Grand Lodge granting a charter to a Subordinate Lodge and then refusing to recognize the very Lodge that the Grand Lodge granted them a charter?

It is the most ridiculous and absurd statement I ever heard of. It certainly shows that the Grand Lodge of England never at all granted a charter to African Lodge No. 459. On the 29<sup>th</sup> of Sept., 1784, and the officers of the Grand Lodge of England say that they did not and all the talk about a commission having been granted to Prince Hall as a Provincial Grand Master in America by the Grand Lodge of England stamps the whole thing from beginning to the end as **a manufactured statement**, a fraud and a sham.

#### TWO WHITE MASONIC GRAND LODGES IN ENGLAND, ONE ORGANIZED IN 926 AND THE OTHER ORGANIZED IN 1739.

The first Grand Lodge organized among the White Masons of England was organized at the City of York, England, in the year of 926, and the second White Grand Lodge of England was organized at London, England, in the year of 1739. See Mackey's Encyclopedia of Masonry; see Mitchell's History of Freemasonry; see the Voice of Freemasonry published in Chicago in the month of June, 1867.

The members that composed the second White Grand Lodge of England when it was organized in 1739 was made up of expelled Masons from the first Grand Lodge of England that was organized In the year of 926, and the second irrigeular and unlawful Grand Lodge of England that was organized at London, England, in the year of 1739 is the same Grand Lodge. R. Holt was Deputy Grand Master, and William White was the Grand Secretary, and it was from this second irregular and unlawful Grand Lodge of England that the African Lodge No. 459 claims that they secured their charter from.

In all fairness if the Grand Lodge of England granted a charter to African Lodge No. 459 at Boston, Mass., it being a clandestine Grand Lodge, It would follow beyond all dispute that African Lodge No. 459 at Boston, Mass., was unlawful and clandestine Lodge. Although the Grand Lodge of England has said they did not grant any charter to African Lodge at Boston, Mass.

#### **PRINCE HALL GRAND LODGE OF MASSACHUSETTS HAS NEVER PRESENTED OR SHOWED THE CHARTER OF AFRICAN LODGE, TO ANY PERSON.**

For many years the members of the Masonic fraternity have asked to see the charter of African Lodge No. 459. That Prince Hall Grand Lodge members of Massachusetts say that they had in their possession, and when committees after committees have called and asked for to see it they have been denied the opportunity and that one time they said in Boston, Mass., to the committee that the charter had been destroyed by fire, and another time they told the committee that they could not find the charter.

Don't you think and believe that if they had a charter for African Lodge in Massachusetts that they would have that historical Lodge on their roll in their printed proceedings? If you can find the name of African Lodge in any of the Masonic printed proceedings of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Massachusetts it is more than any body else can find. See and read the printed Masonic proceedings of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, and see if you can find the name of African Lodge printed there?

**PRINCE HALL GRAND LODGE OF MASSACHUSETTS IS NOT RECOGNIZED  
BY THE GRAND LODGE OF ENGLAND.**

Bro. John G. Jones, 33,  
Grand Master of Masons of Illinois,  
London, Eng., Dec. 20th, 1907.

Dear Sir and Brother We have remained here in London, England, longer than we intended to, and since writing to you I have made a visit to Dublin, Ireland. A large number of people in Dublin, Ireland, are doing fairly well, but from time to time there is a large number of people there leaving and going to United States.

The other day I went to the Masonic headquarters here in London, England, to find out and investigate for myself if the Grand Lodge of England recognized the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Massachusetts as I had always heard that our Masonry in America among Colored people came from Grand Lodge of England and the officials of the Grand Lodge of England who were very courteous to me took the occasion to inform me that the Grand Lodge of England does not recognize or affiliate with the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Massachusetts.

How is that Bro. Jones, that some of the Colored Masons keep saying in America that they got their charter from the Grand Lodge of England, when the Grand Lodge of England says that they do not recognize the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, and it was at Boston, Mass., that the Colored Masons in Massachusetts have stated that they got a charter for a Lodge from the Grand Lodge of England?

I want nothing more to do with any of the members that belong to the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Massachusetts. Our Colored brethren In the United States should be informed about this matter.

Yours Fraternaly, H. S. COLLINS, 33.

