



# The Phylaxis Notes

## Of The Phylaxis Society



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Post Office Box 480822; Kansas City MO, 64148-0822

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## GRAND LODGE OF ARKANSAS TO HOST ANNUAL CONVENTION

BY MARK MCGRAW

Many men of different sects, races, standards, and backgrounds join in the beloved art and fraternity we call Freemasonry. Those of us who know the definition of Freemasonry

are pleased to belong to such a wonderful organization. It really is a beautiful system of morality, veiled in allegory and illustrated by signs and symbols. Our motto is very simple and well observed by our members and those who look from a distance and admire us in all we do. Masonry simply means to build. Men from time immemorial have been intrigued to build things especially for themselves. As we observe children, you find that a young man is constantly building things with his own hands. We all have at one point in our childhood built a powerful hand-gun out of a simple piece of wood. Most of us have built that super-fast hot rod car from cardboard.



*MW Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Arkansas*

Simply put, we are lovers of building things. Once we go beyond our childhood, we begin to want to build up ourselves. From the time we can think for ourselves, we begin to build up ourselves in an intellectual, physical, and spiritual way. All these are very good and we all should definitely strive to do our very best to achieve excellence in them. Here in the wonderful State of Arkansas, we the members of The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge take pride in continuing to do a good and pleasant work of accepting men and trying to build their character, family, and church life. We take pride in making good men better.

Our history lists some of the best men of Arkansas as active members. Men of all different walks of life have joined the lodges in Arkansas. Lawyers, doctors, politicians, professors, engineers, ministers, and other clergy have all blessed us with their membership in showing that all can come together and be on one accord.

In 1902, the members of the Arkansas jurisdiction decided to build a building for the membership. It was decided that a grand lodge building would be built in downtown Pine Bluff between 4th and State Streets. The building was completed in 1912. The cornerstone for that building was laid by the grand lodge in 1909 with Grand Master Moses A. Clark presiding. At the time of completion, the Prince Hall Grand Lodge was the tallest building in the City of Pine Bluff. This great edifice was completely paid for within fourteen years after completion. The grand lodge has housed 19 grand masters and 135 grand lodge sessions. Being one of the only black-owned building in the state, the members themselves worked together and did all of the work that was needed for the edifice. Being four stories high allowed the grand lodge to be a good place for black businesses to provide their services.

For most of the Twentieth Century the grand lodge

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had several businesses that rented office space on the first and second floor. As with all buildings, there comes a time when structural changes must be made. There was a story told to me by an older member of the Craft that when the grand lodge needed the floor replaced on the fourth floor (lodge hall), the membership voted to assess themselves five cents a month until the floor was paid for. Those brothers were so dedicated that the floor was paid off two years early. Knowing this information lets me know that those men at that time were committed to the grand lodge and to Freemasonry. Even today, one can stop by the grand lodge on 4th and State Streets and see the beautiful hand-crafted designs that can be adored by all that chooses to visit the site.

The Prince Hall Masonic Grand Lodge Building of Arkansas was put on the National Register of Historic Places on November 30, 1978. The MWPHGL of Arkansas is now in the process of turning the historical grand lodge into a museum that will tell of the great traditions of Arkansas Prince Hall Freemasonry.

On a sunny, yet cool day in February, at the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge's 133rd Annual Session, the

Honorable Cleveland K. Wilson was elected and installed as the 19th Grand Master of Masons of Arkansas. Within a year, after many nights of prayer and meditating on the Word of God, Grand Master Wilson had a vision to build another grand lodge in the city of Pine Bluff. After getting consent from the grand lodge and assistance of the Royal Grand Chapter, the members of the Prince Hall family of Arkansas began the endeavor to erect a new grand lodge building. The grand master did what some say was not regular, but to the educated Mason it was just and upright. Grand Master Wilson called a special meeting by way of a summons to all members of the Arkansas jurisdiction to discuss the possibility of erect a new grand lodge. Some thought it was improper because he invited the members of the Royal Grand Chapter of Order of Eastern Star and its members to the meeting. On November 22, 2003 at Dollar Way High School Gymnasium, the jurisdiction met as a whole and discussed the possibility of a new grand lodge building. After a long discussion on how to pay for the building, a motion was put to the floor and with only one opposed vote, the jurisdiction of Arkansas agreed to proceed. We began receiving donations and pledges to assist with building a new grand

lodge building. The remodeling began September 2006 and the floor plans for the entire grand lodge were no longer just a thought for Grand Master Wilson. The dedication of the brothers of

