



**NEW YORK GRAND LODGE HISTORY**  
**The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of New York State**  
**Free and Accepted Ancient York Rite Masons**  
**Prince Hall Origin - National Compact U.S.A.**  
**Researched and prepared by III Charles Vaughn 33°**  
**Updated by R.W. Jerome L. Rice, 33° 5/04/2021**

A brief background on Black Masonry in the State of New York. In the year of 1812 Peter Lew, Worshipful Master of the African Lodge No. 459 in Boston, Maine, U.S.A., granted a warrant to nine master masons under the name of Boyer Lodge No. 1, Free and Accepted Ancient York Mason.

This Lodge was established on February 16, 1812, with Paul Drayton as Worshipful Master. By the year of 1826, Samuel H. Moody was Worshipful Master of the African Lodge No. 459. The membership of Boyer Lodge No. 1 of New York had grown to such a number that it was easy for him to issue warrants for Celestial Lodge No .2, Rising Sun Lodge No.3 and Hiram Lodge No. 4 of New York.

These Lodges continued a full and unbroken record of regular communication even after the break of African Lodge No. 459 with the United Grand Lodge of England in 1827.

At a meeting held in March 1845 of the Boyer Lodge No. I of New York, the following officers was elected: Paul Drayton, Worshipful Master, James Barret, Senior Warden; Alexander Elton, Junior Warden; Lewis Hayden, Secretary and C. G. Boyer, Sr. Tyler.

Under the leadership of John T. Hilton, invitations were sent to all Grand Lodges and Subordinates from African Grand Lodge of Boston to attend a Masonic Conference to be held in Boston, Ma. on June 24, 1845. The Boyer Lodge of New York, headed by Paul Drayton, received this invitation.

At the annual communication of Boyer Lodge No. 1 held on December 27, 1844, in Brooklyn, New York, three brothers were elected to represent the Colored Masons of New York, R. W. Brother Alexander Elton, R. W. Brother Lewis Hayden, and R. W. Brother William Clark. On their return, they reported the Organization of a National Grand Lodge of Colored Masons for North America and that each Grand Lodge must take a warrant under the same. This action caused many conflicts and splits among the Colored Masons of New York, but under the leadership of Paul Drayton, these lodges continued to work.

In 1855, a Grand Warrant was issued for the State of New York to Paul Drayton and others. Drayton served as Grand Master from 1855 until 1862 after which he was elected National Grand Master.

It was after the Secessionist Movement of the State Rights adherents in the 1870's that the Lodges began to disburse, and their warrants disappeared, which were not recovered by the National Grand Lodge.

During the period of time between 1945 and 1948, while Dr. W. L. Turner was National Grand Master, it was noticed that Brother J. L. Schumott retaining membership in North Star Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Ancient Yorkrite Masons of the state of Minnesota and residing in New York He was deputized by the National Grand Master to attempt to revise Yorkrite masonry in New York. By June 27, 1955, Brother Schumott had organized the following Lodges to be chartered and warranted, King Solomon Lodge No. 8, and Pride of New York Lodge No.3, New York City Lodge No.6 (June 7, 1948) and the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of New York, to be mowed by Leadership Lodge No. 1, King Solomon Lodge No. 7, Hiram Lodge No. 4, Mount Giblem Royal Arch Chapter No. 1. On June 27, 1955, Brother Schumott was elected Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Ancient Yorkrite Masons, Prince Hall Origin, National Compact. Also under his leadership with the help of others, by December 14, 1957, Brother Schumott had organized the following Female Departments to be chartered and warranted; Order of the Eastern

Stars, Daughters of Ruth No.6 on December 14, 1957, Queen Esther Chapter No. 8, Electa Chapter No. I and Adah Grand Chapter Order of Eastern Star.

At the Annual Communication held in December 1957, Brother Jessie Jones was elected Grand Master of New York. Under his leadership Mydian Temple No.1 (Ancient Arabic Order of the Mystic Shrine was chartered) on June 21, 1958. Followed by Fatima Court No.1 (daughters of Isis on July 2, 1960, and Mercury Lodge No. 1. on September 9, 1960.

