



PRINCE HALL

The Father of African American Freemasonry



Prince Hall was an organizer of African American Masons in the United States, an abolitionist, a believer in the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of man, and a spokesman in regard to all of the conditions which made the circumstances of Blacks in America intolerable and non-productive. HE was a firm believer and a staunch warrior for blacks to be considered equal citizens of the United States with all the privileges entitled to any human being. Born in obscurity, Prince Hall literally worked himself free of his lowly beginnings. Through diligence and effort he cultivated his abilities, then used them to help others do the same.

While the exact birth date of Prince Hall is unknown, his father, Thomas Prince Hall, was an Englishman and his mother was a French citizen of African descent. In America, Hall found employment as a leather-worker, a trade learned from his father. Eight year later, he acquired real estate which qualified him to vote. He opened his own leather goods shop, "The Golden Fleece", which became successful and was religiously inclined which later led him to become a preacher in the Methodist Church with a Charge at Cambridge. He was well read himself and his Letter Book shows that he was familiar with the works of Tertullian, Cyprian, Origen and other Fathers of the early Church. He corresponded with, "Selina, Lady Huntingdon (1707-1791)", the head of the Calvinistic Methodists who trained and ordained Methodist ministers, and was known as the 'Countess of Huntingdon's Connection'. As an individual, he was also among the earliest of African American Leaders to take a stand for the rights and liberation of Blacks in America:

- On January 13, 1777, Hall and eight other black men signed a petition requesting the Massachusetts State Legislature to abolish slavery. Hall's signature was one of four belonging to Masons, whose names topped the document. The State Legislators referred the petition to the Congress of the Confederation which did not resolve the issue. The end of slavery in Massachusetts has been attributed to the ratification of the Constitution of 1780, a 1783 Judicial ruling, and the State Legislature passed an act on March 26, 1788, designed to prohibit the slave trade within the State's borders and to provide recourse for the families of those abducted.
- Hall also proposed that the State organize a "Back-to-Africa" movement in a petition of January 4, 1787. Leading a committee of 12 members from the African Lodge, he proposed that the State secure funds for sending Massachusetts black population to a point on the African coast. The proposal also called for a colonization effort that would result in mutual benefit to both parties, including extensive future trade between the two States. The petition, which appears to be the first major statement on African colonization by black Americans, was defeated in The State Legislature.
- On October 17, 1787, Hall petitioned the State Legislature to provide education for black children. Blacks were taxed on an equal basis but did not receive State-supported Education. The petition failed, and Hall was equally unsuccessful in obtaining local support for black Public Schools. He made a second request to the selectmen of Boston in 1800 to acquire a building for a Black School. After another refusal, Prince Hall offered his own home for the school, the first Black School in Boston, Massachusetts. A pair of Harvard College students served as teachers until 1806. Increased enrollment forced a move to larger facilities which were provided by the African Society House on Belknap Street.

Hall died in Boston on December 7, 1807 after a four week fight with pneumonia that he developed from a bad cold he caught while on one of many errands of mercy visiting the sick. Funeral Rites, in accord with Masonic Rites, were performed one week later. Nero Prince became Grand Master and as a memorial to our beloved Prince Hall and by an act of the General Assembly of the Craft in 1808, the African Grand Lodge of North America was changed to the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge. Prince Hall is buried in Copps Hill Cemetery in Boston, Massachusetts. The site is marked by a broken column; a monument erected 88 years after his death by the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Massachusetts.



AFRICAN LODGE No. 459

The Mother Lodge of African American Freemasonry



On March 6, 1775, Prince Hall and fourteen other black men were initiated by a British Army Lodge, No. 441 on the Irish Registry, into Freemasonry by J.E. Batt, Worshipful Master, on Castle William Island in Boston Harbor. Upon the evacuation of the British from Boston during the Revolutionary War, Prince Hall was granted authority to meet as a Lodge and to bury the dead. By this authority, African Lodge No.1 was organized on July 3, 1776 with Prince Hall as Worshipful Master. In order to be recognized as a regular Lodge, Prince Hall petitioned the Grand Lodge of England, the mother grand lodge of the world, for a charter. The request was granted on September 29, 1784 by the authority of Thomas Hall, acting Grand Master under the authority of Henry Frederice, Duke of Cumberland, Grand Master of the Most Ancient and Honorable Society of Free and Accepted Masons:

“Know ye, that we, at the humble petition of our right trust and well beloved Brethren Prince Hall, Boston Smith, Thomas Sanderson, and several other Brethren residing in Boston, New England, in North America, do hereby constitute the said Brethren into regular Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons, under the title or denomination of the African Lodge, to be opened in Boston aforesaid, and do further at their petition hereby appoint the said Prince Hall to be Master, Boston Smith, Senior Warden, and Thomas Sanderson, Junior Warden, for the opening of the said Lodge, and for such further time only as shall be thought proper by the Brethren thereof, it being our will that this our appointment of the above officers shall in no wise affect any future election of officers of the Lodge, but that such election shall be regulated agreeably by such by-laws of said Lodge as shall be consistent with the general laws of the Society, contained in the Book of Constitution and we hereby will require you, the said Prince Hall, to take especial care that all and everyone of said Brethren are, or have been regularly made Masons, and that they do observe, perform and keep all the rules and orders contained in the Book of Constitutions; and further, that you do, from time to time, cause to be entered in a book kept for the purpose, an account of your proceedings in the Lodge, together with such rules, orders and regulations as shall be made for the good government of the same; that in no wise you will omit once in every year to send to us, or our successors, Grand Master, or to Roland Holt, Esq., our Deputy Grand Master, for the time being, an account in writing of your said proceedings and copies of all such rules, orders and regulations as shall be made as aforesaid, together with a list of the members of the Lodge, and such sum of money as may suit the circumstances of the Lodge, and reasonably be expected toward the Grand Charity.

“Moreover, we hereby will and require you the said Prince Hall, as soon as conveniently may be, to send an account in writing of what may be done by virtue of these presents.”

African Lodge No. 459 formally began work upon receipt of the charter on May 6, 1787. As the only American Lodge with a valid charter after the American Revolutionary War, African Lodge maintained direct contact with the Grand Lodge of England which led to Hall's appointment as a Provincial Grand Master in 1791. By virtue of this authority, he organized Lodges in America until his death on December 4, 1807. In 1808, the African Grand Lodge was organized to secure provincial authority and expand the Masonic Order across America.

Between 1808 and 1815, the African Grand Lodge, which would later be renamed to the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Massachusetts in 1847, established several Lodges in surrounding vicinities. By 1815, a sufficient number of Lodges had been chartered in Pennsylvania to form a Grand Lodge for the state. On December 27, 1815, the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania was organized and immediately established new Lodges within the vicinity.

By 1849, several Lodges had been established in Ohio by the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. On May 3, 1849, the Grand Lodge of Ohio was organized with a secure lineage to the African Grand Lodge through the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania and continued Masonic expansion to a high degree within the vicinity. From 1849 to 1859, the Grand Lodge of Ohio had established Lodges in eleven neighboring states. By 1857, three had been chartered in Illinois and it is from this basis, that a Grand Lodge for the state would be formed and the linkage of the Illinois Jurisdiction to African Lodge No. 459 would be secured.