Arkansas showed again, as the majority of the remodeling of the new grand lodge was completed by the *operative* Prince Hall Freemasons of the Arkansas jurisdiction. Many of the brethren of the jurisdiction volunteered their operative expertise to be sure that the grand lodge was getting work that the entire jurisdiction could be proud of. During the 135th Grand Lodge Session of the MWPHGL of Arkansas, Most Worshipful Grand Master Cleveland K. Wilson along with all the grand lodge officers in their stations, completed the laying of the cornerstone for the building. There were over 1300 spectators in attendance for this grand occasion. Many visitors were from other Prince Hall grand lodge jurisdictions. The grand lodge was built so it would be a jewel in the City of Pine Bluff just as the first grand lodge was. The foyer is beautifully adorned with a chandelier that you can not help but adore as you enter the building. The grand lodge is built so that it can be available to people of the City of Pine Bluff, and since the official opening, the building has been used for concerts, weddings, office functions, etc. The lodge has two halls: the grand lodge meets in the north hall and the Royal Grand Chapter meets in the south hall. Each of the halls is adorned with decorations that can be enjoyed by its visitors. The grand lodge has offices for the head of each of the bodies recognized by the grand lodge. There is a banquet hall that seats up to 1500 people in a dinner setting. The grand lodge is in the process of remodeling a room for a library that will hold many books, journals, history and other artifacts that will be displayed for visitors to view.

Many past grand masters, sitting grand masters, and other grand lodge officers who have visited our grand edifice have had nothing but good things to say about the building.

At the 36th annual convention of the Phylaxis Society the Jurisdiction of Arkansas was chosen to host the 37th annual convention at its grand lodge building in March 2010. This is an honor that the Arkansas jurisdiction is not taking lightly. We are planning to be as hospitable as we can be. As a jurisdiction, we are hoping that we are a beacon of light to other jurisdictions that want to endeavor to build for themselves. The jurisdiction of Arkansas is proud of its history and excited about its future. Because of the jurisdiction working together, we know that together we can do more. We feel that we are able to proudly say that we are leaving a legacy for the brethren in the future to see that Freemasonry was alive and well in the 20th Century as well as the 21st Century.

*RW Mark McGraw  
Region IV Vice President  
Council of Representatives  
The Phylaxis Society*



*Arkansas Grand Lodge building, 1912*

## PRINCE HALL GL OF MISSOURI AND GL OF NORTH DAKOTA AF&AM COME TOGETHER

BY ROBERT N. CAMPBELL



Hon. Robert N. Campbell

On May 21, and 22, 2010 the Grand Lodges of Missouri, Prince Hall and North Dakota, AF&AM will join with The Grand Lodge of Minnesota, AF&AM to Rededicate Historic Ft. Buford. Ft. Buford, located on the confluence of the Yellowstone and Missouri Rivers, has always been a major historical location whose story has never been completely told. It was a military garrison that provided homeland security for the traders and homesteaders who traveled along the river routes to the western horizon, according to Jim Savaloja, PGM and Associate Grand Historian of the Grand Lodge of North Dakota.

Lewis and Clark camped at the confluence of the two rivers. Ft. Buford was the supply depot for the 7th Cavalry and the point where the Steamer Far West brought back the sad news from the Little Big Horn. It was there that Sitting Bull and his decimated and starving band of followers surrendered, handing over his rifle rather than see his people suffer and die on the open prairie.

Ft. Buford was also the home of Yellowstone Lodge #88, chartered by the Grand Lodge of Minnesota on January 10, 1872. Yellowstone #88 was the first chartered lodge in that part of Dakota Territory, which later became North Dakota. It had a membership of 50 brothers who included members of the 7th Cavalry, local business men and others. They built an 80-foot by 100-foot, two-story Lodge Hall at the western edge of the Fort. The upper story was the lodge

room and the lower section was the social events center for the fort and the surrounding community. This lodge was active until 1874 when the fort became dormant and the charter was returned to the Grand lodge of Minnesota. The lodge building was later sold and dismantled.

The Grand Lodge of North Dakota through the Masonic Foundation purchased the original Yellowstone Lodge site along with 1.7 acres of land in 1959. On May 15, 1960, a formal dedication of the Ft. Buford Masonic Historical site was held, and to this day the site has been open for visitation by anyone who visits the fort.