At the Annual Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of New York State was held in Bronx, N.Y. December 1960, James Brown was elected Grand Master. As we can see Yorkrite Masonry continued to grow in New York by adding the following departments and accomplishments, organized and adopted Bright Star Chapter No. 4 Order of Eastern Star on September 19, 1961, and Tabitha Charter No. 2 Order of Eastern Star on September 29, 1961.

During 1961, the Grand Lodge Building Fund, the Grand Lodge Charity Department, the Mason Workshop and the Order of Eastern Star Workshop were organized. The following were organized and chartered, Judah Royal Arch Chapter No. 2 on June 17, 1962, Joppa Lodge No. 2 on December 6, 1962, Gleaner Court No. 2 Heroines of Jericho on February 25, 1965, and Pilgrim Commandery Knights Templar No. I in 1966 and St Helena Council No. 1. (Crusaders) in 1968.

The House of Jephtha Lodge No.5, which is now known as Jephtha Lodge No. 5 was adopted in 1969. In 1970, the building located at 474 West 141<sup>st</sup> Street New York, N.Y. was purchased for the use as a Masonic meeting place.

The followings were organized and adopted, the Children of Israel Juvenile Department in 1971, Naomi Chapter No. 5 Order of Eastern Star on January 14, 1972, the Editorial Department in 1972, King of Tyre Consistory No. I on March 31, 1973, Little League Baseball Club 1974, Youth Department in 1974, Malachi Royal Arch Chapter No. 3 in 1974, Joshua Grand Royal Arch in 1975, Alberta Chapter No. 75 Order of Eastern Star in 1975, Rachel Court NO. 3 Heroines of Jericho in 1975, Sheba Grand Court Heroine of Jericho 1976, Salley Lodge No. 75 on November 28, 1978 and the Inspector General Benevolence Association on August 11, 1979.

On July 28, 1979, R. W. Eugene Salley was installed as Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of New York State Free and Accepted Ancient Yorkrite Masons, Prince Hall Origin - National Compact U.S.A.

On June 26, 1982, White Lilly Chapter No. 35 was adopted. Also, during the year, the Burial Fund Department and the Pledge Fund Departments were set up.

In 1983, The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge was incorporated and received its real estate tax-exempt certificate. It also established the Emergency Relief Fund Department and the Charity Fund Department. The following departments were organized, Wisdom Court No. I of the Amaranth on March 10, 1984, Mount Moriah Lodge No. 37 on April 20, 1985, Mary Magdalene Council No. 2 of the crusaders on June 18, 1986, Pilgrim Commandery Knights Templar No. 2 in 1988, Martha Chapter No. 37 Order of Eastern Star on January 28, 1989. On February 9, 1991, the following departments were organized, King of Tyre Consistory No. 2, Mt. Nebo Consistory No. 3 and Job Grand Consistory

On February 9, 1991, the following Ancient. Arabic Order of Noble of the Mystic Shrine. (Shriners) departments were organized Mydian Temple No. 2 Ancient Arabic Order of Noble of the Mystic Shrine, Mydian Temple No. 3 Ancient. Arabic Order of Noble of the Mystic Shrine and Marah Grand Temple Ancient. Arabic Order of Noble of the Mystic Shrine. Also in 1991, Empire State Grand Commandery Knights Templar was organized

On March 2, 1991, the following departments were organized, Faith Court No. 2, Truth Court No. 3 and Charity Grand Court Royal and Exalted Degree of Amaranth, on the same date St. Helena Council No. 3 and Elizabeth Grand Council of Crusaders were organized. Fatima Court No. 2 and Nefertiti Grand Court Daughters of Isis were organized on March 16, 1991. During the 36<sup>th</sup> Grand Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of New York Free and Accepted Ancient York Rite Masons Prince Hall Origin - National Compact U. S. A., convened June 23, 1991, R. W. Richard Rembert was elected Grand Master.

