

My first visit to the Phylaxis Society's Annual Convention

My trip to the convention started off with some challenges, later some enlightening moments but most important of all, I thank The Most High for granting me travelling mercy as I returned home safely.

The first challenge occurred when my trip was delayed, then cancelled and later switched to another airline. When I arrived in Arkansas I did not have the pleasure of having my luggage arrive with me. The airline left my baggage in Charlotte due to all the confusion concerning my original flight. When I did receive my luggage a day later, I'm glad to report my trip began to turn around for the better.

When I arrived in Pine Bluff we were escorted to the Grand East which the MWPHGL of Arkansas has recently purchased. The building was extremely large and spacious; we were excited to also be treated to a tour of the facility.



MWPHGL of AR Grand East



O.E.S. Grand Chapter Room



MWPHGL of AR



Banquet Hall



Banquet Hall



MWPHGL of AR Grand East



Phyllis Chapter Luncheon

Phyllis visit continued.....

We were amazed at the huge banquet halls, Grand East and Grand Chapter rooms. The entire facility is a blessing to the AR PHA Family and it was good to see Freemasonry on the move in Pine Bluff.



Phyllis Chapter Luncheon



Phyllis Chapter Luncheon

I attended the Phyllis Chapter's luncheon on Friday afternoon. We were graciously served by volunteers from the WMPHGL of AR.



Judge Alice Sprinkle



Phyllis Chapter Luncheon

The speaker for the luncheon was the Honorable Judge Alice Sprinkle Gray (12th Division Pulaski County Court). She has been a Circuit Judge in Pulaski and Perry Counties, AR for 17 years. The focus of her speech was on our youth and it hit home with all in attendance.



Phyllis Chapter Luncheon



MWGM Alex L. Smith (NM) & MWGM Wilbert M. Curtis (TX)

I also finally had the opportunity to meet Bro. Alton Roundtree for the first time in person. He was soft spoken but very knowledgeable, I'm looking forward to his new book, "The National Grand Lodge and Prince Hall Freemasonry: The Untold Truth." I'm sure it will cause some great debates as did his first book.



PM Alton Roundtree & PM Damajo Smith



Phyllis Chapter Luncheon



Phyllis Chapter Luncheon



Hon. Alton Roundtree presenting his work shop which generated several questions and many were from me.

Phylaxis visit continued.....

After lunch I attended my first work-shops of the convention. Here is where I learned about the seriousness and research the members are actively involved in. All of the presentations were top notch, professional and thoroughly researched as well as presented. The amount of light dispersed throughout the work-shops was beyond belief.

The information received went well beyond the ritual but in some cases the ritual itself was expounded upon. Any Prince Hall Freemason looking for serious research and information on Freemasonry should be in the process of looking into joining the Phylaxis Society!

Some of the work-shops presented were; "Masonic Jurisprudence" by Hon. John B. Williams, "PH Freemasonry and the National Grand Lodge" by Hon. Alton Roundtree, "Lux e Tenebris: The Encyclical Centesimus Annus & Freemasonry" by Hon. Tommy Rigmaiden, "A Black History Moment: A Philip Randolph and the Sleeping Car Porters" by Hon. Ras Cannady, "The Masonic and French Connection of the American Mystery Tradition" by Hon. Robert Uzzel, "Reciprocal Effects of Illinois Masonic Abolitionists on Society" by Hon. Daryl Andrews and many others.

One of the most interesting and possibly most controversial work-shops of the session was presented by Hon. Alton Roundtree. Comments such as, "Boyer Grand Lodge of NY never existed" and "The PH GL of Maryland didn't exist in 1845" caused many eyebrows to rise, including mine. It was a very interesting work-shop which left us with many questions and a desire for more research.

Joseph A. Walkes, Jr.
1933-2006

**Founder, First President and
 President Emeritus
 of the Phylaxis Society**



Joseph A. Walkes, Jr., was born in New York City on November 12, 1933 to Unitha Lawrence Walkes and Joseph A. Walkes, Sr., from St. Lucia, West Indies and Christianbol, Panama Canal Zone, respectively. His Grandfather, Cyril C. Walkes, was born in Barbados, West Indies, the paternal Walkes' home land.

He attended schools in New York City and later graduated from Park College, Parkville, Missouri with a BA degree in Criminal Justice Administration. He served in the United States Army from 1951 to 1973, and retired at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. He became an Administrative Assistant at the U. S. Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas, retiring in December 1993.

Bro. Walkes was made a Master Mason on October 15, 1965 in Cecil A. Ellis Sr., Lodge No. 110, Karlsruhe, Germany, on the rolls of the MW Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Maryland. He served as Master of the Lodge from 1966-1967, and later held membership in King Solomon Lodge No. 15, Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. He was an honorary member of Panama Canal Zone No. 175 and Amos Johnson Lodge No. 148, Kansas City, both Lodges on the rolls of the MW Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Missouri, an honorary member of Mount Olive Lodge No. 3, Leavenworth on the rolls of the MW Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Kansas, and an honorary member of the MW Prince Hall Grand Lodge of North Carolina.