Last winter some of the North Dakota Grand Lodge officers discussed the possibility of holding a 50th anniversary rededication of the Ft. Buford Masonic site. While entertaining this thought a search was being made for any additional information about Yellowstone #88. A call to the Minnesota Grand Secretary resulted in the discovery of the original charter and the annual returns from Ft. Buford that had been preserved in files there.

one there, and even a number for that lodge was given. Unfortunately they did not have any documentation or any factual information to confirm the same.

Two Prince Hall jurisdictions, Texas and Missouri, chartered a number of black military lodges. In fact in some cases there were two of these lodges in the same location at the same time.

A call was placed to the Grand Secretary, RW Theo-



This was the very information that the Grand Lodge of North Dakota and the North Dakota State Historical Society had been wishing to see for many years. All fifty members were listed along with their military rank, occupation, Masonic degree dates, place of birth and where they hailed from. This information provided them with a complete history of that lodge.

For years there had been rumors of a black, or Prince Hall, lodge as well that operated at Ft. Buford. Researching the web sites of the Buffalo Soldiers and Prince Hall military lodges indicated that there might actually have been

pholis Charles who informed them that a disastrous fire many years ago had destroyed many of the historical records of those lodges and that they might never know the factual history of Prince Hall Masonry at Ft. Buford. They were directed to contact Brother Robert N. Campbell, who was recently appointed as Grand Historian for the MW Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Missouri by M.W. Joe B. Lewis, Grand Master. Brother Campbell is also an active officer with The Phylaxis Society, the Masonic research organization of Prince Hall Freemasons.

Brother Campbell agreed to search for any information concerning Ft. Buford, and

within several weeks returned with news that was beyond all belief. He had located proceedings of the grand lodge and found records of Ft. Buford in the minutes from that period, and that there was indeed a Prince Hall lodge located at Ft. Buford.

The M.W. Grand Lodge of Missouri, AF&AM for the Jurisdiction of Missouri had organized Eureka Lodge #135, U.D. in 1890 at Ft. Apache, Arizona Territory and approved its charter in 1891. At that time there were four all-black military units sanctioned by the Department of the Army. They were the 9th and 10th Cavalry and the 24th and 25th Infantry.

It appears that the charter for Eureka #135 was carried to Ft. Buford by soldiers of the 10th Cavalry and 24th Infantry when they left the Geronimo Campaign on the Mexican-Arizona border and were ordered to Ft. Buford in 1892. This move also meant that Ft. Buford holds the distinction of having the first chartered Prince Hall Masonic lodge in Dakota Territory. Annual returns for Eureka #135 indicate that the lodge remained at Ft. Buford until 1896 when the fort closed for the last time and the soldiers

were transferred to Ft. Assiniboine, Harve, Montana.

The Masons of North Dakota and the Prince Hall Masons of Missouri now hold the keys to unlock the mysteries concerning the history of Masonry at Ft. Buford.

Brother Campbell continues to search for more details of Eureka #135 and Missouri's history. He is tracking the following Units from their inception in 1866: the 9th Cavalry under the command of Col. Edward Hatch in Greenville, Louisiana and the 10th Cavalry under the command of Col. Benjamin H. Grierson in Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas. He will work in concert with a special group of North Dakota brothers appointed by North Dakota Grand Master Michael R. Bakken; they will lead this project forward as members of the North Dakota Masonic Foundation Site committee for Ft. Buford.

Arrangements are being made for the care and preservation of the Masonic site at

the fort. There will be year-round displays of historical information, including the

turned home again, the Grand Lodges of Minnesota and North Dakota, AF&AM will



*Fort Buford in the 1800's*

charters of Yellowstone #88 and Eureka #135, their rosters, with family histories listing personal activities of all the brothers while stationed there.

It is the desire of the Grand Lodge of North Dakota and the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Missouri to insure that any visitor, Mason or non-Mason, will leave this place with the factual knowledge of how these Masons affected the movement of the western frontier.

It is expected that representatives from at least seven grand jurisdictions and many other Masonic bodies will be in attendance. All events will be held either at Ft. Buford or Williston, ND starting Friday evening May 21 and Saturday May 22, 2010. At that time, Masonry will once again meet on the level at the confluence of these two great western rivers.

To honor the memories of those brothers who guarded the western frontier and the souls of those who never re-

institute a Historical Lodge of Yellowstone #88 and the M.W. Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Missouri, A&FM will institute a Historical Lodge of "Buffalo Soldiers" Eureka #135.