**THIS IS WHAT MAKES THE PRINCE HALL GRAND LODGE OF  
MASSACHUSETTS SPURIOUS AND CLANDESTINE.**

1. Prince Hall, Boston Smith, Thomas Sanderson and their associates of Boston, Mass., could not have been made Master Masons in a Lodge in General Gages Military Regiment on the 6th day of March, 1775, at Boston, Mass., for General Gages Military Regiment was not in the United States at that time.
2. Prince Hall of Boston, Mass., never was appointed provincial Grand Master in the United States by the Grand Lodge of England.
3. The Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Massachusetts having connected itself with the spurious National Compact Grand Lodge of North America in 1847 surrendered all of its rights if it had any as a Grand Lodge.
- 4 The White Masonic Grand Lodge of England that African Lodge No. 459 obtained a charter from was a clandestine and unlawful Grand Lodge of Modern Masons in England.
- 5 The Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Massachusetts styles themselves as Modern Masons and Modern Masons are those Masons who refused to follow and adhere to the ancient laws, rules and regulations and the landmarks of Freemasonry. Those Modern Masons are Masonic innovators.

JOHN G. JONES, 33.  
Grand Master of Masons of Illinois.

**EXTRACTS FROM THE PROCEEDINGS AND SOME OF THE DECISIONS  
OF THE VARIOUS MASONIC CONGRESSES AND NATIONAL MASONIC**

**CONVENTION HELD AMONG THE COLORED MASONS  
IN THE UNITED STATES SINCE AUGUST 11th, 1820.**

Chicago, 111., April 8, 1908.

To All Whom This May Concern, Greeting:

The management of the International Masonic Bureau of Information of the world wishes to state that we have devoted much time and labor in collecting this much needed information which gives the time and place as well as the decisions and also a brief account of the proceedings of the various general Masonic congresses and National Masonic Convention that has been held among the Colored Masons In the United States of America since June 11th, 1820.

**THE FIRST NATIONAL CONVENTION OF COLORED MASONS OF UNITED  
STATES HELD JUNE 11th, 1820, AT PHILADELPHIA, PA.**

A resolution was adopted recommending to the Grand Lodges that it was unlawful and un-Masonic for any subordinate Lodge or Grand Lodge to meddle with the degrees of Royal Arch Masons. The convention after some other Masonic discussions adjourned.

**SECOND NATIONAL CONVENTION OF COLORED MASONS IN THE  
UNITED STATES HELD AT BOSTON, MASS., JUNE 24th, 1847.**

John T. Hilton, Wm. A. Bruce, Henry Harris of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, James Richmond, James Bird, Samuel Van Brackle, Phillip Buchanan, John Anderson, James Powell of Pennsylvania, and Alexander Elston, Wm. H. Clark of New York issued a call for National Masonic Convention to meet in Boston, Mass., June the 24th, 1847, and it was agreed and they did organize the National Compact Grand Lodge of North America.

John T. Hilton of Boston, Mass., was elected M. W. N. Grand Master Wm. E. Ambush was elected National Grand Secretary. This National Grand Lodge of North America adopted a constitution claiming and exercising power and authority over every Grand Lodge of Masons in each state in the United States and Canada.

This National Compact Grand Lodge in violation of all Masonic law proceeded to issue charters to Grand Lodges in the United States which was a Masonic law and rule that they adopted that was unheard of among Masons of any nationality in any country or any land. This National Compact Grand Lodge sowed the seed of discord and dissension among Colored Masons in this country whose record has covered one of the blackest pages in Masonic history. This National Compact Grand Lodge continued to meet and elect officers for some years there after placing heavy assessments upon subordinate Lodges and Grand Lodges throughout the country.

**THIRD NATIONAL CONVENTION OF COLORED MASONS HELD IN  
UNITED STATES WAS AT NEW YORK CITY OCT. 12th, 1848.**

James Barnett, Jacob Gibbs and several others of New York State called a National Masonic Convention to meet in New York City, Oct. 12, 1848. James Barnett was elected president of the convention. Arnold Hicks offered a series of resolutions which was adopted bitterly denouncing the National Compact Grand Lodge of North America that was organized at Boston, Mass., June 24th, 1847. He claimed that the whole National Compact Grand Lodge was a fraudulent and unlawful organization Chas. Hooten offered a resolution which was adopted that the organization of African Grand Lodge of Modern Masons of Massachusetts, June

the 24th, 1791, at Boston, Mass., with only one Lodge that such Grand Lodge was irregular and unlawful.

The Grand Lodge representative system was discussed and properly outlined in the convention and each Grand Lodge was requested to follow the same by an exchange of Grand representatives with each Grand Lodge. A resolution was also adopted and the convention decided that the Masonic law which had been strictly adhered to by all regular Masons that whenever a Grand Lodge for a State was organized that it required not less than three warranted Lodges to assemble in a Masonic convention for that purpose.

