



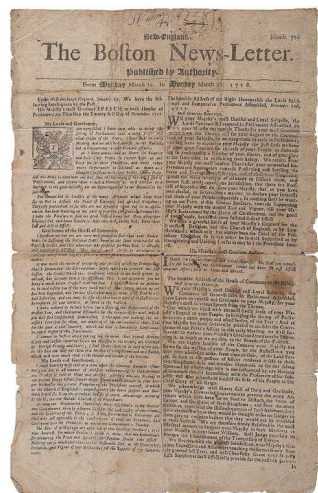


While there are many theories, no one really knows where Freemasonry originated from.

Some might even say the origins of Freemasonry are beyond historical records.

The earliest known mention/appearance of Freemasonry in America is from a rock dated September 6th, 1606, with some markings that closely resemble the Masonic Square & Compasses.

This stone was found in Nova Scotia in 1827.



The printing of the word "freemason" first appeared in the Boston News-Letter on January 5th, 1718.



In 1723, the first anti-masonic group (called "The Gormogons" )was formed by expelled Freemason Philip Wharton. To join this group (also believed to be descended from ancient Chinese Society ) you first had to leave Freemasonry and renounce it publicly.



Speaking of anti-Masonry, Queen Elizabeth is said to have once sent military force with the intent of breaking up the Grand Lodge.

On March 6th, 1775, WM Master of Lodge No 411 Sergeant J.B Batt conferred - for the first time - the 3 Masonic Degrees to fifteen African American men.

This was the first time black men were admitted into Freemasonry (at least in the United States )





The infamous Prince Hall was one of the fifteen African American members who received their degree on the 6th of March 1775.

On January 27th, 1800, George Washington's urn was presented to the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts by his widow.

This is now called "The Golden Urn".



On August 23rd, 1879, Lodge No. 239 in France held a meeting in a giant balloon over Paris where they initiated a candidate.



April 23rd is a day celebrated in English Freemasonry commemorating the Articles of Union between the Ancients & The Moderns.



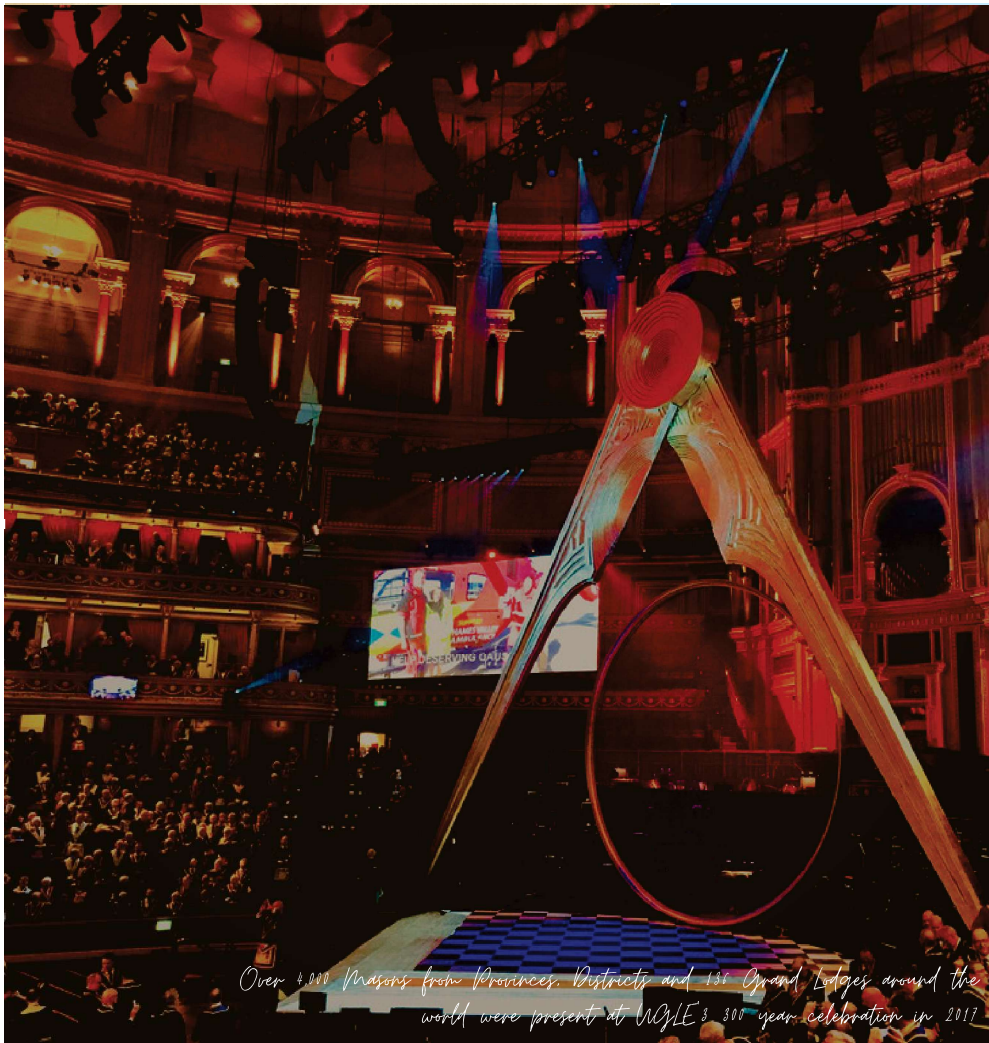
On November 1st, 1923, Charles H. Callahan used the same trowel used by George Washington to lay the cornerstone of the National Capital to lay the cornerstone at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial in Alexandria, Virginia.

On May 23rd, 1928, in Madison Lodge No. 93, Alfred, Fredrich, and Harold Budd became “the first triplets to join Freemasonry together”.





In 1943, Hollywood made a "Masonic Motion Picture" called "Your Son is My Brother".



*Over 4,000 Masons from Provinces, Districts and 135 Grand Lodges around the world were present at WGLE's 300 year celebration in 2017*