On August 8, 1991, Sons of Solomon Lodge No. 8 was organized and the Matron Council of Adah Grand Chapter was organized September 28, 1991. Grand Master Richard Rembert served as Grand Master until the 42<sup>nd</sup> Grand Communication in June 1997. During the election, R. W. Lee E. Singleton was elected Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Ancient Yorkrite Masons, Prince Hall Origin, National Compact. Grand Master Singleton served as Grand Master until the 47th Grand Communication in June 2002. During the election, R. W. Roland White, Jr. was elected Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Ancient Yorkrite Masons, Prince Hall Origin, National Compact, until the 53<sup>rd</sup> Grand Communication in June 2008. During the election, R. W. H. Anthony Williams of Columbia, South Carolina was elected Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Ancient Yorkrite Masons, Prince Hall Origin, National Compact, until the 58th Grand Communication in June 2014. During the election, R.W. David Olin of South Carolina was elected Grand Master in June 2014 until the 61<sup>st</sup> Grand Communication in June 2017. During the election, R.W. James E. Jackson of Alabama was elected Grand Master in June 2017, R.W. James E. Jackson is currently serving to date.

On December 8, 2018, with the assistance of then National Grand Master Hon. Lee E. Singleton, Past Grand Master H. Anthony Williams, Deputy Grand Master Johnny L. Matthews Jr., Grand Senior Warden Charles E. Green Jr and Grand Junior Warden Jerome L. Rice, Grand Master James E. Jackson healed Cornerstone Lodge #9 into the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge jurisdiction at a location in Queen, New York at which 12 members from Cornerstone were present for the ceremony.

On June 26, 2021, during the 65<sup>th</sup> Grand Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge State of New York, Free and Accepted Ancient York rite Masons, Prince Hall Origin, National Compact, the R.W. Charles E. Green, Jr., 33<sup>o</sup> of the Bronx, New York was elected the 11<sup>th</sup> Grand Master for the State of New York.

**MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE STATE OF NEW YORK  
GRAND MASTERS**

Hon. John L. Schumott 1955-1957

Hon. Jessie Jones 1957-1960

Hon. James Brown 1960-1980

Hon. Eugene Salley 1980-1991

Hon. Richard Rembert 1991-1997

Hon. Charles E. Green, Jr. 2021-Present

Hon. Lee E. Singleton 1997-2002

Hon. Roland White Jr. 2002-2008

Hon. H. Anthony Williams 2008-2014

Hon. David Olin 2014-2017

Hon. James E. Jackson 2017-2021

**GRAND DEPARTMENT HEADS:**

**JOSHUA GRAND ROYAL ARCH  
GRAND HIGH PRIESTS**

Companion Menzo Tucker

Companion Joseph Hargett

Companion Thomas Chislom

Companion William Gordon

Companion Rudolph Wright

Companion David Olin

Companion Rudolph Wright

Companion Jacob A. Jenkins

Companion John Allen (Present)

**EMPIRE STATE GRAND COMMANDARY  
KNIGHTS TEMPLAR  
GRAND EMINENT COMMANDERS**

Sir Knight Eddie R. Salley

Sir Knight James W. Campbell

Sir Knight Bernard Jenkins

Sir Knight Teddy Dozier (Present)

**JOB GRAND CONSISTORY  
GRAND COMMANDERS IN CHIEF**

Sublime Prince Charles Vaughn

Sublime Prince James P. Hall

Sublime Prince Jacob Jenkins

Sublime Prince William Perry

Sublime Prince John A. St. Hill

Sublime Prince Charles E. Green Jr. (Present)

**MARAH GRAND TEMPLE  
A. A. O. N. M. S.  
GRAND POTENTATES**

Noble Hezekiah House  
Noble Johnny L. Matthews Jr.  
Noble Lee E. Singleton  
Noble Johnny L. Matthews Jr. (Present)

**INSPECTOR GENERALS - 33°  
M.P.S.G.C. - PRESIDENTS**

Inspector General Charles Vaughn  
Inspector General Richard Rembert  
Inspector General Lee E. Singleton  
Inspector General Roland White, Jr.