In 1973, he founded the Phylaxis Society, an international Masonic Research Society for Prince Hall Freemasons, of which he served as President for thirty years. He was made a Fellow of the Society on March 6, 1976, received its Certificate of Literature on March 6, 1979, and received the John G. Lewis, Jr. Medal of Excellence in 1980. In 1996 he founded the Scottish Rite Research Institute (PHA).

In 1984 he was made an honorary member of the Iowa Research Lodge No. 2, Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Iowa A.F. & A.M (Caucasian) and in 1994 he was made an Honorary Fellow for Life of the Philalethes Society (Caucasian). He was also a member of the Scottish Rite Institute (Caucasian).

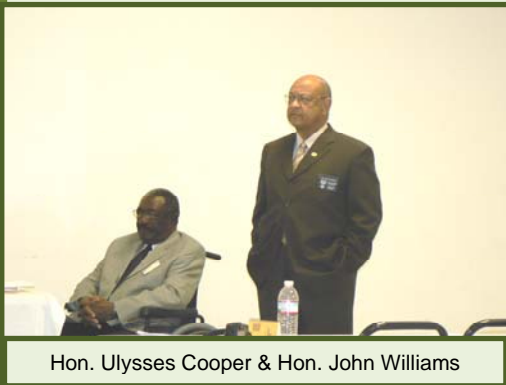
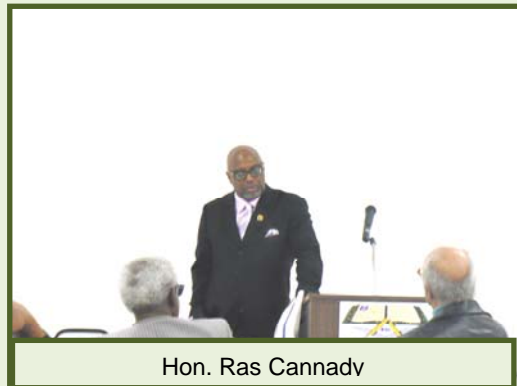
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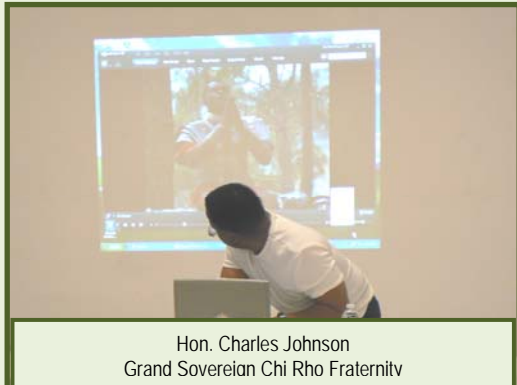
MWGM Cleveland Wilson & Hon. Ras Cannady



Hon. Ras Cannady



Hon. Ulysses Cooper & Hon. John Williams



Hon. Charles Johnson
 Grand Sovereign Chi Rho Fraterniv



Harry A. Williamson Masonic Hall of Fame Induction for
 Hon. Robert Uzzel & Hon. Robert Cannady (Posthumous)



Hon. John Williams & Hon. Robert Uzzel



Phylaxis visit continued.....

I was also initiated into the Chi Rho Fraternity during the session.

Chi Rho Fraternity, Inc. PHA

Charles E. Johnson, Jr. ~ Grand Sovereign

We are indebted to our Beloved Prince Hall for revealing information about our forefathers, who belonged to the Order of St. John, from whence came the Chi Rho Fraternity. Found in Prince Hall's charge (1792) is a most interesting account of our Order. In that charge, Prince Hall suggested that the members of African Lodge, were descendants of African masons who were members of a Christian masonic knighthood called, the Order of St. John. In order to understand the history of our Fraternity, it is necessary to examine closely the charge delivered by Prince Hall. Part of the charge reads as follows:

I shall now shew you what progress Masonry hath made since the siege and taking of Jerusalem in the year 70, by Titus Vespasian; after a long and bloody siege, a million of souls having been slain or had perished in the city, it was taken by storm and the city set on fire. There was an order of men called the order of St. John, who besides their other engagements, subscribed to another, by which they bound themselves to keep up the war against the Turks. These men defended the missile when on fire, in order to save it, so long, that Titus was amazed and went to see the reason of it; but when he came so near as to behold the Sanctum Sanctorum, he was amazed, and shed tears, and said, no wonder these men should so long to save it. He honored them with many honors, and large contributions were made to that order from many Kingdoms; and were also knighted. They continued 88 years in Jerusalem, till that city was again retaken by the Turks, after which they resided 104 years in the Cyrean city of Ptolemy, till the remains of the Holy Conquest were lost. Whereupon they settled on the Island of Cyprus, where they continued 18 years, till they found an opportunity to take the Island Rhodes; being masters of that, they maintained it for 213 years, and from thence they were called knights of Rhodes, till in the year 1530 they took their residence in the Island of Malta, where they have continued to this day (1792), and are distinguished by the name of the knights of Malta. Their first Master was Villaret in the year 1099. Fulco Villaret in the year 1322, took the Island Rhodes, and was after that distinguished by the title of Grand Master, which hath devolved to his Successors to this day.