**FOURTH NATIONAL CONVENTION OF COLORED MASONS OF UNITED STATES WAS HELD AT LEAVEN WORTH, KANSAS, JULY 10th, 1869.**

Frank Caldwell offered a resolution to the effect which was adopted that it is the sense of this convention that the establishing of Freemasonry among Colored Masons in the United States at Boston, Mass., was unauthorized and irregular and that the pretending of the organization of African Grand Lodge of Modern Masons of Boston, Mass., June the 24th, 1791, was unwarranted and clandestine.

**THE FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF COLORED MASONS OF UNITED STATES WHICH CONVENED IN CHICAGO, AUGUST 10th, 1872.**

A resolution was offered by W. R. Lawton and adopted that a committee of five (5) be appointed by the president of this congress to investigate the correct origin and genuineness of Freemasonry among the Colored Masons in the United States at Boston, Mass.

President W. C. H. Curtis appointed on the committee W. R. Lawton, of Missouri, John G. Jones of Chicago, B. F. Rogers of Springfield, 111., Jos. H. Banks of Providence, R. I., H. D. Vena of Detroit, Mich.

To the President and Members of the General Masonic Congress:

The undersigned committee that was appointed to investigate the origin and the legal conditions of Freemasonry among our race in the State of Massachusetts now submit their report. Your committee wishes to be understood that we have taken considerable time in a thorough examination of the matter and we have searched diligently to ascertain the truth regardless of whom it may please or displease.

We find that the establishing of the African Grand Lodge of Modern Masons in Massachusetts among the Colored men on June the 24th, 1791, at Boston, Mass., that the whole work was irregular, unlawful and contrary to Masonic law. The names of the Grand officers that were elected at the organization of this spurious and irregular African Grand Lodge of Modern Masons of Massachusetts on June 24th, 1791, was as follows: Prince Hall Grand Master, Nero Prince, Deputy Grand Master, Cyrus Forbes, Grand Secretary, Peter Best, Grand Treasurer.

Your committee have investigated and made searching inquiry to find who took part in the organization of the African Grand Lodge of Modern Masons among the colored Masons at Boston, Mass., on June the 24th, 1791, and it appears from the records as well as the delegates from Massachusetts who admit and confirm the same that there was only one Lodge and that was African Lodge No. 459 that participated in the organization of the African Grand Lodge of Modern Masons that was organized June 24th, 1791, at Boston, Mass., such organization of the Grand Lodge is in open violation of Masonic laws and we cannot indorse or approve the same.

Your committee finds according to the statements of the delegates from Massachusetts that since the time of the organization of the African Grand Lodge of Modern Masons in the State of Massachusetts which occurred June



24th, 1791, that no steps or effort had been made or taken by the officers and members of the African Grand Lodge of Modern Masons of Massachusetts to have said Grand Lodge Masonically legalized and set right.

Your committee is wholly unable to find or secure any genuine information that even a charter was ever granted by the Grand Lodge of England for the establishing of African Lodge No. 459 at Boston, Mass.

Your committee has investigated various printed proceedings of the African Grand Lodge of Massachusetts which name was changed in the year of 1808 to the name of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, and we cannot find the name of African Lodge No. 459 printed in any of the Grand Lodge proceedings of Massachusetts.

Your committee is unable to find or be placed in the possession of any genuine information that would lead the committee to believe that there was ever a charter granted by the Grand Lodge of England to Prince Hall and his associates at Boston, Mass.

Your committee finds further that the so-often repeated statement made by some of the less informed brothers of our race that the color line and prejudice had been the cause in the State of Massachusetts and other places through out the country and especially in the northern states in the refusal of some of the White Grand Lodges of Masons in denying us recognition was not based on account of color but it was predicated solely upon the grounds that the origin of Freemasonry among the Colored Masons in the State of Massachusetts was unlawful and irregular.

Committee:

JOHN G. JONES, of Illinois,  
W. R. LAWTON, of Missouri,  
B. F. ROGERS, of Illinois,  
H. D. VENA, of Michigan,  
J. H. BANKS, of Rhode Island.

The above named committee report was adopted forty-one to ten.

#### **THE SIXTH NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF COLORED MASONS OF THE UNITED STATES WAS HELD AT OMAHA, NEB., MAY THE 10th, 1874**

The Sixth National General Assembly of Colored Masons of the United States convened at Omaha, Neb., May the 10th, 1874. Delegates were present from the States of Pennsylvania, Nebraska, Iowa, Illinois, Michigan, Tennessee, Missouri, Colorado, New York and Kansas. John G. Jones of Chicago was elected president of the congress. E. R. Overall of Omaha, was elected secretary. Wm. D. Mathews, Grand Master of King Solomon Grand Lodge, of Kansas, applied for admission to the convention and was refused on the grounds that his Grand Lodge was irregular and clandestine.

