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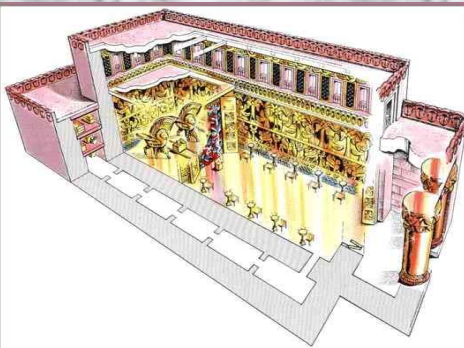
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NORTHWEST CHAPTER RECIPIENT OF THE HEBERT DAILEY CHAPTER OF THE YEAR AWARD

James "Rocky" Dallas, President

And the induction of a member of Northwest Chapter
Bob Jensen (deceased) into Harry A. Williamson Hall of Fame

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THE BALTIMORE CONVENTION OF 1843

by Bob J. Jensen

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The Baltimore Convention of 1843 had long lasting and important effects on masonry in the United States. It originally included standardizing the ritual among all grand lodges, a general grand lodge, and a plan for the various grand lodges to solve mutual problems through future conventions. The results of the convention did not meet the expectations of many of the organizers. In order to understand the need for such ideas and programs, it is necessary to go back and look at what had transpired in masonry in the United States since the 1780's. In 1778 some members of Pennsylvania's lodges suggested that George Washington should become Grand Master of all the American States. In 1779 the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania passed a resolution to that effect. The Massachusetts Grand Master agreed, but was concerned about the prerogatives of present grand lodge officers. As a result this idea died out. Over the next fifty years it was revived many times, always with less interest and no success. The ritual of masonry was always one of the most important parts of the system and often brought to the surface strong feelings among its members. The original rituals of Anderson, Dunckerly, Preston, and others were changed slightly as they evolved. In 1797 Thomas Smith Webb wrote his *Freemasons Monitor*. This and other adaptations spread across the United States in the early 1800's. There were still many variations used in different areas. Massachusetts and New Hampshire went so far as to adopt a resolution in 1802 that said "In the three degrees, each Master should be indulged with the liberty of adopting historical details, and the personification of the passing scene, as most agreeable to himself, his supporting officers and assisting lodge." Other similar references can be found indicating that the ritual and grand lodge regulations and rules were many and varied. There were little variations that made for disputes among masons in visiting different lodges than their own. Many grand lodges adopted various forms using traveling lecturers, or as they were sometimes called, "degree peddlers." Many of these men made their living visiting lodges. For a fee, they would teach the lodge members whatever system of ritual they themselves believed was correct, or often some version of the Webb work. With no written ritual, the variations were many. The arguments must have been frequent, and as men moved westward they took their favorite ritual, sometimes with their own modifications, thus further confusing the situation. March 9, 1822, a group of freemasons, who were members of Congress, instigated a move for unification. They called for a general grand lodge and for a conference to be held in Washington, D.C. in February of 1823. Strong opposition by Pennsylvania, New York and Kentucky stopped this plan before it was put into action.

The Morgan Affair of 1826 saw the rise of the Anti-Masonic Party, degree exposes, and a general decline of masonry in most of the New England states. The first national convention of the Anti-Masonic Party met in 1830 with delegates from nine states present. In 1832 they nominated William Wirt for President. Wirt had received at least his Fellowcraft Degree and had spoken favorably about masonry. Henry Clay - a Past Grand Master of Kentucky - and Andrew Jackson - a Past Grand Master of Tennessee - were also candidates. Jackson won the election. In 1836 the Anti-Masonic party nominated William Henry Harrison. With Jackson's help, Martin Van Buren defeated him and the Anti-Masonic Party ceased to exist.

In Kentucky during this period, the sixty-six lodges of the state dropped to thirty-seven, and membership was reduced by half. Similar situations existed in many grand lodges. Pennsylvania noted that anti-masons offered rituals, passwords, and other esoteric material for all degrees. This made it very difficult to tell who was actually a mason. Many lodges turned away visitors because they could not prove themselves according to the work used by that particular lodge. Many lodges lost many members to resignation and death during the Morgan Affair. When they resumed labor in the late 1830's and early 1840's, only a few members remembered the work. The younger generation received very poor instruction, and visitations between lodges and grand lodges were very difficult.