Visit the following web sites for future information on this event: North Dakota Masonic Foundation web site, [www.gln.org/FtBufordWelcome.htm](http://www.gln.org/FtBufordWelcome.htm), M.W. Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Missouri, [www.mophamason.org/index.php](http://www.mophamason.org/index.php), The Phylaxis Society, [www.thephylaxis.org](http://www.thephylaxis.org).

*Jim Savaloja, PGM Associate Grand Historian, GLND*

*Editors note: The original version of this article appeared in The North Dakota Mason September 2009 edition written by PGM Jim Savaloja.*

*Edited and revised by: Robert N. Campbell, FPS Grand Historian MWPHGL of MO*



*Non-commissioned officers of Company E of the 25th Infantry at Fort Buford, ND in 1893. Left to right: Cpl. Wm Martin; L. Cpl Wm Bailey; 1st Sgt John Doles; Sgt Wm Thornton; Sgt Robt D. Flint; Sgt M. A. Williams; Cpl. Woods.*

## PRINCE HALL MASONRY AND CIVIL RIGHTS IN MISSISSIPPI

BY RAY A. COLEMAN, JR.



Ray A. Coleman, Jr.

In a state rich with civil rights controversy and history, Prince Hall masonry is becoming a beacon of light in Mississippi. Brothers from the jurisdiction of M.W. Stringer Grand Lodge have set out on a quest to bring Prince Hall Masonry to light as it relates to the Civil Rights Era. Down

in Hattiesburg, MS, Brothers Ray Coleman, Jr. and David Rankin of May-Hinton Lodge #540 teamed up with some local citizens and officials to have a street renamed in honor of civil rights pioneer and Prince Hall Mason, Rev. J.C. Killingsworth. The late Rev. Killingsworth worked as a foot soldier in the local civil rights struggle. He led numerous marches, mass meeting and sit-ins around the state. He played a key role in the integration of schools and public parks and in voter registration. The group, now known as The Freedom Corner Com-

mittee, is in the fund-raising process of erecting a monument dedicated to numerous local civil rights pioneers. In gathering facts for the monument the brothers discovered many of the roles that Prince Hall Masonry played in the civil rights struggle of Hattiesburg, MS. In fact the oldest Prince Hall lodge building in the city, that of Hattiesburg #115, is still standing and is listed in the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. It was the meeting location of the NAACP, it housed Martin Luther King during his visit and it served as the meet-

ing location of many organizations including Hattiesburg Minister's Union, a group of local clergy turned civil rights activists. Just like Prince Hall Masonry, the building still stands today. Though the Civil Rights Era was a dark time in history, the brothers are bringing light to Prince Hall Masonry and its role in Mississippi. You can see more at:

[www.jckfreedomcorner.com](http://www.jckfreedomcorner.com)

Ray A. Coleman, Jr.  
Hattiesburg, MS

## PRINCE HALL MONUMENT - CAMBRIDGE COMMONS

Currently the City of Cambridge, Massachusetts and a committee composed of Prince Hall Masons from several states are assisting in erecting a monument in the Cambridge Commons, Massachusetts. The Mayor, E. Denise Simmons of Cambridge, on September 12, 2005, as a City Council member, proposed to the City Council

that Prince Hall be chosen to represent the achievements of African-Americans from the formative years of our country to its present day. It is important that we never lose focus of what the past produced for us, in order for us to shape the future for our children and our children's children!

NOTE: Donations are be-

ing accepted for the purpose of building and completing the monument. We urge all Prince Hall Masons to support this effort. Donations can be sent to The Friends of the Prince Hall Monument Fund, PO Box 391307, Cambridge MA 02139 or to Wainwright Bank & Trust Company, 647 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge MA 02139.

Those who have supported this LAUDABLE UNDERTAKING can be found at [www.princehallmemorial.org](http://www.princehallmemorial.org)



## REAL MEN READ

On May 20, 2009 the brothers of Union Lodge #155 participated in Emmett Till Academy's annual "Real Men Read" program. Union adopted the school in 2008. Till Academy started the Real Men Read program in 1996. Each participant was assigned a class room to read a book to its students. Bro. Adrian Cooley W.M., read a book to third graders about a young Michael Jordan growing up titled "Salt In His Shoes" by Jordan's mother, Delores Jordan. Bro. Abdulrahim Ali, J.W. read a selection to fourth graders. Bro. Art Ciegotura, S.S., read a book to the seventh graders. Our adopt-a-school coordinator, Bro. Chris Calhoun was the brother who arranged for the brothers to be present at the program.

