



Champion of American Liberty Advocate of Negro Freedom Founder of Black Masonry

**Doctor Charles Harris Wesley, Ph.D.**

*Throughout history, the powers of single black men flash here and there like falling stars, die sometimes before the world has richly gauged their brightness W.E.B. DuBois*

**By Doctor Charles Harris Wesley, Ph.D. Renowned Scholar, Lecturer, Educator, Author, and Historian**

**Prince Hall, our Founder, was one of our great Americans;** a Worthy Grand Master associated with our first Grand Lodge and its expansion. His name is carried and borne by our Masonic organizations in the United States, and thousands of Masons, who regard themselves as descendants from the Grand Lodge of England from which received his authority more than two centuries ago. We in America celebrated in 1976 the two hundredth anniversary of our Declaration of Independence. This is also the two hundred and, first (201st) anniversary of the founding of Prince Hall Masonry. It is a monument to Prince Hall's life, career and leadership.

Many rumors of the birth of Prince Hall have arisen. Few records and papers have been found of him either in Barbados where it was rumored that he was born, but no record of birth, by church or state, has been found there, and none in Boston. All 11 of the counties were searched and churches with baptismal records were examined without a find of the name of Prince Hall. The first record that we have of Prince Hall is a manumission paper filed by William Hall of Boston, and found in the Boston Athenaeum. This document tells us.

"Prince Hall has lived with us 21 years and served us well upon all occasions, for which reasons we maturely give him his freedom and that he is no longer to be reckoned a slave but has been always accounted as a freeman by us, as he has served us faithfully. Upon that account, we have given him his freedom. As witness our hands this ninth day of April 1770.

Witnesses:

Susannah Hall Elizabeth Hall

William Hall Margaret Hall





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