The State of New York, for example, used what was then known as the "Old Work." In some cases this

was also called "Accepted Work." Prior to the year 1825 New York refused to recognize the system that was 'known then as the "Thomas Webb, Snow, Gleason, and Company" ritual. Jeremy Cross introduced this system in 1825, and it found favor with many lodges in New York after that time. Under a warrant from the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, the first three degrees, including **the Royal Arch**, were conferred in a blue-lodge. There was very little Masonic communication between these two states. Visiting French and German brethren who most often used what was known as "Ancient Work" could not prove themselves in an American lodge. Prior to this time a large number of changes had been introduced into the system. New symbols were introduced and old ones displaced. New stories were invented. There were quotations from Shakespeare plus many other innovations. Many thinking masons felt they should have not been accepted by the leaders of the order. With no written ritual accepted by all, the variety of wordings must have been endless and equally confusing to anyone who ventured outside his own little area.

Meeting in 1839, the Grand Lodge of Alabama voted to request all Grand Lodges to send a delegate to the City of Washington for a meeting on the first Monday in March 1842. This meeting would be held "for the purpose of determining upon a uniform mode of work throughout all the Lodges of the United States and to make other lawful regulations for the interest and security of the Craft." This convention was held on March 7, 1842 in the Central Masonic Hall in Washington. Ten grand lodges were represented. These were Alabama, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, South Carolina, and Virginia. Michigan was not seated, as *it* was determined that the delegate was not chosen under constitutional principles. Those present generally agreed that it was desirable to stop all irregularities in the ritual and to remove all materials foreign to the' ritual. But first they needed to come to an agreement as to what the standard work should be. They knew of Webb, Gleason, Snow and others who had manufactured a system that was called "ancient work" However, many in attendance did not believe this to be the best system. After due consideration, it was decided, not enough grand lodges were represented, and there was not enough time to formulate a uniform ritual acceptable to everyone. They voted to ask each grand lodge to appoint a well-versed mason and style him as grand lecturer. This grand lecturer would report to a convention to be held the following year. The convention then resolved that should a majority of the grand lodges adopt the appointment of grand lecturers; their first meeting should be held in the city of Baltimore on May 8, 1843. They also recommended each grand lodge give a certificate of good standing to each member and all business would be transacted on the third degree. It was felt that Entered Apprentices and Fellowcrafts were not members of the Lodge and not entitled to the franchises of members.

The 1843 convention was held from May 8 until May 17, 1843. Of the twenty-three grand lodges in the United States, sixteen were represented. These were:

Alabama-- Edward Herndon, POM;

District of Columbia- Nathaniel Seevers, Grand Lecturer

Florida-- .Thomas Hayward, PDGM

Georgia-- Lemuel Dwelle, GL

Louisiana-- E. Cruben (a visitor)

Maryland- Daniel Piper, GL; W.E. Wyantt; Chaplain of Convention; Charles Gilman (visitor); Cornelius Smith S.G.W. (visitor); and Joseph Stapleton D.G.M of the Grand Encampment (visitor).

Massachusetts- Charles W. Moore, G. Secretary

Missouri- Stephen W.B. Carnegie, PGM; Joseph Foster, SGW; Fred K. Billon, PGS (visitor); and Hiram Chamberlain, GC (visitor)

Mississippi- John Delafield

New Hampshire- Thomas Clapham

North Carolina- John H. Wheeler, GM

New York- Ebenezer Wadsworth, PGS
 Ohio- John Barney, GL and W.J. Reese, GM (visitor)
 Rhode Island- William Field
 South Carolina--Albert Case, GC
 South Wales- Edward John Hutchins PPD (a visitor)
 Virginia-- John Dove, GS.

On the opening day John Dove was elected president and Rev. Albert Case of South Carolina was made secretary. On the second day, an agenda was adopted declaring the following objects:

To produce uniformity of Masonic work

To recommend such measures as shall tend to the elevation of this Order to its due degree of respect throughout the world at large

No mention was made of the often-quoted charge that the convention planned to organize a general grand lodge. During the preceding year; several grand lodges made changes-discussed it the 1842 meeting. Maryland ordered the Grand Secretary to procure certificates of good standing for Master Masons. Lodges in Virginia started conducting their business in the Mason Degree, and many appointed the recommended Grand Lecturers. To accomplish the above stated proposals, our committees were appointed:

On the work and lectures in conferring the degrees.

On the funeral service.

3. On the ceremonies and consecration and installation.

4. On Masonic jurisprudence

The various committees met and reported their ideas. The committee on work and lectures gave a report and exemplified each degree, which was adopted by the delegates. The committee on consecrations and installations reported the work of Thomas Smith Webb, republished in 1812, possessed least faults and had a high claim to antiquity. They recommended six minor changes, three of them in the installation ceremony. The only change of consequence was in the due guards of the second and third degrees. They were changed and made to conform to that of the first degree in position and explanation.

