PRINCE HALL DAY

1976

128th Annual Prince Hall Day
O bservance at
Constitution Hall

A DAY TO REMEMBER

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1976

Prince Hall, A Champion of Justice

“There were giants in those days” - Genesis 6:4

Police Boys Club
D.C. Department of Recreation
McKinley High School Drum & Bugle Corps
Elks Marching Units
Ballou High School
Calvert County Strutters
Grand Lodge Officers
Subordinate Lodges
Visiting Brethren

On arriving at the location of the celebration, the lines invited to await the arrival of the Grand Master who, escorted by Mecca Temple No. 10 Drum & Bugle Corps, Mecca Temple’s Champion Youth Drill Team, the Eminent Commander in Chief of the Knights Templar and the R.W. Deputy Grand Master, led the procession of the Grand Lodge and carried into the auditorium where the service was held.

Highlighting the observance were the following features: Invocation rendered by the Rev. Robert G. Williams, Pastor of the Mt. Moriah Baptist Church of this city; an introductory statement by the R.W. Thomas L. Johnson, Junior Grand Warden and Chairman of the festivities; selections by the Howard University Choir under the directorship of Dr. J.W. Norris; Words of welcome by W. Mitchell P. Chappelle, Grand Senior Deacon; Words from the Holy Writ by W. Colonel Ernest W. Armstrong, Assistant Grand Chaplain; Selections by the Prince Hall Masonic Family Choir under the direction of W. William E. Branch, director; Remarks and Official Greetings from the District of Columbia by the Honorable Sterling Tucker, Chairman of the D.C. Council; Remarks by the Honorable James E. Taylor, M.W. Grand Master of the Jurisdiction of Massachusetts - home of the Mother Grand Lodge of Prince Hall Masons; Introductions by R.W. Dr. Edward E. Marshall, Jr., Deputy Grand Master, and remarks by the M.W. Colonel John D. Howard, Jr., Grand Master of D.C. Masons and the annual Prince Hall Day sermon given by the Reverend Benjamin J. Hooks, Commissioner of the Federal Communications Commission. The principal speaker was introduced by the R.W. Junior Grand Warden, Thomas L. Johnson. Concluding the memorable event was the benediction given by the Reverend Cortez Davis, Pastor of the Burrell Memorial Baptist Church.

Prince Hall - Patriot, Soldier during the Revolutionary War. Clergyman. Civic Leader and Progenitor of Prince Hall Masonry - has rightfully been called a true “Champion of Justice” because he was the first proponent of civil rights.

This noble son of English and Black-French parents was born in Bridgetown, Barbados (B.W.I.) on or about September 1, 1748. Early in his youth, about age 15 or 17, he left his native home and, working passage on a sailing vessel bound for Boston, Massachusetts, established residence in that city on or about March 1765.

Immediately after settling there, he engaged in the leather-working trade which he had learned from his English father and, upon reaching age 25, had
The Meaning Of Freemasonry

Grafton J. Daniels
W. Grand Editor-in-Chief, Emeritus

THE GENERAL REGULATIONS OF THE CRAFT

PART THREE

"Leges Scriptae"
The Written Laws of Masonry

One of the first tenets imparted to a brother upon his admission to the Craft is that "Leges Scriptae" are the written laws of Masonry. These laws are binding on all Masonic jurists and are considered general in their nature because all Masonic authorities established since that period have derived their existence from the Grand Lodge in England which was organized in 1717. Hence, the regulations adopted by that body, at the time of its organization and immediately thereafter or by its predecessors, the General Assemblies of the craft, were of universal authority at the time of their adoption.

Shortly after that time, in 1721, however, other Grand Lodges were established with equal powers to enact regulations governing the administration of their own jurisdiction.

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In this issue

"In a general treatise on the Laws of Masonry, local regulations can, of course, find no place except when referred to in the illustration of a point of Masonic Law." Mackey

With the establishment of new Grand Lodges, "Local Regulations" — enactments by those Grand Lodges and the Grand Lodge of England became the laws, the authority of which applied only in those jurisdictions over which they exercised control.

Mackey states, "The code of General Regulations with the Landmarks constitute the foundation upon which the whole superstructure of Masonic law is erected.

To make an accurate inquiry into the science of Masonic Jurisprudence, particularly the statutory laws, it is necessary that all documents which contain the universal written laws of Masonic law by duly examined and enumerated.

It is reputed that the following documents, and only those, contain the General Regulations and the fundamental Constitutions of the Order and are competent and indisputable authority for reference..."
The 128th Annual Grand Communication

M.W. Prince Hall Grand Lodge F. & A.M. of the District of Columbia

December 8-10, 1976

(Agenda)

Wednesday, December 8, 1976

12:00 Noon - Official Opening of Grand Lodge
1:45 P.M. - Reception of Visiting Delegations
3:30 P.M. - Grand Master’s Annual Address
7:30 P.M. - Public Forum, Masonic Temple

Thursday, December 9, 1976

11:45 A.M. - Reception of Fraternal Messengers Order of Eastern Star and Appendant Bodies
7:30 P.M. - Awards Banquet
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J.H.