Union donated the book *Black Square & Compass: 200 Years of Prince Hall Freemasonry* by Joseph A. Walkes to the school library. The lodge donated the book to the school library to make sure that its adopted school had a book on Prince Hall Freemasonry and the man Prince Hall. It is a part of an effort by Union to promote the good works of Prince Hall Freemasonry to the public.



Bro. Adrian Cooley, W.M. of Union Lodge #155, F&AM, PHA presents Principal Mary Rodgers and Librarian Mrs. Jacobsen the book "Black Square & Compass: 200 Years of Prince Hall Freemasonry" by Joseph A. Walkes, Jr.

## STREET RENAMED PRINCE HALL PLAZA

BY EZEKIEL M. BEY

*Without the legacy, inspiration, dedication, and advanced leadership of Brother Prince Hall, this article could not be possible in expressing the manifestation of what Prince Hall has done for us in mind and in spirits in the great State of New York and abroad this vast world. For this we pay sincere tributes to our Founding Father, Prince Hall!*



*Hon. Ezekiel M. Bey, FPS  
2nd Vice President for the  
Council of Representatives of  
the Phylaxis Society.*

On October 23, 2004, a historic event took place at 454 West 155th Street, Harlem, New York where the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge F&AM of the State of New York's Grand East building (headquarters) is located. It was a glorious celebration of the renaming of our street between St. Nicholas Avenue and Amsterdam Avenue to "Prince Hall Plaza." This vision, which entered the mind of R.W. John Fields and was supported by the Honorable Calvin Martin, Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons of the State of New York, with the help of Deputy Grand Master R.W. Gregory R. Smith Sr. and District Deputy Grand Master R.W. Charles Johnson, was one of the greatest dedications given to our pathfinder and progenitor "Brother Prince Hall." At this special occasion, we were graced with many supporters and members of our Grand Lodge, including those of the political arena such as Assemblyman Keith Wright #1, State Senator David Patterson #1, and Assemblyman Her-

man Denny Farrell. C. Virginia Fields, Manhattan Borough President, and Luther A. Smith #37, Chief of Staff of the Manhattan Borough President's Office, were not present, but indeed they were an equal driving force in making this happen.

The name "Prince Hall" is extremely important to African American Masons in America due to the experiences and the trials they have endured in this country. To celebrate the renaming of 155th Street between St. Nicholas Ave. and Amsterdam Ave. supports our identity in our communities and compliments the success of Prince Hall Masons around the Nation.

Prince Hall Freemasonry in New York started in 1812 with the chartering of Boyer Lodge #1 by Massachusetts. In 1845 a grand lodge was established under the title Boyer Grand Lodge of the State of New York. Today there are more than 100 lodges and Eastern Star chapters comprising a membership of the Prince Hall family exceeding 10,000. The migration of this grand lodge follows the northern movement of African Americans to northern Manhattan. Our "Grand East" has been situated at the following locations:

- 1 - 1855- 42 Baxter Street
- 2 - 1860- Corner of Forsyth & Broome Streets
- 3 - 1874- 835 Broadway
- 4 - 1877- 140 Sixth Avenue
- 5 - 1879- 99 Sixth Avenue
- 6 - 1910- 247 West 46th Street

7 - Later in Lafayette Hall, 131st Street and 7th Avenue

8 - Coachman's Hall on 138th Street near 8th Avenue

9 - Manhattan Casino (Later known as Rockland Palace)

10 - 1929 235-37 West 120th Street

11 - 1944 to Present, 454 West 155th Street (PRINCE HALL PLAZA)

It was 90 years ago in 1919 when we celebrated the addition of the name "Prince Hall" to our grand lodge title due to a 1917 resolution. The committee on foreign relations saw the importance and necessity in the change of our name. Such name change gave emphasis to the fact that our grand lodge operated at one time among persons predominately of African descent. This is evident in the original name of our beginning and adequately illustrated in our founding lodge "AFRICAN LODGE #459." It was later in 1944 at the Conference of Grand Masters where a proposal was placed on the table that all grand lodges whose lineage and origin links to African Lodge 459 should add the name "Prince Hall" to its grand lodge title.