According to the old system in England, the immovable jewels of the Lodge are the Rough Ashlar, the Perfect Ashlar, and the Trestle Board. The convention of 1843 changed these to the Square, Level, and Plumb. They also adopted a resolution to prepare and publish a textbook. It would be called "The Masonic Trestle board," embracing three distinct, full and complete "Masonic Carpets" illustrative of the three degrees of ancient Craft Masonry. It would also explain the ceremonies of consecrations, dedications and installation; laying of cornerstones of public edifices; the funeral service; and the order of processions. The committee on jurisprudence said the reason this convention had been called was to remove various evils from the system. Also because of the actions of individual grand lodges and a lack of unity between them, the purity and unity of the work, prevalent in Europe, was therefore missing.

To correct these evils, the committee considered two plans: A general grand lodge of the United States, or a triennial convention of representatives of the several grand lodges of the United States. They recommended the second course of action as best to attain the ends proposed. Contrary to popular belief, the 1843 Convention did NOT recommend the establishment of a general grand lodge. It did recommend that the several grand lodges enter into and form a national masonic convention. It also recommended that for the good of masonry there should be a publication devoted to masonry. It suggested that the *FREEMASON'S MONTHLY*, edited and published by Charles W. Moore of Boston, Massachusetts, was eminently useful and well deserving of generous patronage, support, and study by the whole fraternity.

The next convention was called for 1846, at the city of Winchester, Virginia, but there were only eight delegates present. The next convention held in Baltimore was called for September 23, 1847. This time only

seven jurisdictions were represented. The Secretary was instructed to send copies of a constitution to all jurisdictions. They were instructed that if before January 1, 1849 sixteen were in approval of the constitution as written, they would hold the next convention on the second Tuesday of July, 1849. Not enough passed to hold the meeting. The idea of a general grand lodge arose again to unify masonry and to solve many small problems as they arose. Further efforts to meet were planned for 1855 and 1859, but these failed. The impending Civil War made this a dead issue. It was not until Rob Morris and the Conservator movement of the 1860's that we again see attempts to really standardize the ritual in the United States.

While there never has been a successful plan or program to standardize the ritual in all the states, at several times various states have tried to work together on masonic projects. In 1909 Most Worshipful Joseph W. Eggleston extended an invitation to the several grand masters of the United States to assemble at Alexandria, Virginia on February 22, 1910. The purpose of this meeting was to organize a national Masonic Memorial Association With the object of erecting a memorial to George Washington. Twenty-six grand jurisdictions met and adopted a plan to create what eventually became the magnificent memorial we now have to the Father of our country. World War I saw a need for masons to help servicemen. The United States Government would not let each grand lodge get involved. Eventually the Masonic Service Association of the United States was organized. These were not supreme or general grand lodges, and the grand lodges that joined in these activities did so with the express idea that no such suggestion would be proposed.

What did the 1843 Baltimore Convention accomplish? A generally uniform ritual was, at least suggested, although many grand lodges made changes in what was suggested. Those new grand lodges formed after this time often used various parts of different rituals their members were familiar with, having come from many different areas, both in the United States and Europe. A dues card or certificate of membership was generally used after that time. The due guards of the 2nd and 3rd degrees were made to conform to that of the first degree and the immovable jewels were changed. Recently several grand lodges returned to working their business meetings in the first degree. This allows Entered Apprentices and Fellowcrafts the privilege of voting and being full members. Usually exemptions prevent them from being officers. This idea was again brought up in Grand Lodge of Washington and approved in 1996. Small changes still are made in the ritual at various times. In recent years no call has come for a general grand lodge. Although some benefits might come from such an organization, all grand lodges jealously guard their own prerogatives and would not willingly give up their sovereignty to such an organization.

The Baltimore Convention of 1843 was important as it gave some unification to the various grand lodges of the period. It gave them a place to iron out differences. It gave them a generally unified ritual although Pennsylvania was an exception and did not accept it. Other grand lodges made changes, as they thought best. It gave probably the best minds in masonry a chance to get together and discuss their various problems. Even though they could not solve all of them, they succeeded in a more unified masonry in the United States than had been seen since before the Morgan Affair of 1826.

A Historical Account of the Most Excellent Grand Chapter H.R.A.M. of Pennsylvania, P.H.A.