ORIGINS OF FREEMASONRY IN ILLINOIS

History from 1851 to 1867



Freemasonry within the State of Illinois originated from the expansion of the Grand Lodge of Ohio in 1851. The first members in Illinois were initiated in 1851 in the City of Chicago. North Star Lodge was warranted under dispensation by the hand of Right Worshipful Brother Richard Howell Gleaves, District Deputy Grand Master, under the authority of Most Worshipful Brother Griffin T. Watson, Grand Master. The founding members consisted of abolitionists and civil rights activists including Henry Bradford, Louis Isbell, John Jones, Richard M. Hancock, Edward A. Fulton, David G. Lett, E.R. Williams, William L. Darrow, Harrison D. King and Joseph Hudlun. In 1852, the Lodge was officially chartered and granted number 12 by the Grand Lodge of Ohio with Worshipful Brother Henry Bradford as her first Worshipful Master.

Griffin T. Watson Lodge No. 16 was the second Lodge chartered in Illinois by the Grand Lodge of Ohio in the City of Alton in 1856. Alton was a major hub of the Underground Railroad (UGRR) in the mid-1800s serving as coordination center on the banks of the Mississippi River for fugitives on route to Canada. The charter Worshipful Master was Worshipful Brother Isaac H. Kelly, a UGRR Conductor on the Alton Route.

Central Lodge No. 19 was the third Lodge chartered in Illinois by the Grand Lodge of Ohio in the City of Springfield in 1857. Located at the heart of Central Illinois, Springfield was a stop along the Quincy and Alton routes of the UGRR. The charter Worshipful Master of Central Lodge was Worshipful Brother Benjamin F. Rogers. The charter members included William Donnegan, Henry Brown and other noted UGRR Conductors.

The expansion of the Masonic Order and UGRR activities occurred simultaneously in Illinois. The successes of the Masonic abolitionists increased the support of the Lodges within the community through the end of Slavery. Shortly thereafter, the three Illinois Lodges convened to establish a Grand Lodge for the State of Illinois.

MASONIC CONVENTION - FEBRUARY 1867

Pursuant to a call of three warranted Lodges, namely North Star Lodge, Chicago; G.T. Watson Lodge, Alton; and Central Lodge, Springfield, a convention in the City of Springfield, Illinois convened on Friday, February 15, 1867 to establish a Grand Lodge for the State of Illinois. The convention was called to order by Brother Harrison D. King of Chicago and, after confirming the three aforementioned Lodges were properly represented, the following resolution in addition to the first Constitution and Bylaws for the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Illinois were adopted by the convention:

“Resolved, That the subordinate Lodges of Ancient, Free and Accepted York Masons of the State of Illinois, viz: North Star Lodge No. 12, Chicago; G.T. Watson Lodge No. 16, Alton; and Central Lodge No. 19, Springfield, Illinois; working under the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ohio, this day dissolve all connection with the said Grand Lodge.

“Resolved, that we do immediately return our Warrants and Constitutions to the Grand Lodge of Ohio, with dues to date, and that we notify the Grand Master of said Grand Lodge of such return, and that we respectfully ask his recommendation to the Most Worshipful National Grand Lodge, so that we may obtain a Warrant and Constitution for the establishment of a Grand Lodge for the State of Illinois.”

The first officers of the Grand Lodge of Illinois were selected as follows:

- Grand Master – Benjamin F. Rogers, Springfield
- Deputy Grand Master – Harrison D. King, Chicago
- Senior Grand Warden – E. White, Alton
- Junior Grand Warden – William Darrow, Chicago
- Grand Treasurer – Isaac H. Kelly, Alton
- Grand Secretary – Charles L. Thomas, Chicago

The convention adjourned to meet in the City of Springfield, Illinois on May 6, 1867.



FIRST GRAND COMMUNICATIONS



FIRST GRAND SESSION – MAY 1867: At the hour appointed, Most Worshipful Brother John Jones, Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Ohio opened a Lodge of Master Masons in the hall of Central Lodge in the City of Springfield. As Acting Deputy National Grand Master, Jones installed the following elected Grand Lodge Officers of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, Ancient Free and Accepted York Masons, State of Illinois by the authority of Most Worshipful Brother Richard Howell Gleaves, National Grand Master:

- Grand Master – Benjamin F. Rogers
- Deputy Grand Master – Harrison D. King
- Senior Grand Warden – E. White
- Junior Grand Warden – William Darrow
- Grand Treasurer – Isaac H. Kelly
- Grand Secretary – Charles L. Thomas

Most Worshipful Brother Jones, then, installed the following appointed Officers of the Grand Lodge of Illinois:

- Grand Chaplain – L.A. Coleman
- Grand Senior Deacon – Samuel Wetherspoon
- Grand Junior Deacon – William K. Donnegan
- Grand Lecturer – E.R. Williams
- Grand Steward – H. Hicklin
- Grand Pursuivant – C.C. Richardson
- Grand Tyler – J.S.D. Lee

With a constitutional number of Lodges present, the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, Ancient Free and Accepted York Masons, State of Illinois was opened by Most Worshipful Brother Benjamin F. Rogers, Grand Master.

The Grand Lodge immediately proceeded to transact such business deemed necessary which included the issuance of charters for the following three Lodges:

- North Star Lodge No. 1
- G.T. Watson Lodge No. 2
- Central Lodge No. 3

On the motion of Brother William L. Darrow, it was agreed that the First Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge should meet in the City of Chicago, on the 20th day of June, 1867. The Grand Lodge was then closed.

FIRST ANNUAL COMMUNICATION – 1867: Pursuant to the order from May 6th, the Grand Lodge held its first Annual Communication in the hall of North Star Lodge No. 1 in the City of Chicago where Grand Master Rogers delivered the first annual address:

“Brethren, your profession is built upon a tried foundation; you stand solemnly pledged to the world to maintain the cause of truth against all the assaults of vice, or the inroads of error. Your several lodges are, or ought to be, so many temples of virtue, and schools of moral and religious instruction; each individual should be a watchful sentinel over the happiness of mankind, ever on the alert to rescue injured innocence, or to avert impending dangers.”

Most Worshipful Brother Rogers delivered the address to one hundred ten members of the three Lodges which was well received. Upon the completion of the necessary business of the Grand Lodge, the first election of officers under its Constitution resulted as follows:

- Grand Master – Benjamin F. Rogers
- Deputy Grand Master – Harrison D. King
- Senior Grand Warden – William L. Darrow
- Junior Grand Warden – L.A. Coleman
- Grand Treasurer – Isaac H. Kelly
- Grand Secretary – Charles L. Thomas

At this session, the following named Lodges were granted warrants and numbered:

- Evening Star No. 4, Bloomington
- Lincoln No. 5, Cairo
- Freemont No. 6, Shawneetown

The Grand Lodge closed to meet in the City of Alton, the first Thursday in June, 1868.