#### **THE MOTHER OF ALL THE COMPACT AND STATE RITES IN THE UNITED STATES.**

Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Massachusetts Colored Masons, Spurious Followers in New York State Come to Grief. A case has been decided in the law court at Charlotte, New York State that has created intense interest in the Masonic circles among Colored Masons in several of the States last week, and the Colored Grand Lodge of New York, which was first started some years ago by the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, met an overwhelming defeat and was routed at every point.

The Grand Lodge of the State of New York commenced a law suit at Charlotte, N. Y., against several Masons representing the Hiram Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Pennsylvania to prevent them from organizing lodges in the State of New York under the authority of the Hiram Grand Lodge of the State of Pennsylvania. The case came up before Judge, Laverty and was bitterly contested, and after an argument of a whole day by counsel representing both sides Judge Laverty rendered his decision that after investigating the matter thoroughly that the **Prince Hall Grand Lodge of** Massachusetts that was organized many years ago, was an illegal and irregular Grand Body, and that the Grand Lodge in the State of New York having had lodges established in New York State that organized lodges from the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Massachusetts that established the Grand Lodge of New York that it was an unlawful Grand Lodge, and that the Hiram Grand Lodge of Colored Masons of the State of Pennsylvania was a lawful and regular Grand Body. The Hiram Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania was organized formerly of chartered lodges from the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia.

**FREEMASONRY FIRST ORGANIZED IN THE STATE OF TEXAS ON APRIL  
THE 10th, 1873, AT AUSTIN, TEXAS.**

That matter came up and was discussed at the National Masonic Convention held in the city of Chicago, Sept. 4th, 5th, 6th, 1877.

**REPORT ON THE ORIGIN AND THE IRREGULARITY OF FREEMASONRY  
AMONG COLORED MEN IN THE STATE OF TEXAS AT THE NATIONAL  
MASONIC CONVENTION HELD IN CHICAGO, SEPT, 4th, 1877.**

To the President and Members of the National Masonic Convention now Sitting in Chicago, Sept. 4th, 1877:

Your committee that was appointed to investigate the origin of Freemasonry in the State of Texas beg leave to make the following report:

We have carefully investigated the matter of the origin of Freemasonry in the State of Texas and we find that it appears from the record that Freemasonry was first established in the State of Texas by Win. D. Mathews, Grand Master of the King Solomon Grand Lodge of Compact Masons for the State of Kansas which at the time the said King Solomon Grand Lodge of Kansas was under and subordinate to the National Compact Grand Lodge of North America.

We further find that the said Grand Lodge of Texas that C. C. Dean is the Grand Master of that, the said Grand Lodge of Texas, when organized January 19th, 1875, did not follow and comply with the landmarks and laws of Freemasonry and that the said Grand Lodge of Texas is an unlawful and irregular Grand Lodge and that the delegates from the Grand Lodge of the State of Texas to this National Masonic Convention are not entitled to seats in this National Masonic Convention.

Fraternally Submitted,  
E. A. WILLIAMS, of Nebraska,  
H. D. VENA, of Michigan,  
J. H. BANKS, of Rhode Island,  
Committee.

**FIRST REGULAR AND LEGAL GRAND LODGE OF COLORED MASONS  
IN UNITED STATES AT WASHINGTON, D. C., 1895.**

The first Grand Lodge of Colored Masons in the United States that was healed and Masonically set right was the Grand Lodge of Colored Masons of the District of Columbia which H. C. Scott is the Grand Master of. It occurred in the year of 1895 by the duly accredited representatives from the White Masonic Grand Lodge of Romania, Germany.

**VARIOUS GRAND LODGE DECISIONS.  
FIRST LEGAL GRAND LODGE OF COLORED MASONS IN THE STATE OF  
TEXAS, MARCH 19th, 1908.**

The Most Worshipful St. Johns Grand Lodge of A. F. & A. M. Masons of the State of Illinois established several Subordinate Lodges in the State of Texas. A Masonic convention was held in the State of Texas by several of the Subordinate Lodges in the State of Texas on March 19th, 1908, at San Antonio, Texas, and the Most Worshipful King Solomon Grand Lodge of A. F. & A. Masons for the State of Texas was organized. Bro. Chas. L. Mitchell is Grand Master and Bro. J. F. VauDuzor is the Grand Secretary.

Yours Fraternally, JOHN G. JONES, 33,  
Grand Master of Masons of the State of Illinois.