Our grand lodge has forever embraced good men of different cultures, races, and religions who have knocked on her doors. This fact can be proven by our history of "Downshire" or as sometimes designated "Progress" No. 12. This lodge was an all-Hebrew lodge and its members of German extraction belonged to our grand lodge, warranted February 3, 1870. We also

find four Spanish-speaking lodges in our history. "Hijos del Caribe No. 75, Igualdad No. 77, Esperanza No. 80 and El Sol de Cuba No. 38, mainly of Cuban and Puerto Rican members. "El Sol de Cuba" changed its name to "Prince Hall #38" in 1914 and is still on the rolls of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of the State of New York.

This diversity and multifariousness is the spirit of Prince Hall the man, an activist for equal rights, and a visionary of his time. Being an abolitionist he fought long and hard against the injustices of this country, giving hope to those who might have lost sight of the light that our children today enjoy so freely. Prince Hall was about human equality, civil rights, integrity, faith, hope, and charity for all mankind.

The renaming of 155th Street in New York City is a continued honor given to the founder, "Brother Prince Hall." The Prince Hall family throughout the world is proud to have for the first time a street named after its patron saint. The unveiling of the street sign "PRINCE HALL PLAZA" on 155th Street, gave us all a sense of great pride and a forever lasting impression of the beauty of what Prince Hall Masons represent. The legacy left by "Prince Hall" is one to be preserved by all regular Masons around the world.

## INSIDE WASHINGTON D.C.

BY ALTON ROUNDTREE

### SCHOLARSHIPS

The Prince Hall Masonic Family of the District of Columbia awarded over \$100,000 in scholarships to deserving high school graduates in the Washington, DC Metropolitan Area. The 2009 annual program was a continuation of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge scholarship program established in 1957 and the Georgiana Thomas Grand Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star program established in 1980 to aid worthy students headed to college. Since the inception of these scholarship programs, over 1.4 million dollars have been contributed toward the educational needs of area youth.

### RESEARCH LODGE

The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia is establishing a Research & Education Lodge. The lodge is scheduled to open in January 2010. Alton G. Roundtree is the Worshipful Master. Pertinent information on the Research & Education Lodge can be found at <http://www.mwphgldc.com/>. The information includes a petition for membership. Petitions for membership will also be received and acted on at the January meeting. The lodge has a Yahoo e-group for lodge members. Several original

papers have been written and some papers will be presented when the Research & Education Lodge opens in January. A book of transactions will be published in September 2010. We expect to have a large transactions book. Many writers are at work.

### MASONIC DAY OF PRAYER

On October 3, 2009, the Nation's Capital Masonic Day of Prayer was held at the Metropolitan Memorial Methodist Church on Nebraska Avenue. The event was jointly organized and hosted by the Grand Lodge, FAAM, of the

District of Columbia and the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, F & AM, PHA of the District of Columbia. The constituent lodges processed in regalia side by side by lodge number, into the church, along with both grand lines and grand masters.



## PILLARS OF SOCIETY

BY ROBERT N. CAMPBELL

What is A Pillar of Society?

In America's not too distant past, Prince Hall Masons endeavored to live according to the principles of their obligations. To "abide by the laws, rules and regulations, etc!" "Not to cheat, wrong nor defraud!" That he would "support the constitution, laws and edicts, etc!" In order to do so, he first had to know the contents of the afore stated things. In addition, we have promised to "be quiet and peaceful citizens in our communities and to obey the moral law!" Prince Hall Masons pushed, sacrificed and worked tirelessly for freedom and equality and to provide educational opportunities for our people.

In those days the public could recognize a mason by the way he walked, talked and

performed his civic duties. Every Mason should possess a copy of his lodge by-laws, the constitution of his G. L., its by-laws, and the constitution of the United States of America or the country that he lives in. Studying these we should learn how to be better men, Masons and citizens. If a man does not know the laws and rules, he stumbles along and in all probability will make mistakes, break laws and violate the rules of good conduct.

At one time, schools in America taught a class called "Civics." That subject along with prayer, the pledge of allegiance and other elements that contributed to good citizenship have been cast aside and are no longer included in curriculums. Where can children and young people learn these important elements? Perhaps

the lack of this knowledge contributes greatly to the lack of public support of law and order in our communities. Today in our communities, people rationalize and adopt a ridiculous code of silence when crimes and offenses occur right in front of them.