AFFILIATION & INCORPORATION HISTORY



1867 – ORGANIZATION AND AFFILIATION WITH THE NATIONAL GRAND LODGE

- The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, Ancient Free and Accepted York Masons, State of Illinois was organized and affiliated with the Most Worshipful National Grand Lodge, Ancient Free and Accepted York Masons;

1877 – WITHDRAWAL OF AFFILIATION FROM THE NATIONAL GRAND LODGE

- The Grand Lodge of Illinois withdrew affiliation from the National Grand Lodge by the hand of Most Worshipful Brother John J. Bird, Grand Master and Right Worshipful Brother Richard M. Hancock, Grand Secretary and received recognition from the Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons, State of Massachusetts, formerly the African Grand Lodge, to secure Prince Hall Affiliation;

1882 – INCORPORATION OF THE GRAND LODGE

- The “Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, Ancient Free and Accepted York Masons, State of Illinois” was incorporated by the hand of Most Worshipful Brother James J. Hollinger, Grand Master and Right Worshipful Brother Richard E. Moore, Grand Secretary;

1885 – NAME CHANGE OF THE GRAND LODGE

- The Grand Lodge amended articles of incorporation to remove “York” from the name to reflect the name of “Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, State of Illinois” by the hand of Most Worshipful Brother Joseph W. Moore, Grand Master and Right Worshipful Brother Richard E. Moore, Grand Secretary to distinguish the Grand Lodge from irregular York Masons of America unaffiliated with the Grand Lodge of England;

1909 – RE-INCORPORATION OF THE GRAND LODGE

- The “Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Illinois” was incorporated by the hand of Most Worshipful Brother George E. Jesse, Grand Master and Right Worshipful Brother Richard E. Moore, Grand Secretary;

1922 – NAME CHANGE AND RE-INCORPORATION OF THE GRAND LODGE

- The Grand Lodge amended articles of incorporation to remove “Ancient” from the name to reflect the name of “Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons, State of Illinois” by the hand of Most Worshipful Brother Thomas H. Samuels, Grand Master and Right Worshipful Brother Baker De Pugh, Grand Secretary.



EUREKA GRAND CHAPTER

Order of the Eastern Star



Pursuant to a call issued and signed by the legal officers of Electa Chapter #11, Chicago; Talma Chapter #12, Chicago; Estella Chapter #15, Springfield; Golden Gate Chapter, Gibson City; Electa Chapter, Brooklyn, Illinois and Princess Hagar Chapter, Chicago met in convention on September 11, 1889, in the Masonic Hall, corner of State and 16th Streets, Chicago, Illinois for the purpose of taking into consideration the organization of a Grand Chapter Order of the Eastern Star for the State of Illinois and Jurisdiction. The Convention was called to order by Bro. Richard E. Moore, District Deputy Grand Patron of Illinois. Prayer was offered by Bro. L.H. Reynolds, afterwards the call was read.

On motion of Sis. Rebecca D. Boone, Bro. L.H. Reynolds was chosen Chairman. On motion of Bro. Harris, Sis. J.E. Everett was chosen Secretary. The Roll of Chapters was called. IT appeared that all of the above named chapters were represented. It was moved by Bro. Richard E. Moore that a committee of five be appointed on resolutions, which was carried. The Chair appointed Bro. R.E. Moore, Sis. R.D. Boone, Bro. B.S. Harris, Sis. F. Lewis and Sis. A. Moody. The Committee of Resolutions presented the following:

“WHEREAS, There is now located in the State of Illinois a legal number of Chapter in the Order of the Eastern Star to organize a Grand Chapter who have expressed a desire to organize a legal Grand Chapter by approving the call issued July, 1, 1889;

“AND WHEREAS, We believe it to be for the best interest of the order and the peace and prosperity of our respective dwellings that should be consummated as early as possible, therefore be it;

“RESOLVED, That all Chapters be required to forward to the Grand Chapter all dues belonging to said Grand Chapter up to date and surrender their warrants and take out warrants under the Grand Chapter of Illinois when organized;

“RESOLVED, That a committee of nine be appointed to draft a Constitution and By-Laws for the government of said Grand Chapter when organized;

“RESOLVED, That an invitation be extended to the Grand Patron of the Grand Chapter of the State of Indiana, it being the nearest Jurisdiction, to be present at the time named for the organization to preside and instruct the officers chosen for the Grand Body;

“RESOLVED, That the District Deputy Grand Patron, Bro. R.E. Moore, be authorized and empowered to execute all preliminary arrangements necessary for the consummation of the object herein names.”

On motion of Sis. J.E. Everett, the resolutions were adopted. The Chairman appointed on the Committee on Constitution and By-Laws Sisters R.D. Boone, L. Joiner, J.E. Everett, A. Moody, C. Curl, M. Clayton, Brothers R.E. Moore, B.S. Harris and R. Green. On Motion of Bro. R.E. Moore, the convention adjourned to meet at the call of the Chairman. Carried.

Tuesday, March 18, 1890, at the hour of 10:00am, Bro. R.E. Moore, District Deputy Grand Patron, called to order the convention assembly for the purpose of effecting the organization of the Grand Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star, as set forth in the resolutions adopted at the previous convention, September 11th, Sis. J. Everett, Acting Secretary. Prayer was offered by Sis. R.D. Boone. The Secretary, Sis. Everett, read the proceedings of the previous convention. On motion, a Committee of five on Credentials was appointed as follows: Sisters A. Moody, Laura Joiner, F. Lewis, Brothers B.S. Harris and R. Green. The Committee on Credentials presented the following:

“To the Sisters and Brothers, Member of the Order of the Easter Star; We your committee have the honor to submit the following as our report:

“We have examined the credentials and we find the following named Sisters and Brothers duly accredited

representative of regular Chapters and are entitled to a voice and vote in this convention:

1. Electa Chapter, Chicago: Agnus Moody, Rebecca D. Boone, L. Dorsey, Rosie Moore, Mary E. Davenport, H. Buckner; Brothers Joseph W. Moore, John Williams.
2. Talma Chapter, Chicago: J. Everett, F.A. Lewis, M. Whitfield, M. Harris, M. Clayton, L. English, F. Brown; Brothers Richard E. Moore, Bail S. Harris.
3. Estella Chapter, Springfield: J. Donnigan, L. Joiner, N. Brown
4. Golden Gate Chapter, Gibson City: Bro. R. Green
5. Electa Chapter, Brooklyn: Brother Richard E. Moore, proxy.
6. Queen Esther Chapter, Jacksonville: F. Lewis, proxy.
7. Princess Hagar Chapter, Chicago: Sis. C.A. Curl

On motion of Sis. N. Brown the report was approved. Bro. R.E. Moore then presented Bro. A.H. Rogan, Grand Patron of the Grand Chapter of Indiana, and Bro. Henry Moore, Past Grand Patron of Indiana, and Sister Heron, of Indiana. After congratulatory remarks from the distinguished Sister and Brothers and response by Bro. R.E. Moore and Sister R.D. Boone, Bro. A.H. Rogan proceeded to open a Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star in regular form. After preliminary arrangements had been accomplished and the call read and approved, it was moved by Bro. R.E. Moore that the legal representatives of the seven Chapters represented proceed to organize a Grand Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star, for the State of Illinois and Jurisdiction. Motion Carried.