**DECISIONS OF MASONIC GRAND LODGES.**

1. Since the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia has been under the supervision and control of the Past Grand Master Wm. H. Johnson and the present Grand Master H. C. Scott of Washington, D. C. the Grand Lodge has rendered some very important decisions which has been a guide for many of the Grand Lodges for sometime in the past and will be a guide and a landmark for many of the Grand Lodges in the future.

The Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Massachusetts is irregular and clandestine, it was instituted with only one subordinate Lodge.

The Most Worshipful St. John's Grand Lodge of A. F. & A. Masons of the State of Illinois that Bro. John G. Jones is the Grand Master of was lawfully and constitutionally established according to the landmarks and laws of Freemasonry and is recognized by this grand Lodge.

The Most Worshipful King Solomon Grand Lodge of A. F. & A. Masons of the State of Texas that Bro. Chas. L. Mitchell is Grand Master of has been regularly and lawfully established and is recognized by this Grand Lodge.

The Most Worshipful St. Andrew's Grand Lodge of A. F. & A. Mason of the State of Louisiana that Wm. T. Grant is the Grand Master of has been regularly instituted according to the landmarks and laws of Freemasonry and is recognized by this Grand Lodge.

The Most Worshipful German Grand Lodge of A. F. & A. Masons of the State of Alabama that Bro. **J. H. McGehee** is the Grand Master of has been lawfully instituted and is recognized by this Grand Lodge.

The Most Worshipful Wm. T. Grant, Jr., Grand Lodge of A. F. & A. Masons of the State of Mississippi has been regularly organized and is recognized by this Grand Lodge. Bro. J. R. Rawlins of Natchez, Miss., is the Grand Master of.

The Most Worshipful Hiram Grand Lodge of A. F. A. Masons of the State of Pennsylvania that Bro C. R. France is the Grand Master of, has been instituted in a regular and lawful manner and is recognized by this Grand Lodge.

The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of the State of Florida that Bro. E. E. Franklin is the Grand Master of was regularly instituted and is recognized by us.

We find the formation of the spurious Grand Lodge of Texas that J. W. McKinney is the Grand Master of and W. M. McDonald is the Grand Secretary of, was established in the most extraordinary irregular and unlawful manner and is with the establishing of the bogus Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Massachusetts which was only organized with one Lodge.

The so-called Grand Lodge in the State of Texas which is said to have been instituted by K. R. Rogers of Austin, Texas, and is known as the Hiram Tyram Grand Lodge is beyond all question or doubt the most Clandestine and Irregular Masonic Grand Lodge that has ever appeared upon the Masonic stage of action. It is a Grand Lodge only on paper and was instituted not in compliance with any of the landmarks or laws of Freemasonry and is **therefore counterfeit and Bogus** and is not recognized by this Grand Lodge.

This Grand Lodge has carefully examined into the origin of the Compact Grand Lodge of Masons in the State of Illinois that H. E. Burris, of Rock Island is the Grand Master, and the notorious R. E. Moore is the Grand Secretary of, and we find it was instituted with only two warranted Lodges and a Lodge under dispensation and from the records of the Grand Lodge of Ohio one of the warranted Lodges that took part in the convention was at that time not in good standing with the Grand Lodge of Ohio. See records of the Grand Lodge of Ohio of 1865 and 1866.

Prince Hall of Massachusetts, a founder of a Spurious and Illegitimate Masonry, among the Colored Masons in the United States, died at Boston, Mass., in the year of 1807.

### **COLORED GRAND LODGE OF ALABAMA.**

The Colored Masonic Grand Lodge of the State of Alabama which is named the German Grand Lodge of A. F. & A. Masons of the State of Alabama in the year of 1906 at the annual session held at Montgomery, Ala., Bro. J. H. McGehee, 33, Grand Master, and Bro. G. W. Hill, 32, Grand Secretary, the Grand Lodge made the following decisions:

That the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Massachusetts was organized with only one Lodge which makes the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Massachusetts unlawful clandestine and irregular Grand Lodge. It requires not less than three warranted Lodges to assemble in a Masonic convention and organize a regular Grand Lodge for a State. All Masons who are members of Compact Lodges are Bogus, Irregular and Clandestine, and must not be recognized as Masons anywhere. No compact Mason can be admitted in any subordinate Lodge in this State.

### **COLORED MASONIC LODGES OF COLORADO.**

No Supreme Council of Ancient, Accepted Scottish Rite Masons possess any right or power or authority to confer the degrees of entered apprentice fellow-craft and Master Mason's degree. If a commandery of Knights Templars should confer the entered apprentice fellow-craft and Master Mason's degree it is spurious and unlawful Masonic work.