The U.S. Treasury offers two types of savings bonds, Series E and Series H. The first type, Series E, provides a yield of 6% over a 5 year maturity. The purchase price of a Series E bond regardless of the denomination of the bond, is always 75% of its final maturity value. For example, if an investor buys a $25.00 bond he pays $18.75 for the bond. At the maturity date he redeems the bond and the Treasury will pay him $25.00. This type of bond does not pay interest on a regular basis, such as money being kept in a savings account at a bank. The interest is received only at redemption. The Series E bonds, once purchased, cannot be redeemed for cash until two months after the original purchase date. Also if an investor redeems or liquidates his Series E bond prior to maturity, his effective return works out to be less than the 6% received if held to maturity.

The second type of savings bond is called the Series "H" bond. This security has a 10 year maturity and pays interest semi-annually. The first 5 years the rate of interest paid is 5.6% and the last 5 years the rate of interest is 6.5%. The yield of a Series H bond, if held from date of issuance to maturity is 6%. Series H can be redeemed prior to maturity and the yield is somewhat less than the stated interest rate.

There are several advantages of owning Series E and Series H bonds. First, they can be purchased in small amounts, i.e., $25 denominations for Series E and $500.00 for Series H. Secondly, U.S. Savings Bonds can be purchased at any Federal Reserve Bank or branch as well as directly through the U.S. Treasury Department. Thirdly, they provide a rather attractive yield with protection against interest rate fluctuations which cause price changes in other fixed income securities. Fourthly, Series E bonds can be exchanged into Series H, but not vice versa, at any time during their life. Series E bonds also offer the investor an opportunity to automatically extend the maturity up to 10, 20 or 30 years after the original maturity date. The interest rate will be in accordance with the prevailing interest rate level prior to the start of each 10 year period.

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Page 4

Commissioner Hooks To Head N.A.A.C.P.

Dr. L. Benjamin Hooks will vacate his post as a U.S. Commissioner, the first black member of the Federal Communications Commission, to serve as the Executive Director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

The newly-elected N.A.A.C.P. Chief, chosen unanimously by the National Board at its meeting on Saturday, November 6, 1976, will replace Roy Wilkins who will retire after 20 years of dedicated and meritorious service to the civil rights organization.

In his new position as Executive Director, Dr. Hooks, continuing a colorful career as an outspoken champion and proponent of civil rights in his role as a minister, lawyer, judge and commissioner, will add a "New Dimension" to the organization's drive for social, political and economic justice for Black Americans.

"I have a sense of duty to make a better world."

Upon accepting his new position, Dr. Hooks, who hails from a family of pioneers imbued with a sense of "Service to Humanity" has declared, "I have a sense of duty to make a better world." He feels, also, that the challenge of that office will afford him a much greater opportunity for getting things done in achieving that ob

Dr. Benjamin L. Hooks
F.C.C. Commissioner

jective.

He has announced the following objectives that will have a high priority on his agenda when he assumes office.

(1) Equal employment opportunities for blacks in the Federal Government;

(2) Elimination of barriers in the communications industry which has limited the hiring of black representatives in the area of the news media.

Training for his new office began with his birth in 1976 in the state of Tennessee and a disciplined life molded by strict and stern parents who taught him that, "if you can't do things right, don't do it at all." Educated in the segregated schools of his state, his formal education was completed with a law degree received from De Paul University in Chicago. Turning down a wonderful opportunity to enter politics and an assured judgeship in the state of Illinois, he returned to his native state, vowing to devote his efforts in breaking down segregation.

In the late 1940's and 1950's, he worked on voter registration. His legal practice began in the segregated courts of Tennessee and led to his appointment as an assistant public defender but his color denied him the right of appointment as the Chief Public Defender. In 1965, Governor Frank Clement, a Democrat, appointed him as the first black judge of the Shelby County Criminal Court in Memphis and a year later he was elected to serve a full six year term in that capacity.

Following in the footsteps of his father and uncle, photographers, who started the second black business in Memphis in 1907, Director-Elect Hooks, a co-founder and vice president of Mutual Federal Savings and Loan Association in the city, is a strong proponent of}

See HOOKS, Pg 5
black capitalism and says, "I don't think we'll get our respect until we own our own business." Despite that philosophy, however, he also feels that, "Under our present system of capitalism, the corporations which are the backbone of that system must recognize a corporate duty regarding social problems and has been militant in his demands upon white corporate executives in excoriating them to recognize and accept those social responsibilities.

In 1972, urged by Senator Howard Baker, Republican-Tenn., President Nixon appointed Dr. Hooks to the Federal Communications Commission and, since his appointment, he has continually criticized the industry for their indifference to the hiring of blacks and other minorities. At the same time he has strongly condemned the television industry's failure to depict a real black society and its contributions to the cultural development of the nation.

Coming at a time when the N.A.A.C.P. is faced with bankruptcy as a result of litigation in the state of Alabama, Dr. Hooks will certainly revitalize and stimulate its effectiveness and enhance its efforts to achieve first class citizenship for all black Americans.