The Committee on Constitution and By-Laws presented a Constitution and By-Laws for the government of the Grand Chapter, which was read, received and afterwards adopted by sections. The Chapter was then called off at the hour of 12:30 to meet again at 2:00. At 2:00, the Grand Patron Bro. A.H. Rogan, called the Chapter to order. Prayer was offered by the Grand Chaplain. The Secretary read the minutes of the previous session, which were approved. The members of the Chapters then proceeded to the election of officers. The following named were chosen for the first Grand Officers of the Grand Chapter:

- Worthy Grand Matron: Sis. Rebecca D. Boone
- Worthy Grand Patron: Bro. Richard E. Moore
- Associate Grand Matron: Sis. Laura Joiner
- Associate Grand Patron: Bro. R. Green
- Grand Treasurer: Sis. Agnus Moody
- Grand Secretary: Sis. F.A. Lewis
- Grand Conductress: Sis. Rosie Moore
- Associate Grand Conductress: Sis. M. Clayton
- Grand Lecturer: Sis. H. Buckner
- Grand Chaplain: Sis. L.H. Reynolds
- Grand Adah: Sis. F.H. Brown
- Grand Ruth: Sis. M. Thomas
- Grand Esther: Sis. M. Barton
- Grand Martha: Sis. M. Harris
- Grand Electa: Sis. Mary Davenport
- Grand Marshal: Bro. A. Horn
- Grand Organist: Sis. L. English

The Chapter was then called off until 8:00. At 8:00 the members assembled at Arlington Hall, at which time Bro. Henry Rogan, assisted by Bro. Henry Moore of the Grand Chapter of Indiana, proceeded to install the officers of the Grand Chapter in the presence of a large number of members of the Order, and Ladies and Gentlemen, who had assembled to do honor to the occasion. Grand Patron Henry Rogan delivered a stirring address to the members of the Order and made proclamation that the Grand Chapter of the State of Illinois and Jurisdiction legally and regularly organized.

Thursday morning, March 19th, at 10:00, the first session of the Grand Chapter was opened in the Masonic Hall, corner of State and Sixteenth Streets. Worthy Grand Matron, R.D. Boone and Worthy Grand Patron R.E. Moore in the East. After divine service conducted by the Grand Chaplain, the Grand Matron declared the Grand Chapter open and ready for any business that may regularly be brought before it. Addresses were delivered by several officers, all joining in a season of general rejoicing for the success attending every effort put forth to accomplish such pleasing results. A vote of thanks was tendered the Grand Patron of Indiana, Bro. H. Rogan, and Bro. Henry Moore, who assisted likewise to Bro. R.E. Moore, the Grand Patron, and Sister R.D. Boone, the Grand Matron, who had labored so hard for the success of the organization.



HOLY ROYAL ARCH MASONS

ROYAL AND SELECT MASTERS



Holy Royal Arch Masons of the State of Illinois trace their roots to the State of Pennsylvania where the first Grand Chapter of Holy Royal Arch Masons was established. The First Independent African Grand Holy Royal Arch Chapter of North America was organized in Philadelphia on May 19, 1820. A schism within the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania occurred during this period which led to the formation of a second Grand Lodge, Hiram Grand Lodge, in the 1820s. As both Grand Lodges operated separately within the state through the 1840s, both maintained separate Concordant bodies throughout the rift producing multiple factions of Royal Arch Chapters within Pennsylvania during this time frame.

On June 14, 1844, Rising Sun Grand Chapter of Holy Royal Arch Masons was organized in affiliation with the Hiram Grand Lodge from Union Chapter #1, Jerusalem Chapter #2, St. John Chapter #3 and Friendship Chapter U.D. By October 1844 a separate convention was called in Philadelphia with delegates from Union, Jerusalem and Friendship Chapters for the purpose of forming a separate Grand Chapter. After failing to achieve the goal of the convention, Friendship Chapter shifted its affiliation to the First Independent African Grand Chapter in December of 1844 which later reorganized to secure affiliation with the National Grand Lodge in 1847. It, then, continued expansion efforts by forming Chapters in the States 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.

Holy Royal Arch Masonry has been in existence within the State of Illinois since the mid 1850s and traces its roots to the First Independent African Grand Chapter. By 1879, four Chapters, namely, St. Mark, St. John, Eureka and Mt. Moriah, had been established across various points within the state and, on October of 1879, they gathered in the city of Chicago and organized a Grand Chapter for the State of Illinois. On

October 9, 1879, the convention produced the Most Excellent Prince Hall Grand Chapter of Holy Royal Arch Masons for the State of Illinois and Its Jurisdiction. Most Excellent Companion Joseph W. Moore was elected the first Grand High Priest, Excellent Companion William D. Berry was elected the first Grand Secretary and the four Chapters of the Illinois Jurisdiction were renumbered accordingly:

- St. Mark Chapter #1 of Chicago
- St. John Chapter #2 of Springfield
- Eureka Chapter #3 of Chicago
- Mt. Moriah Chapter #4 of Cairo.

The roots of Cryptic Freemasonry in the State of Illinois stem from with the formation of Prince Hall Council #8, Royal and Select Masters from the Ohio Jurisdiction in 1923. The first Thrice Illustrious Master in Prince Hall Council from the State of Illinois was Illustrious Companion Josephus Cason. In the 1980s, Illustrious Cason convened with several Illustrious Companions to introduce the idea of the formation of a Grand Council for the State of Illinois. After two additional Councils had been formed in Peoria and Centreville, the three Councils surrendered their charters to the Grand Council of Ohio on September 22, 1984 and organized the Most Illustrious Prince Hall Grand Council, Royal and Select Masters for the State of Illinois (MIPHGC). The charter Grand Officers were:

- Grand Thrice Illustrious Master: James F. Clarke, Sr.
- Grand Deputy Master: William S. Brooks, II
- Grand Prin. Conductor of Works: Eugene Williams
- Grand Treasurer: Thomas Wilson, Jr.
- Grand Recorder: John W. Thompson, Jr.

New charters were, then, issued to the Illinois Councils:

- Prince Hall Council #1: Willie M. Gistover, T.I.M.
- Peoria Council #2: Ronald W. Boone, T.I.M.
- Ellis T. Moore Council #3: Cecil K. Crowe, T.I.M.



KNIGHTS TEMPLAR

KNIGHTS YORK CROSS OF HONOR



Historically, the Templar Order was established to protect pilgrims on their way to the Holy Land. As a military order, their efforts were performed with such zeal that Chivalric Masonry was designated to commemorate the qualities exhibited by those Knights of the past and the active promotion of the Order by English Freemasons led to her growth in America.