### **WHITE MASONIC GRAND LODGE OF DELAWARE.**

The Masonic Lodge of the State of Delaware since it was organized on June the 6th, 1806, has rendered some very important decisions which has been a guide for many of the Grand Lodges that have been organized since that time.

The African Grand Lodge of Colored Masons in the State of Massachusetts cannot be recognized not because they are Colored Masons but for the reason that they were unlawfully instituted. They organized a Grand Lodge with only one Lodge when they should have had not less than three. A Regular Grand Lodge must be organized with not less than three warranted Lodges.

### **COMMITTEE REPORT ON NEGRO MASONRY IN TEXAS.**

"We your committee find that these 650 so-called Negro Masons are not Masons, and have no business with us, nor about us, neither of us. If Ephriam is joined to his Idols let him alone."

Now the record further shows that this Grand Lodge has sent delegates to the General Masonic Congress on several occasions, and these delegates were rejected. The first was in Sept. 4th and 5th, 1887, at Chicago. Mr. Gillett of Kansas, offered the following resolution and it was unanimously adopted :

"Whereas, The facts are before this convention that the Grand Lodge of Texas, Colored, under C. C. Dean as Grand Master, was organized by subordinate lodges instituted in the State of Texas by W. D. Matthews, Grand Master of the Compact Grand Lodge of Kansas.

"Be it Resolved by this convention that the said Grand Lodge of Texas, above mentioned, is hereby now declared by this convention to be an unlawful and irregular Grand Lodge, and that this National Masonic convention will now refuse and neither recognize or admit their delegates in this convention."

And similar resolutions were adopted at the General Masonic Congress that was held in Pittsburg, Pa., July, 1904.

### **HOW THE MOST WORSHIPFUL KING SOLOMON GRAND LODGE, A. F. & A. M. WAS ORGANIZED IN THE STATE OF TEXAS.**

The origination of the M. W. King Solomon Grand Lodge, A. F. & A. Masons which was organized March 19, A. D., 1908, and incorporated under the laws of the State of Texas, March 27, A. D., 1908, of the following Lodges, viz: Mount Nebo Lodge No. 14, Galveston, Tex., Brackenridge Lodge No. 21, Excelsior Lodge No. 25, San Antonio, Golden Jewel Lodge No. 23, Taylor;

In Reference to the Circular Matter Relative to One John A. Bell of Grand Rapids, Mich., Claiming to Hold a Warrant of Authority From the Grand Lodge of Liberia, I Beg Leave to Submit a Copy. The Original is now in Possession of the 111. Capt. W. T. Grant, M. W. Grand master of the M.W. St. Andrews Grand Lodge A. F. & A. M. of the State of Louisiana, and President of the International Bureau of Masonic Information of the World. Office 331 Corondelet St., New Orleans, La.

Masonic Hall,  
Monravia, Liberia  
Oct. 13, 1908.

Bro. W. T. Grant,,  
Grand Master of the M. W. St. Andrew Grand Lodge A. F. & A. M. State of Louisiana.

Most Worshipful Brother: I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your favor of the 29th of August, inquiring if this Grand Lodge or the Grand Master has a Deputy in the person of John A. Bell at Grand Rapids, Michigan, and if any authority has been given him to open a lodge in America.

In reply, I have to say that this Grand Lodge has no Deputy in the person of John A. Bell, nor has any warrant been given him authorizing him to open any lodge in America or to do anything else. If he is doing anything Masonically whatsoever, he does it without the knowledge, consent and authority of this Grand Lodge. I beg to remain,

Fraternally yours,

A. B. STUBBLEFIELD,  
Grand Master of Masons in the Republic of Liberia.

Eureka Lodge No. 12, Hempstead. These (5) five Lodges held their warrant of constitution from the M. W. St. John Grand Lodge, A. F. & A. M. of the State of Illinois of which the Hon. John G. Jones, 33rd degree, is Grand Master, and the M. W. St. John Grand Lodge, A. F. & A. M. held her warrant of constitution from the M. W. Grand Lodge A. F. & A. M., of Washington, District of Columbia, of which Hon. H. C. Scott, 33rd degree is Grand Master. This warrant was granted to Hon. H. C. Scott, 33rd degree Grand Master in the year 1895. He was the first and only Colored Mason in the United States of America to ever receive a lawful and regular warrant from any White Grand Lodge of Masons of foreign jurisdiction, and he is now healing and setting Masonically right the Colored Masons in the United States of America.