The Most Excellent Grand Chapter, Holy Royal Arch Masons of Pennsylvania, Prince Hall Affiliated, was organized as a Grand Chapter on May 19, 1820 and is the Mother Grand Chapter of Prince Hall Holy Royal Arch Masons. Royal Arch Masonry, according to William H. Grimshaw, was introduced among Black Freemasons in the following manner. In 1774, Passey Benjamine, Rev. Peter Mantore, Caesar Worthington and Caesar Thomas from Martinique, French West Indies; James Forten, Thomas Depee, Robert Bogle, Jonathan Harding, Mark Stevenson, Nathan Gray, William Jeffers, Robert Barclay, Peter Richmond and Richard Nurse, natives of Haiti and other seafaring men received all the degrees of Freemasonry in England. These brothers settled in Philadelphia, PA and on March 18, 1776 obtained a dispensation from Provincial Grand Master George Harrison to organize a lodge of Royal Arch Masons. However, Grimshaw's account may be inaccurate.

The First Independent African Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter of North America was organized in Philadelphia, PA on May 19, 1820 with the following chapters: St. Andrews #1, Zion #2 and Jerusalem #3. Joseph W. Smith was elected Most Excellent Grand High Priest and served until 1846. Also, Joseph W. Smith was appointed District Deputy of New York in 1848. The origins of St. Andrews Chapter #1, Zion Chapter #2 and Jerusalem Chapter #3 are unknown; however the Grand Chapter was under the auspices of the First Independent African Grand Lodge of North America for PA.

Zion Chapter #2 listed the following officers in the year 1820: Priam Warren, High Priest; Richard Cummings, King; and Prim Clover, Scribe. During this time, there was dissension as Union Lodge #4 was expelled from the First Independent African Grand Lodge of North America for PA in 1819. Union Chapter was established in Philadelphia, PA on October 12, 1820 with Caesar Thomas as High Priest. Subsequently, another chapter named Jerusalem was organized on July 8, 1826 with Joseph B. Smith as High Priest as well as St. John Chapter that was established in 1843. On June 14, 1844, Rising Sun Grand Chapter of PA was organized in Philadelphia, PA with the following chapters: Union #1, Jerusalem #2 and St. John #3. Moses Davis was elected Most Excellent Grand High Priest. This Grand Chapter was affiliated with Hiram Grand Lodge of PA.

Dissension soon followed as Friendship Chapter was organized in Philadelphia, PA under a dispensation from an authority of England on July 12, 1844. During the month of October 1844 in Philadelphia, a convention of delegates from Union (1820), Jerusalem (1826) and Friendship (1844) chapters was called for the purpose of forming another Grand Chapter. The culmination of this gathering was the First African Independent Grand Chapter with Jacob Jenkins elected as Most Excellent Grand High Priest. However, this Grand Chapter was short lived. Friendship Chapter was expelled on December 2, 1844 and those members subsequently joined Zion Chapter #2 of the First Independent African Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter of North America in 1845. Jacob Jenkins and 14 other companions petitioned Rising Sun Grand Chapter of PA for a dispensation to form King Hiram Chapter and this petition was granted on December 28, 1844.

Rising Sun Grand Chapter of PA was headquartered at Union Hall, South 7th Street, Philadelphia, PA. In 1845, Rising Sun Grand Chapter suspended and subsequently revoked Jerusalem Chapter #2's charter. King Hiram Chapter #2, Philadelphia, Pa was chartered on June 12, 1845. King Solomon Chapter, also of Philadelphia, was organized under dispensation on July 14, 1845 and was chartered on October 7, 1845. In an effort to reorganize, Rising Sun Grand Chapter of PA re-chartered Union #1, King Hiram #2, St. John #3 and King Solomon #4 on October 14, 1845. This Grand Chapter subsequently formed chapters in cities of Pennsylvania, New York, Delaware, New Jersey and possibly other states. Rising Sun Grand Chapter later moved to the Masonic Temple, 10th & Hunter Streets, Philadelphia PA in 1874. Also in 1874, Rising Sun Grand Chapter expelled 15 members of Union #1 for rebellious actions. Those expelled members of Union started another chapter, naming themselves Union #1. Other chapters joined in the revolt against Rising Sun Grand Chapter. On August 3, 1875, King Solomon #4 merged with the remnants of Union #1 to

form King Solomon #1. On December 16, 1875, those expelled members of Union #1 were reinstated by Rising Sun Grand Chapter as Union #4 as well as the other chapters that joined in the revolt. Rising Sun Grand Chapter of PA later moved to the Masonic Temple, 1227 Locust Street, Philadelphia, PA in 1879.