The first instance of the Order among American blacks was in the State of Pennsylvania in the 1820s. Passey Benjamine, native of the West Indies, was authorized by the Duke of Sussex, Grand Master of England, to establish Commanderies in America and the West Indies. Upon becoming a resident of Philadelphia, Benjamine became a member of the Philadelphia African Lodge and established St. George Commandery from her members in 1820. With additional Commanderies established by the early 1830s, the First African Grand Commandery of North America was formed in 1832. During this time frame a split occurred within the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania causing the creation of the Hiram Grand Lodge within the State. The schism spawned two separate Grand Commanderies in 1844. Both existed separately for more than thirty years until merging on October 20, 1881 into the United Grand Commandery of Knights Templar.

Commanderies within the State of Illinois were established from members of Holy Royal Arch Chapters within the stated and were initially subordinate to the First African Grand Commandery of Pennsylvania. As a sufficient number of Commanderies had been established in Illinois during the mid 1800s, the Prince Hall Grand Commandery of Knights Templar for the State of Illinois was established in 1882 from these roots.

A Priory is the highest Masonic York Rite body as it is a compilation of York Rite Masonry. Its Masonic Degree is called the "Knights of the York Cross of Honor" (KYCH) and only those who have been elected and served as a Worshipful Master of a Lodge,

an Excellent High Priest of a Holy Royal Arch Chapter, a Thrice Illustrious Master of a Royal and Select Master Council and an Eminent Commander of a Knights Templar Commandery are eligible for membership.

On May 9, 1997 in Chicago, Illinois, the Nation's third Priory in all of Prince Hall Masonry was chartered. John W. Thompson Priory #3 came into existence through the efforts of Charles M. Jones. At inception, there were only two other chartered Priors in the country namely Alpha Priory #1 of Ohio and John Gilmore Priory #2 of Pennsylvania. After receiving the degrees from Alpha Priory #1, Jones drove for the establishment of the order within Illinois which became a reality in 1997.

John W. Thompson, Jr. Priory #3 was named in honor of the foremost Masonic historian within the State of Illinois. A Past Master of Universal Lodge #65, Past Most Excellent Grand High Priest, Past Right Eminent Grand Commander and Grand Recorder for the Most Illustrious Prince Hall Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters, Thompson was a man among men with a legacy within the Order that was second to none. As such, his name was a fitting name to promote the highest York Rite Body within the state.

The charter officers of John W. Thompson Priory #3 included:

- Eminent Prior: Charles M. Jones, Jr.
- Deputy Prior: Elmer S. Redd
- Herald: Clyde L. Jenkins
- Treasurer: Archie Leach
- Registrar: Damon P. Anderson, Sr.
- Prelate: William F. Redmond
- 1st Lecturer: Tommy Sims
- 2nd Lecturer: Leroy Gary
- 3rd Lecturer: James A. Mitchell
- 4th Lecturer: Raymond Tucker
- Warder: Erlee Brown
- Sentinel: Odell Poole



ORIGINS OF THE HEROINES OF JERICHO



A “Heroine” is best described as a female hero. As we look for heroines, what better place to begin than The Holy Bible, from where all Masonic basics come. We look for connections and use the female connections as examples of virtue. We find in the three degrees of the Heroines of Jericho three distinct Masonic connections:

- **Mary** – Master Mason’s Daughter
- **Rahab** – Heroines of Jericho
- **Ruth** – The True Kinsman’s Degree

Mary, the mother of Jesus, homeless as her oldest son was being crucified on Calvary, became the responsibility of John the Evangelist. Such is the way of Master Masons when a brother dies; his responsibilities are now on the shoulders of the surviving “brothers.” (John 19: 26-27) Jesus, the Christ child, born to Mary would bear the sins of the whole world on his shoulders; would lay down his life, not just his left shoe, to redeem man’s bond; would suffer in three hours on the Cross more ridicule, more humiliation than all the women of the scarlet line. Mary’s life shows us that no matter whom you lose to death, you must live, and there is help for you.

Ruth represents one of the greatest lessons of fidelity and humility. Ruth became a widow at a young age. She sacrificed her own comforts for those of her mother-in-law Naomi showing an undying love not only for Naomi but also for her people and her God. As we make the strewing sign, we spread brotherly love and affection among people of the world, just as Ruth sought to sow the barley seeds. Naomi left alone with two young widows (Orpah and Ruth) and no visible means of support. Here, enters the duty of a Master Mason, the charge to take care of “widows and orphans.” Orpah went back to her father, but God had other plans for Ruth. Ruth’s marriage to Boaz unknowing to her became an avenue for the continuation of the scarlet line. In Ruth, two houses would be reunited, that of Abraham and Lot. In Boaz the “Scepter” of Judah would be placed in the right hand at the proper time. In Ruth, the scarlet reputation would be placed on her. (See Genesis 49) The marriage of Ruth and Boaz produced offsprings among the greats of history, ending with the greatest: Obed, Jesse, David, Solomon, Zerrubabel, Joseph and the last but certainly not the least, Jesus Christ – the end of the Scarlet Line that started with Eve and ended with Mary (Matthew 2:1-6)

Rahab was a harlot in Jericho and lived on a wall. Everyone looked down on her and her family because of her profession, that of prostitution. God’s plan claimed Rahab a place in history. The color red of her trade became the color of zeal and salvation. Rahab became the mother of Boaz through her marriage to Salmon. Marrying Salmon she became a part of a family that was destined to rule over all Israel, the house of Judah. Rahab’s promise to the spies was first to be saved from harm, and then saved from a life of sin.

The Heroines of Jericho follow the Scarlet Line, once a color of shame, now a color and emblem of salvation. No other symbol or emblem ties the whole Masonic structure together like the Scarlet Line. By tracing the history of Judeo-Christian world through the scriptures of the Holy Bible (Genesis, Matthew, Ruth), the rich history of the Scarlet Line’s beginning, and the strange twists it takes throughout its many side trips can provide a true grasp on the whole fabric of Freemasonry and its underlying lesson.

Six women are involved in the life of the Scarlet Line – Eve, Tamar, Ruth, Bathsheba, Rahab and Mary. In their lives rests the answer to some of the mysteries of the Masonic Fraternity and life itself. To Esau it was red, for he was born red, he sought red pottage from his brother Jacob, and sold his birthright to get it. The color red was a color of shame and hatred. To Judah, red was a color of prostitution as he went in unto his daughter-in-law Tamar, who bore him twins. The oldest was to receive the birthright. The Scarlet Line was put on Zerah’s hand but Perez came out first. Perez’s line took the cord to Egypt, passing it to Salmon and Rahab, the Heroine of Jericho. Rahab let the spies down by a Scarlet Line and hung a Scarlet Line in her window as a sign of redemption and acceptance. Salmon and Rahab passed the scarlet line to Ruth and Boaz, Ruth playing the harlot by sleeping at Boaz’s feet. Ruth and Boaz passed the scarlet line to Solomon. Solomon passed the scarlet line to Mary and Joseph to the end result, Jesus Christ.