Wouldn't it be nice if we were mentors to our youth by displaying good citizenship, being ourselves obedient to the laws, and once again becoming reliable Pillars of Society? Let us be those "upright men & Masons raised up on the level and living perpendiculars" on the square.

Term use—Pillar: "An upright support that prevents others from falling; bears weight and encourages, gives good causes action."



*In future editions of The Phylaxis Notes, the Council of Representatives will feature members of the Masonic Fraternity who are true Pillars in their communities.*



COUNCIL OF REPRESENTATIVES

## PRINCE HALL FREEMASONRY RETURNS TO ENNIS

BY DR. ROBERT L. UZZEL

Prince Hall Freemasonry began on March 6, 1775 with the initiation of Prince Hall and fourteen other African Americans by Lodge #41, Irish Constitutions, which accompanied the 38<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot, British Army, posted at Castle William (now Fort Independence), Boston Harbour. Hall became the first Worshipful Master of African Lodge #459 at Boston. Many state grand lodges, all composed primarily of African Americans, trace their lineage to this lodge, whose charter was issued by the Grand Lodge of England on September 29, 1784.

The Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas, Free & Accepted Masons, was organized on August 19, 1875 at Saint John African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church in Branham. At this meeting, Norris Wright Cuney of Galveston was elected as the first grand master. For more information, my book *Prince Hall Freemasonry in the Lone Star State: From Cuney to Curtis, 1875-2003* may be ordered from Eakin Press at [www.eakinpress.com](http://www.eakinpress.com).

Pride of Ennis Lodge #420, Free & Accepted Masons, served the community for many years. Thus far, I have not found the date of organization, but evidence indicates that it was functioning as early as 1930 and as late as 1995. In the latter year, James Hill was serving as worshipful master, Willie Scott Lister as secretary, and Forrest Roberts as treasurer. Bro. Roberts, who is now 82, is the only member active in 1995 who is still alive. Apparently, the lodge demised during the late 1990s. According to Bro. Roberts, the lodge never had its own hall but met at various churches. Members would turn out for special occasions such as Palm Sunday in the spring and Prince Hall Day in September and were involved in charitable activities.

Pride of Ennis Lodge #420 laid the following cornerstones: Fourth Ward Baptist Church in 1930; Bethlehem Baptist Church in 1958; Independent Baptist Church in 1979; New Hope Baptist Church in 1984; and Bright and Morning Star Baptist Church in 1989. Other Ennis churches also have Masonic cornerstones. These include Wayman Chapel AME Church by Cherubim Lodge #237 of Dallas (1966); Galilee Baptist Church by Paul



Drayton Lodge #9 of Dallas (1969); Alliance of Faith United Methodist Church by Livestone Lodge #152 of Grand Prairie (1976); and Corinth Baptist Church by Paul Drayton Lodge #9 of Dallas (1989).

Prince Hall Freemasonry has returned to Ennis with the reactivation of Pride of Ennis Lodge #420. The following officers have been elected: McCain Bodie, Worshipful Master; Marcell Middlebrooks, Senior Warden; Billy Hughes, Jr., Junior Warden; Joseph Brown, Sr., Secretary; Joe Brown, Jr., Treasurer; Khris Marshall, Senior Deacon; Harroll Jordan, Junior Deacon; Louis Massey, Chaplain; Donald Lockhart, Tyler; Bro. George Dozier, Senior Steward; and George Longmire, Junior Steward. If anyone is interested in joining, any lodge member will be happy to provide an application.

Officers of Pride of Ennis Lodge #420 and Bethesda Lodge #168 were installed on Friday August 6 by Wilbert M. Curtis, the Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Texas at Bethesda's lodge hall in Waxahachie. Pride of Ennis has served the community in the past and is now prepared to do so in the future.

## IRA HOLDER IN NUBIA

Enclosed please find a picture of me taken during a trip to Egypt in April of this year. The group we traveled with donated school supplies to children in a Nubian village. Since other groups were taking pictures for their groups, I quickly made a sign so the world would know that Prince Hall Masons were also in the house.

You will also note that I am wearing a Phylaxis Society T-shirt with the Great Pyramid and Sphinx picture. It was a really great experience to stand at the foot of the monuments wearing this T-shirt. We also wore it on our trip to Jordan.

No other group present wore anything more significant. Kudos to the Phylaxis Society.

*Ira Holder, Jr. is past president of the Ira Holder, Sr. Chapter of the Phylaxis Society that operated in the New York jurisdiction.*