On November 4, 1847, the First Independent African Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter of North America was reorganized as affiliated with the National Grand Lodge with the following chapters: St. Andrews #1, Zion #2, Jerusalem #3, all chartered on May 19, 1820; Richmond #4, Baltimore, Maryland (1847) and Friendship #5, that was chartered on November 4, 1847 with demitted members from Zion Chapter #2. Their headquarters was at the Masonic Temple, 409 South 11th Street, Philadelphia, PA. This Grand Chapter subsequently formed chapters in cities of New York, Massachusetts, Maryland, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Delaware, California, Virginia, Missouri, Tennessee, Rhode Island, Illinois, Michigan, Florida, South Carolina, Kansas and Washington, D.C. Also, this Grand Chapter had a chapter under dispensation in Liberia, Africa in 1878. All Prince Hall Grand Chapters of Holy Royal Arch Masons are direct descendents from the First Independent African Grand Chapter of North America. From this parent body, Royal Arch Masonry spread rapidly throughout America among Black Freemasons.

There were conflicts between Rising Sun Grand Chapter of PA and First Independent African Grand Chapter of North America as a result of the formation of the National Grand Lodge on June 24, 1847. First Independent African Grand Chapter adhered to the National Grand Lodge and Rising Sun Grand Chapter adhered to the Independent or States Rights Grand Lodges. As Hiram Grand Lodge of PA merged with First Independent African Grand Lodge of North America for PA on January 19, 1848, albeit temporary, Rising Sun Grand Chapter apparently refused to merge with First Independent African Grand Chapter. On November 30, 1881, Rising Sun Grand Chapter of PA merged with First Independent African Grand Chapter of North America to form the United Grand Chapter of Holy Royal Arch Masons of PA. Dr. John Hall was elected Most Excellent Grand High Priest. The chapters representing Rising Sun Grand Chapter were the following: King Solomon #1; King Hiram #2; Union #4; Jerusalem #6, Glen Lock, PA; Prudence #5; Beth-Eden #15; Pilgrim #16, West Chester, PA; and Rising Sun #17, Chester, PA. The chapters representing First Independent Grand Chapter were the following: Friendship #5; St. Stephens #7, Boston, Mass.; Prudence #20; St. James #24, Wilmington, DE; Union #42; Eastern Light #44; Zerrubbabel #45; Melchizedek #48; St. John #51, Cleveland, OH; and Chapters #54 & 55, both of Wilmington, DE. Sheba #19, Pittsburgh, PA was not present at the time. The chapter names and numbers were arranged, for the most part, according to their chartered dates in their respective Grand Chapters. In 1882, Prudence #5, Prudence #20 and Beth-Eden #15 tried to merge but were unsuccessful. On February 20, 1882, Prudence #20 changed its name to William Cooper #6. In 1882, the chapters comprising the United Grand Chapter of PA, effective date November 30, 1881 were the following: King Solomon #1; King Hiram #2; Union #3; Friendship #4; Prudence #5; William Cooper #6; William J. Alston #7 (Union #42); Eastern Light #8; Zerrubbabel #9; Melchizedek #10; Pilgrim #11; Rising Sun #12; Sheba #13; St Stephens #14, Boston, Massachusetts; and Beth-Eden #15. Royal Arch Masonry spread rapidly throughout Pennsylvania among Prince Hall Freemasons.

In 1927, the name of the Grand Chapter was changed to The Most Excellent Grand Chapter, Holy Royal Arch Masons of PA, Prince Hall Affiliated. On August 1, 1927, with the assistance and guidance of The Most Excellent Grand Chapter, Rahab Grand Court, Heroines of Jericho of PA and the Most Venerable Grand Court, Heroines of Jericho of PA merged to form The Most Ancient Grand Court, Heroines of Jericho of PA, P.H.A. as Mattie B. Smith was elected Most Ancient Grand Matron and A.P.T. Stevenson elected as Worthy Grand Joshua. The Most Excellent Grand Chapter was headquartered at 1227 Locust Street and 409 South 11th Street, Philadelphia, PA until the early 1950's when it moved to the Masonic Temple at 1632 W. Diamond Street. It's presently headquartered at the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of PA Masonic Complex at 4301 N. Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA. The Most Excellent Grand Chapter is a supporting member of the General Conference of Grand Chapters Holy Royal Arch

Masons, U.S.A. & Bahamas, P.H.A., Incorporated, whereas Past Most Excellent Grand High Priest L. Harold Gray of PA was elected first General Grand High Priest of the General Conference (1958-1961). Past Most Excellent Grand High Priests Pearlie N. Ringgold and William H. Evans of PA also served as General Grand High Priest of the General Conference (1982-1984 and 1991-1993 respectively).

As we are in the 21st Century, we can easily picture strides of rapid progress. We, the Holy Royal Arch Masons of this day, must contribute to that progress. We look to the future while commemorating the past, drawing lessons from the past for the future.

Walter J. Sims, Jr. No. 2

Excellent Grand Historian