The Scarlet Line came full route from shame to salvation, and, in all its travels, the whole scope of Freemasonry is taken to the love of God and love of man. The Scarlet Line reunited several houses along the way. The house of Shem through Salmon and the house of Ham through Rahab were reunited. The house of Abraham through Boaz and the house of Lot through Ruth were reunited. The house of Shem through David and the house of Ham through

Bathsheba were reunited. The houses of Isaac and Ishmael were reunited.

The color red we see in the Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine wearing a fez of unseamed cloth, scarlet in color and pyramid in shape. The color red touches upon the Blue Lodge, the Royal Arch, the Eastern Star, the Knights Templar, the Consistory, the Shriners and the Heroines of Jericho.

The Heroines of Jericho is not only a house of the Scarlet Line but also of virtuous women with a proud and rich heritage. God in His plans did not pick those who are above their fellow man, but the low, the cast-outs, the rejected, and the outcasts. Let the lesson of the Scarlet Line wrap around you, enfold you, and then you will understand the book of Revelation 5:1-5 and Revelation 7:4-14, how the Scarlet Line ended with Jesus Christ. The color scarlet is not a color of prostitution and loose living, but is a color of salvation that comes through Jesus Christ.

Scarlet is the color of blood, and it was through the blood of Jesus that came down through 14 generations from Abraham to David; 14 generations from David to the carrying away of the captives; and 14 generations from the carrying away of the captives to the birth of Jesus Christ. In these three sets of generations we find the degrees of the Heroines of Jericho as well as all of the degrees in the Masonic Fraternity. (Matthew 1)

In the Scarlet Line Eve is redeemed, Rahab is raised from a fallen state, in Ruth what you see is not always what you get – think not about what others may say or do if your path is straight, and your cause is right, and in Mary we see a blessed woman. All united to bring forth a man to wear the scarlet robe, Jesus, the end of the Scarlet Line to be unraveled only in heaven where all aprons will be cast aside and all will wear white robes, made white by being washed in the Blood of the Lamb.

All things treasured are not necessarily riches; all things rejected, are not necessarily garbage or worthless. The people and Judah saw whoredom in Tamar. God saw the beginning of the Scarlet Line. The people saw prostitution in Rahab. God saw an instrument to save His people. The people saw Lot's daughters committing incest. God saw the continuing of a people. The people saw the Moabites as accursed of God. God saw one that was fairest among thousands. Boaz's oldest kinsman saw Ruth as a prostitute. God saw the ancestor of a savior. The people and Nathan saw Bathsheba as an adulteress. God saw her as mother of Solomon. The people saw Mary the adulteress, and would, "put her aside." God saw a virgin that became the mother of a savior. The Law brought Ruth and Boaz together; The Prophecy was fulfilled through their coming together in Bethlehem of Judea; the Bloodline was established through their union and continued down through David and Solomon; and all degrees of Freemasonry manifested.

The Heroines of Jericho made its first appearance in Illinois around 1855. During the slavery times, the Heroines in Illinois were very helpful to the slaves escaping from the South along the Mississippi River by operating along the Underground Railroad to the states up North. Brother Alexander Clark set up the first Court of Heroines of Jericho in Illinois on September 1, 1863. The first Court was named Shiloh #1 of Springfield and was followed by:

- Esther #2 – Chicago
- Charles Sumner #3 – Cairo
- St Mary #4 – Peoria
- Queen Elizabeth #5 – Brooklyn
- Queen Esther #7 – Moline
- Mt. Olive #33 – Galesburg

Brother William L. Darrow, the third Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Illinois received a certificate from the Grand Encampment to organize Courts in the State of Illinois. Seven courts being organized, Grand Master Benjamin F. Rogers held a convention in the City of Chicago in 1877 to organize a Grand Court. With all of the aforementioned Courts present, the officers of the first Grand Court were elected:

- Agnes Moody, Grand Most Ancient Matron
- J. H. Washington, Grand Most Worthy Joshua
- H. E. Vaughn, Grand Senior Matron
- L. Scott, Grand Treasurer
- Rebecca D. Boone, Grand Secretary
- Benjamin F. Rogers, Grand Superintendent

The office of Grand Superintendent was eliminated about 1884.

From the time of its organizing in 1877, the Grand Court in Illinois has continued to progress. The Grand Court joined the General Conference of Grand Courts, Heroines of Jericho in 1926. The Grand Court of Illinois is among the oldest of the Grand Courts on the Roster of the General Conference of Grand Courts and has been honored to serve the General Conference of Grand Courts in various leadership roles. In addition, the Most Ancient Prince Hall Grand Court, State of Illinois has been instrumental in directly and indirectly organizing courts of Heroines of Jericho in Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Indiana and has remained an advocate of continued growth.



LADIES OF THE CIRCLE OF PERFECTION



At the 3rd Annual Banquet of the MIPHGC, Lady Juanita Taylor of New Jersey was in attendance adorning a Purple Fez representing her Ladies of the Circle of Perfection Court (LOCOP). This impressed Heroines Doris T. Anderson and Ethel Jones prompting both to inquire if such a house could be established in Illinois. As instructed by GTIM Clarke, a list of interested Heroines of Jericho and Eastern Stars was compiled and thirteen answered the call to assemble on February 14, 1989 at the home of Past Grand Master Levi L. Rose to form the LOCOP Study Club. After appointing Joyce Walkup as the organizational Secretary, GTIM Clarke explained the regalia and the direction from Grand Master Archie C. Senter that interested females must be members of the Order of the Eastern Star. With all in agreement, Illustrious Companion Eugene A. Williams conducted the election of officers with the following results:

- President: H. Lorraine Jeter
- 1st Vice President: Joyce Walkup
- 2nd Vice President: Jeanette D. Gary
- Treasurer: Martha Walker
- Secretary: Naomi L. Washington

Appointed officers included:

- Assistant Secretary: Beverly Sampson
- Corresponding Secretary: Marie Burris
- Chaplain: Doretha Tarleton
- Sgt. At Arms: Leona Edwards
- Lady on Courtesy: Maple Spearmon
- Historian: Mary L. Jones
- Ways & Means Chairman: Jeanette D. Gary
- Advisor: Levi Rose
- Advisor: Leroy Gary
- Advisor: Oscar McDonald

The Study Club continued to meet for the next two years until degree work on a larger scale was performed on September 2, 1991. With the added stipulations that female and male members must be Heroines of Jericho and Royal & Select Masters respectively, sixty-three were inculcated and formed into four LOCOP Courts:

1. Prince Hall Court
2. Ellis T. Moore Court
3. James E. Anderson Court
4. Robert Williams Court

Upon the approval of Grand Master James Gayles, GTIM Eugene Williams formed the Levi H. Morris Grand Court on September 5, 1992. The first officers were:

- Royal Grand Perfect Matron: Doris T. Anderson
- Royal Grand Deputy Matron: H. Lorraine Jeter
- Royal Principal Conductress: Rachel Carter
- Royal Grand Treasurer: Carol Anderson
- Royal Grand Secretary: Naomi L. Washington
- Royal Grand Assoc. Conductress: Dollie L. Sanders
- Royal Grand Cond. of Ceremonies: Ethel M. Jones
- Royal Grand Chief Advisor: Leroy R. Gary
- Royal 1st Advisor: John Kindle
- Royal 2nd Advisor: Norris Gleaves
- Royal Grand Lecturer: PGTIM James F. Clarke, Sr.