According to Masonic law the only lawful and regular Grand Lodge of Colored Masons in the State of Texas is the Most Worshipful King Solomon Grand Lodge, A. F. & A. M., which was organized at San Antonio, Texas, on 19th day of March, A. D., 1908 and lawfully incorporated under the laws of the State of Texas on the 27th day of March, A. D., 1908, and it is the only Colored Grand Lodge A. F. & A. M. in the State of Texas that is recognized by foreign White Masonic jurisdiction of which C. L. Mitchell, 33rd degree is Grand Master.

### **CERTIFICATE OF HEALING AND LEGALIZING MASONS AND LODGES IN THE STATE OF TEXAS MARCH 19th, 1908.**

Chicago, 111., April 25, 1908.

To All Whom This May Concern, Greeting:

Whereas, in the course of Masonic events it becomes necessary for one regular and legitmate Grand Lodge of A. F. & A. Masons to heal and Masonically legalize Master Masons and Lodges and a Grand Lodge when the Masonic degrees have been conferred and Masonic work in subordinate Lodges has been irregularly and un-Masonically accomplished.

Whereas, there was a certain number of Masons viz: Chas. L. Mitchell W. L. Dorn, J. F. VanDuzor and their associates in the City of San Antonio, Texas, and Phillip H. Matthews, Simon Smith of Galveston, Texas; Frank H. Hicks, John Lowery of Taylor, Texas, James F. Harris, Nelson W. Day of Hempstead, Texas, and several other brethren residing in the various parts of the State of Texas, having received the degrees of Freemasonry in an unlawful and irregular and illegitimate manner and,

Whereas, application having been made by the above named brethren and their associates in the State of Texas and the Masonic Lodges which the above named brethren were members of in the State of Texas to the Most Worshipful St. John's Grand Lodge of A. F. & A. Masons of the State of Illinois and Masonic jurisdiction to be regularly healed and Masonically legalized as Master Mason and members of the various warranted Masonic Lodges in the State of Texas.

Whereas, the petition of the above named brethren in the State of Texas having been duly presented and considered in open session of the Most Worshipful St. John's Grand Lodge of A. F. & A. Masons of the State of Illinois in special session held in the city of Chicago, Ill., on the 12th of February, 1908, and the prayer of the above named petitioners was then and there duly considered and unanimously granted.

Whereas, the Most Worshipful St. John's Grand Lodge of A. F. & A. Masons of the State of Illinois and Masonic jurisdiction having in open session duly instructed and empowered the Grand Master of the Most Worshipful St. John's Grand Lodge of A. F. & A. Masons of the State of Illinois and Masonic jurisdiction to repair to the State of Texas and there proceed to heal and Masonically legalize the Lodges and the above named brethren residing in the State of Texas and to assist them in the formation and install the officers of the Most Worshipful King Solomon Grand Lodge of A. F. & A. Masons of the State of Texas.

Therefore, be it known that I John G. Jones, 33, of the City of Chicago and State of Illinois and Grand Master of the Most Worshipful St. John's Grand Lodge of A. F. & A. Masons of the State of Illinois and Masonic jurisdiction did in the City of San Antonio, Texas, on the 19th of March, 1908, did then and there under the instructions and authority of the Most Worshipful St. John's Grand Lodge of A. F. & A. Masons of the State of Illinois did in said city of San Antonio, Texas, on the 19th of March 1908, heal, re-obligate and Masonically legalize the 'above named brethren who had conferred on them the entered apprentice, fellowcraft and Master Masons degrees and did Masonically legalize the subordinate Lodges in the State of Texas and did assist and was present in the formation of the Most Worshipful King Solomon Grand Lodge of A. F. & A. Mason of the State of Texas and did install Bro. Chas. L. Mitchell Most Worshipful Grand Master, and the rest of the brethren as Grand Officers of the Most Worshipful King Solomon Grand Lodge of Texas according to the Masonic laws, rules and regulations of the craft.

And I now do proclaim to the whole Masonic world that the Most Worshipful King Solomon Grand Lodge of the State of Texas of A. F. & A. Masons has been regularly constituted according to the laws and land marks of Freemasonry.

The Most Worshipful St. John's Grand Lodge of A. F. & A. Masons of the State of Illinois and jurisdiction further declare that the Most Worshipful King Solomon Grand Lodge of A. F. & A. Masons of the State of Texas is the only regular and lawful Grand Lodge of Colored Masons in the State of Texas.

Yours Fraternaly,  
JOHN G. JONES, Grand Master.

**MOST WORSHIPFUL KING SOLOMON GRAND LODGE, ANCIENT, FREE  
AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF THE STATE OF TEXAS, AND JURISDICTION  
ORGANIZED ON THE 19th DAY OF MARCH  
1908 AT SAN ANTONIO.**

A Masonic Convention of several warranted Lodges of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Texas, assembled in Masonic Convention in tue city of San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas, on the 19th day of March 1908, and lawfully organized Most Worshipful King Solomoa Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Texas and Masonic jurisdiction, and the grand officers were elected and installed.