Query, Whether at that day, when there was an African church, and perhaps the largest Christian church on earth whether there was no African of that order; or whether, if they were all white, they would refuse to accept them as their fellow Christians and brother Masons; or whether there were any so weak, or rather so foolish, as to say, because they were blacks that would make their lodge or army too common or too cheap? Sure this was not our conduct in the late war (Revolutionary War); for then they marched shoulder to shoulder, brother soldier and brother soldier, to the field of battle....And now, my African brethren, you see what a noble order you are members of. My charge to you is, that you make it your study to live up to the precepts of it, as you know that they are all good; and let it be known this day to the spectators that you have not been to a feast of Bacchus, but to a refreshment with Masons; and see to it that you behave as such, as well at home as abroad; always to keep in your minds the obligations you are under, both to God and your fellow men.

The entire charge is of great importance, for it describes the duty of a Mason as well as providing a quick biography of four of our African forefathers (Tertullian, Cyprian, Augustine, and Fulgentius). The charge further provided the foundation of information which traces the masonic blood-line of our Fraternity. The reader may notice that the Charge provides information about our Order which is currently missing from most masonic rituals and history. It was from Prince Hall's ancient Charge that the authority for the Chi Rho Fraternity was established.



The 2010 Class of the Chi Rho Fraternity with Grand Sovereign Charles Johnson



Past Phylaxis Magazines



Hon. Daryl Andrews



Masonic mementos & paraphernalia of the late PGM Howard L. Woods (AR)



Masonic mementos & paraphernalia of the late PGM Howard L. Woods (AR)



Phylaxis Luncheon



Phylaxis Luncheon



Phylaxis Luncheon



Phylaxis Luncheon



MWGM Cleveland Wilson



MWGM Curtis Wilbert & Hon. Damajo Smith



MWGM Cleveland Wilson & Hon. Damajo Smith



MWGM Curtis Wilbert, Hon. Damajo Smith & MWGM Alex Smith



MWGMs Alex Smith, Curtis Wilbert & Cleveland Wilson



Phylaxis Banquet



Phylaxis Banquet



Hon. Mike Beebe, Gov. of AR



Governor Mike Beebe (AR) & President John Williams



Mr. & Mrs. Dr. Robert Uzzel



President John Williams receiving the AR Traveler's Award from Gov. Beebe



MWGM Curtis Wilbert receiving the AR Traveler's Award from Gov. Beebe



President Alfreda Brumfield receiving the AR Traveler's Award from Gov. Beebe



Doric Chapter (MD) receives the Chapter of the Year Award



Man of the Year Hon. James "Rocky" Dallas



Hon. Mcgraw receives an award



MWGM Cleveland Wilson receives an award



Hon. Daryl Andrews becomes a Fellow



Hon. Jesse Watkins receives the Jno. G. Lewis Medal of Excellence



Past recipients of the Jno. G. Lewis Medal of Excellence

The Phylaxis Society

About the Phylaxis Society

THE PHYLAXIS SOCIETY is an international organization of Prince Hall Freemasons dedicated to studying the life of Prince Hall and researching the history of Prince Hall Freemasonry. The Phylaxis Society was designed to create a bond of union for Masonic writers and to educate Universal Freemasonry about Prince Hall Freemasonry. The Society has become the leader in its field: encouraging Prince Hall Masonic Study and stimulating the writing of accurate and interesting articles for our own publication. In this manner it fosters the close, human relationship that is the ideal of Freemasonry. The Society in no way interferes with the legislative and ritualistic affairs of any Masonic body.

The word PHYLAXIS is pronounced fil-lak-sis. Phyl is Greek for tribe, clan, race, and is akin to the Greek word 'phyein' which means to bring forth - more to be. PHYLAXIS means to guard and preserve. Symbolically we interpret it as to bring forth more light in Masonry, and to guard the Prince Hall Fraternity against its enemies using the truth to preserve our Masonic heritage.

ACTIVITIES OF THE PHYLAXIS SOCIETY

The PHYLAXIS Magazine is one of the finest publications in all of Freemasonry. Members will find it interesting and informative Masonic reading. Members also receive information about current Masonic research projects, and they are provided an opportunity to make contributions to the magazine. **Notes, Queries and Information of Masonic Interest.** Space will be devoted in various issues of the PHYLAXIS magazine to special Masonic studies, Masonic curios, items of special interest concerning Masonic history, biography, etc., and other unusual Masonic data as listed, with the request that members of the Society who have additional information on any of these topics communicate with the members who present the original item. This leads to many valuable and interesting personal contacts and often to lasting friendships.

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Assistant Grand Historian
Committee for Mutual Recognition
33rd District Director ~ Knights of Pythagoras