On November 19, 1993, the MIPHGC and the LOCOP participated in a marriage ceremony uniting the Grand Council and Grand Court which produced an enduring relationship of the Grand Cryptic Rite in Illinois.



HEROINES TEMPLAR CRUSADES

While the Templar Crusades often focus on the male aspect of the battles, history reveals that several women led by Eleanor of Aquitaine, of Guinne, France fought in Templar battles as well specifically within the second Panim War. Eleanor was the descendant of William I, the Conqueror, King of England, and the Sanford Family. The daughter and heiress of William X, Duke of Aquitaine and her mother Aenor de Chatellerault, she was the daughter of Aimeric I, Vicomte of Chatellerault. At age 15, she married Louis VII of France in 1137, shortly before his accession to the throne. In 1152 their marriage was annulled but, soon afterwards, she married Henry, Duke of Normandy, who in 1154 became Henry II of England. Eleanor was well known for organizing women to assist in the Second Crusades in the years 1147-49. Eleanor, Queen of France, organized many women throughout the lands to assist the Knights Templar in their quests. These women, these Heroines, when they saw the Saracens taking the Cross of Christ, spitting on it, and trampling it under their feet, rushed into battle with the swords of the dead Templars. They fought and continued the fight until they won the war.

In 1914, in the City of Marshall Missouri, at the 30th Annual Grand Conclave of the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar, Eminent Sir Willis G. Mosley, Right Eminent Grand Commander instituted the organization of an auxiliary among the ladies of Knights Templar and assigned Eminent Sir Milton J. Fields, Past Grand Commander, to form the auxiliary. After finding the history and connection to the Knights Templar, he named them Heroines of the Templar Crusades, as they played a very important part during the Crusades against the infidels. In 1917, in the City of St. Louis, Missouri, the First Guild of the Heroines of Templar Crusades was formed with Princess Celia Johnson as Princess Captain. Princess Fannie G.W. McDonald was given full authority to organize Guilds. After forming three Guilds, a Grand Guild was formed on September 25, 1918 with Princess McDonald as Grand Princess Captain.

By 1919, Princess McDonald had set up Guilds in Illinois, California, Michigan, Ohio, Texas,

PRINCESSES YORK CROSS OF HONOR



Pennsylvania Kentucky and District of Columbia. As three Guilds had been formed in Illinois, a Grand Guild for the State of Illinois was organized in the City of Peoria by Sir Knight Albert R. Lee, Past Right Eminent Grand Commander of the Prince Hall Grand Commandery Knights Templar on August 13, 1919 and adopted by the Prince Hall Grand Commandery by Eminent Sir Andrew A. Henderson, Past Eminent Grand Commander. Princess Hattie A. Woolridge was the first Grand Princess Captain and the first Conclave was held on Tuesday, November 11, 1919, in the city of Champaign, Illinois.

The Levi L. Rose Priorate #1 was the first Princesses of the York Cross of Honor (PYCH) Priorate established in the United States and abroad. It was named after the 33rd Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Illinois, Most Worshipful Brother Levi L. Rose, who was a very influential mason within the Illinois Jurisdiction. He thoroughly supported progress of Masonic ideals across the various appendant bodies within the state. The Priorate was established and adopted by the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Illinois on April 28, 2000 in a ceremony officiated by the KYCH and presided over by the 39th Grand Master, Most Worshipful Brother Willie B. Evans, Sr. Only those who have been elected and served as a Worthy Matron of an OES Chapter, Ancient Matron of a Heroines of Jericho Court, Royal and Perfect Matron of a Ladies of the Circle of Perfection Court and Princess Captain of a Heroines of the Templar Crusades Guild are eligible for membership.

The first Eminent Prioress appointed to command the helm of the Priorate was Princess Ethel M. Jones, wife of the first KYCH Eminent Prior, Charles M. Jones, Jr. The charter officers included:

- Eminent Prioress: Ethel M. Jones
- Deputy Prioress: Yvonne German
- Warder: Dorothy Wood
- Treasurer: Emily McClendon
- Recorder: Shirleyann Walker

The Priorate has since expanded its membership into the States of New York, Tennessee and beyond.



SHRINEDOM AND THE DAUGHTERS OF ISIS



Shrinedom has a long and colorful history. The Order was established as an Imperial Council of Prince Hall Shriners on June 3, 1893, in Chicago, Illinois, by thirteen Prince Hall Masons under the leadership of John George Jones. They met in the Apollo Hall on State Street where Palestine Temple was organized. On June 10, 1893, Jones and his associates organized the Imperial Grand Council of Prince Hall Shriners. Jones, who was an attorney, immediately went about organizing Prince Hall Shrine Temples in Los Angeles, Washington D.C., Jacksonville, Florida, Indianapolis, Indiana, Baltimore, Maryland, Kansas City and St. Louis, Missouri, New York City, New York, Cleveland, Ohio, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Providence, Rhode Island, and Virginia.

In September of 1899, Isaac L.W. Holland, the Illustrious Potentate of Pyramid Temple in Philadelphia, sent out a call to members of Prince Hall Shrine Temples within the nation to meet with him for the purpose of reorganizing the Imperial Grand Council. On December 12, 1900, a meeting was held in Philadelphia with officers and members attending from Temples in Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and from Alexandria, Virginia. At this meeting the Imperial Council was reorganized and the order adopted a new name: Imperial Council of the Ancient Egyptian Arabic Order Nobles Mystic Shrine of North and South America and its Jurisdiction, Incorporated. The first annual session of the Imperial Council was held on September 25, 1901, in Newark, New Jersey where a Constitution was formally adopted designating the Imperial Council as a charitable, benevolent, fraternal and social organization. Following 1901, expansion of the Order continued which bolstered its presence in the Desert of Illinois to the following:

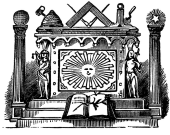
- Arabic #44, Chicago
- Kamar #56, Peoria
- Sudan #69, Champaign
- Bagdad #104, Cairo
- Masqat #122, Rock Island
- Aahmes #132, East St. Louis
- Shawall #165, Waukegan
- Al Hamid #222, Joliet

The Imperial Court, Daughters of Isis, is an auxiliary of female family members of Prince Hall Shriners, and was formally organized at the annual session of the Ancient Egyptian Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, held in Detroit, Michigan, on August 24, 1910. The establishment of the Imperial Court was the result of a meeting held in 1909, when women representing the Daughters of Isis (DOI) from Maryland, Rhode Island and Washington, DC, met with a committee of Prince Hall Shriners and requested the formation and recognition of an organization for their female relatives. Its purpose is to unite the relatives of all members of the A.E.A.O.N.M.S. into one common bond of friendship, to practice charity and benevolence, and to inculcate honor and integrity as symbolized in the legend of the Egyptian queen, the goddess Isis.