The Grand Officers were installed by Bro. John G. Jones, Grand Master of the Most Worshipful St. Johns Grand Lodge of A. F. and A. M. of the State of Illinois.

Addresses were made by several of the brethren and after the transaction of considerable business, charges were preferred against Bro. K. R. Rogers of Austin, Texas, and he was expelled for un-Masonic conduct, from rights and privileges of Free Masonry.

**KEYSTONE GRAND CHAPTER OF ROYAL ARCH MASONS FOR THE  
STATE OF TEXAS AND JURISDICTION, ORGANIZED MARCH  
20th, 1908, AT SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS.**

A Masonic convention of seven Chapters of Royal Arch Masons met in convention and organized a Keystone Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons for the State of Texas, and the Grand Officers were elected and installed.

The Grand officers were installed by Companion John G. Jones, 33rd degree of Chicago, 111., Most Excellent Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons for the State of Illinois.

Companion K. R. Rogers, 33rd degree of Austin, Texas, was expelled for un-Masonic conduct from all the rights and privileges of Royal Arch-Masonry.

**MOUNT CALVARY GRAND COMMANDRY, KNIGHT TEMPLARS FOR THE  
STATE OF TEXAS AND MASONIC JURISDICTION, ORGANIZED  
ON THE 20th DAY OF MARCH, 1908, AT SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS.**

A convention of Knight Templars, and representatives from seven (7) warranted Commandry's of Knight Templars in the State of Texas met in convention on March 20th, 1908, at San Antonio, and organized the Mount Calvary Grand Commandry of Knight Templars for the State of Texas.

The Grand Officers were elected and installed by Most Eminent Sir John G. Jones, 33rd degree Grand Master of the Grand Encampment of Knight Templars of the United States and Canada.

Sir K. R. Rogers, of Austin, Texas, was expelled for unbecoming Masonic conduct, from Knighthood throughout the world. All Sir Knights and all Commandry's of Knight Templars are hereby notified of the same.

**ORIENTAL GRAND TEMPLE MYSTIC SHRINE, ORGANIZED MARCH 20, 1908**

A convention of Mystic Shrine and representatives from several Temples met in convention on March 20, 1908, and organized the Oriental Grand Temple. Grand officers was elected and installed by Noble John G. Jones, 33rd degree Imperial Grand Potentate of the Imperial Grand Council of North and South America. **Noble K. R. Rogers**, 33rd degree was tried, found guilty and expelled for un-Masonic conduct from all the rights and privileges of the Mystic Shrine.

**ST. JOHN'S GRAND CONSISTORY, A. A. S. R. ORGANIZED MARCH 21, 1908.**

A convention of S. P. R. S., 32nd degree and representatives met in convention and organized St. John's Grand Consistory on March 21, 1908. Grand officers were duly installed by 111. John (I. Jones, 33rd M. P. Sov. Grand commander of the United Supreme Council, A. A. S. R., U. S. A.. 111. K. R. Rogers was expelled for gross un-Masonic conduct for life.

At the annual session of 1905, John A. Bell, 33, of Grand Rapids, Mich., Wm. Gray, 33. H. \V. Knight. 33, of Chicago, 111., Daniel Brown, 33, of Rosebud, Ala., and at a special session held at San Antonio, Texas, March 20th, 1908, K. R. Rogers, 33, of Austin, Texas, was expelled for un-Masonic conduct from all the rights and privileges of the A. A. S. Rite throughout the world.



Copy of original letter from John G. Jones, to K. R. Rogers.

Chicago, 111., March 25th, 1908.

Mr. K. R. Rogers, 33,

Austin, Texas.

You are hereby notified that at a special session of the United Supreme Council of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite Masons of the 33rd degree held at San Antonio, Texas, on the 20th of March, 1908, that charges for un-Masonic conduct were preferred against you, and after the charges had been thoroughly investigated you was found guilty of un-Masonic conduct, and was expelled for un-Masonic conduct from the United Supreme Council of the 33rd degree. And from all the rights and privileges of Scottish Rite Freemasonry throughout the world and the craft is hereby notified of the same.

No further correspondence with you will be necessary or required.

Yours Fraternally, JOHN G. JONES, 33,

Sov. Grand Commander.

Sworn to before me this 16th day of December, A. D., 1908.

(Seal). L. W. GREENLY,

Notary Public. Bexar County, Texas.