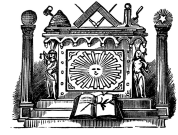
Arabic Court #21 was the first Daughters of Isis Court chartered in the State of Illinois. At the time of charter, Daughter Elizabeth Graves of Chicago was the Grand Commandress of the Imperial Court serving from 1925 to 1927. Under her term and those of her successors, the following Illinois Courts were established from members of Arabic Court and Daughters within the respective locales with some Courts being numbered after DOI Courts which had dissolved long ago:

- Shawall #4, Waukegan
- Sudan #19, Champaign
- Aahmes #84, East St. Louis
- Bagdad #111, Cairo
- Kamar #113, Peoria
- Masqat #167, Rock Island
- Al Hamid #203, Joliet

Through tremendous growth, the Worldwide Fraternal Shrine Family has an extensive membership in Shrine Temples and Daughters of Isis Courts throughout the Continental United States and abroad. Dedicated to the principles of fostering civic, economic and educational development programs throughout the world, the Ancient Egyptian Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine is primarily a benevolent, charitable and fraternal organization.



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 - **Grand Chapter Holy Royal Arch Masons** - “Grand Chapter of Holy Royal Arch Masons in Illinois” by Carl Richardson, Charles Holiday and Daryl Andrews;
 - **Grand Court Heroines of Jericho** - “The Bible” by Most Worshipful Brother Howard Woods; Information compiled and edited by Sis. H. Lorraine Jeter;
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 - **Shrinedom and the Daughters of Isis** - “History of the Shrine” by Joseph A. Walkes, Jr.;
- HISTORICAL COMMITTEE:**
- Right Worshipful Brother Daryl Andrews, Chairman
 - Right Worshipful Brother Steven R. Coleman
 - Brother Kyle Andrews
 - Brother Troy Andrews
 - Sister Jasmine Brewer
 - Sister Sharithea Cherry
 - Worshipful Brother Carl Garner
 - Sister Tammy Hampton
 - Worshipful Brother Charles Holiday, Jr.
 - Worshipful Brother Carl Pickett
 - Worshipful Brother Sean Queen
 - Worshipful Brother Lawrence Walker
 - Worshipful Brother Lloyd Womack
- HEADS OF CONCORDANT HOUSES – 2010:**
- Sis. Paulette Brown, Worthy Grand Matron, OES
 - Bro. William Jackson, Worthy Grand Patron, OES
 - MEC. Melvin Crawford, Grand High Priest, HRAM
 - Sis. Sheryl Walton, Most Ancient Gr. Matron, HOJ
 - Bro. Jesse Smith, Most Worthy Grand Joshua, HOJ
 - MIC. Enoch Clark-Bey, Gr. Thrice Ill. Master, RSM
 - Sis. Clara Jackson, Royal Gr. Perf. Matron, LOCOP
 - IC. Walter Anderson, Royal Grand Advisor, LOCOP
 - Sis. H. Lorraine Jeter, GGC D. Gr. Matron, LOCOP
 - IC. Jerome Abner, GGC Gr. Royal Advisor, LOCOP
 - SK. Joseph Ryan, Rt. Emt. Grand Commander, KT
 - Sis. Dorothy Wood, Grand Princess Captain, HTC
 - SK. James Blanton, III, Grand Royal Advisor, HTC
 - SK. Walter Anderson, Eminent Prior, KYCH
 - SK. Raymond Tucker, Grand Master General, KYCH
 - Ill. Melvin Frierson, Dpty., Orient of Illinois, AASR
 - Sis. Clarice Walker, St. Gr. Loyal Lady Ruler, OGC
 - Daughter Anna M. Cooper, Deputy of Illinois, DOI
 - Noble R.C. Brown, Deputy of Illinois, AEONMS

Attest:

Roland G. Simon

Right Worshipful Brother Roland G. Simon
Grand Secretary



Edited By:

Daryl L. Andrews

Right Worshipful Brother Daryl L. Andrews
Historical Committee Chairman

Approved on this First Day of February, the year of our Lord, 2010 A.D., the year of Light 6010 A.L. by:

Otis W. Cromartie, Sr.

Most Worshipful Brother Otis W. Cromartie, Sr.
Grand Master



GRAND LODGE OF ILLINOIS

Founding Fathers



RICHARD HOWELL GLEAVES

One of the most prominent Freemasons of the 19th Century, Richard Howell Gleaves was the Deputy of the Grand Lodge of Ohio who made the trek to the City of Chicago to facilitate Masonic expansion in the State of Illinois. Gleaves instituted North Star Lodge #12 of the Ohio Jurisdiction under dispensation in the City of Chicago in 1851 by the authority of Most Worshipful Brother Griffin T. Watson, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Ohio.

EDWARD A. FULTON

Charter member of North Star Lodge #12, Edward A. Fulton was the first Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Ohio from the State of Illinois serving from 1863 to 1865. Also an abolitionist in the City of Chicago, Fulton would be succeeded as Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Ohio by another Chicago abolitionist in 1865.

HARRISON D. KING

Charter member of North Star Lodge #12 and Senior Warden of North Star in 1867, Harrison D. King called to order the convention of the Illinois subordinate Lodges of the Grand Lodge of Ohio, namely, North Star Lodge #12, G.T. Watson Lodge #16, and Central Lodge #19, to withdraw from the Grand Lodge of Ohio and form a Grand Lodge for the State of Illinois. King was elected the first Deputy Grand Master in 1867.

ISAAC H. KELLY

Underground Railroad Conductor, civil rights activist, advocate for educational rights and church deacon, Isaac H. Kelly was the charter Worshipful Master of G.T. Watson Lodge #16 and was elected the first Grand Treasurer of the Grand Lodge of Illinois in 1867.

HENRY BRADFORD

The Charter Worshipful Master of North Star Lodge #12, the first Lodge of Master Masons in the State of Illinois, Henry Bradford was a well-known abolitionist who helped many escape to freedom in Canada through the Underground Railroad from the City of Chicago. His efforts in conjunction with several other Chicago abolitionists drew the attention of Gleaves and the National Grand Lodge to the city in 1851.

JOHN JONES

Charter member of North Star Lodge #12, John Jones was the second Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Ohio from the State of Illinois serving from 1865 to 1867. Also an abolitionist, entrepreneur and civil rights activist, Jones served as the official correspondent to the National Grand Lodge for the Illinois Jurisdiction.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN ROGERS

Underground Railroad conductor, civil rights activist, advocate for educational rights for black children and charter Worshipful Master of Central Lodge #19 of Springfield, Benjamin Franklin Rogers was elected the first Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Illinois in 1867 and issued the first warrants for subordinate Lodges of the Illinois Jurisdiction to North Star Lodge #1 of Chicago, G.T. Watson Lodge #2 of Alton, and Central Lodge #3 of Springfield.

WILLIAM LYMAN DARROW

Worshipful Master of North Star Lodge #12 in 1866 and 1867, Darrow was elected the first Grand Junior Warden of the Grand Lodge of Illinois in 1867 and hosted the convention to withdraw from the Grand Lodge of Ohio and form a Grand Lodge for the State of Illinois.