Dr. Hooks, a member of the Craft, is currently, the Right Worshipful Grand Secretary of the Jurisdiction of Tennessee.

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As I See It ★★

FELLOWS CRAFT ★★★

Let us first analyze our title and understand its meaning. "Fellow" denotes a companion or associate — one of the same kind, same position or an equal. "Craft" or "Craftsman" signifies one who practices a certain trade — especially a skilled or artistically inclined worker. It may also be defined as one who has learned the spiritual meaning of the word entered Apprentice and applies that knowledge in his daily life whereby he may attain a level of comprehension for the degree of "Fellowcraft" and benefit therefrom.

From the early history of Freemasonry, we learn that the "Fellows" or "Fellowcraft" constituted the main body of the fraternity while the Masters were the superintendents of the work. At the beginning of the 18th Century, the speculative character predominated, and the Apprentices became the body of the fraternity while the Fellowcraft and Master Masons were entrusted with its offices. Today, only Master Masons retain the prerogative of office.

The scripture from the Old Testament which applies to this degree is not by chance. In 1853 Rabbi Isaac Lesser made the following, direct translation of the Old Testament from the original Hebrew text: "As the builder erects his wall straight, by the plumbet, so shall he (Israel) be dealt with after the strict line of justice, with no longer indulgence for their crimes; no farther indulge them, more specific than pass by them anymore or overlook their transgressions. At the altar, when you observed the Three Great Lights of Masonry, it was to teach you that Masonry is a progressive science and as a positive fact that you were receiving only a partial light and that the spiritual was coming to the fore.

In many ancient religions the Divinity was conceived as a Trinity but the figure three as a symbol of God predates any trinitarian doctrine. Although many consider Masonry as a religion, it is not because it does not identify itself with any particular sectarian belief or theology. However, it does embrace or identify itself with the teachings of the Church because of her basic requirement that a man must believe in God. What is religion? It is the recognition of man's relation to a divine, superhuman power to whom obedience and reverence is due, as well as man's effort to attain the goodness of God.

As an Entered Apprentice, your obligations are to secrecy. As a Fellowcraft, your strict observance of sacred law becomes a necessary stepping stone between the solemnities of the Entered Apprentice Degree to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason.

Your life and progress in Masonry will depend upon how well you fortify your foundation while proceeding towards the entrance to King Solomon's Temple. What preparation must be made during your quest or search for that entrance? M.P. Hall state, "Only those are truly Masons who enter the temple of reverence, who seek not the ephemeral things of life but the treasures which are eternal; whose sole desire is to know the true mystery of the craft that they may join as honest workmen who have gone before as builders of the 'Universal Temple.'"

As a Fellowcraft, to enter into the presence of God, it is not enough to merely recognize His existence — one must desire to be in His presence and he must come of "His own free will and accord." We have a constant reminder that it must be in con-

See SUMLIN. Pg. 7

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NOTES, From Pg. 5
1976: Despite a last minute spurt by the Grand Old Party and an apparent attempt to discredit the Democratic candidate, Jimmy Carter defeated President Ford and his running mate, Congressman Dole. While the close victory did not indicate a strong voter mandate, it is evident that the Black, Ethnic and Labor votes played a significant role in the defeat suffered by the incumbent President and his party. The question that remains, however, is: "What will Jimmy do to re-unite the country?"
SUMLIN, From Pg. 6

formity with universal law.

What about the stairs, we ask? They are another significant symbol of the degree. One particular virtue which distinguishes man is courage. More courage is required to face the unknown than the known. The stairs of life lead us through many phases of life. For some it is the Middle Chamber of fame and fortune. For others they lead through pain and continuous frustration. Even the angel of death may stand with drawn sword on the very next step one may take.

Man's struggle through life has been from the savagery of the caveman to the dawn of civilization - from the brutish to the spiritual. Man's progress toward enlightenment has been through the darkness of ignorance, misery, cruelty, wrong, oppression, danger and despair.

In your further progress through Masonry you will also learn that the number Three is the first of a series of great sacred numbers of the ancient mysteries.

The ritual mentions the Three Steps which are a symbol of the three symbolic degrees through which a candidate must pass before he fully achieves the revelation of light or the knowledge he seeks. They are also symbolic of the three principle officers of the lodge, two groups of lights - each containing Three Lights or the "Three Gates of the Temple." Its fundamental symbolism relates to the three aspects of Deity or to the three planes of human existence, namely: Physical, Mental and Spiritual. If we are to accept the scriptural account of the Temple as being accurate, the "Winding Stairs" as stated in I Kings have a profound significance. In ancient times steps have been accorded a significant role in human experience.

Freemasonry has adopted much from the science of numbers exemplified by Pythagoras, the great philosopher, who taught that odd numbers were more perfect than even ones. Long before the advent of the Pythagorean Theory, the builders of the Temple erected stairs with an odd number of steps which permitted the climber to enter the sacred place at the top with the same foot in advance with which he began his ascent.

The most potent of numbers in the ancient religions was the number Seven which Pythagoras has called the "Perfect Number" because it was composed of two perfect figures, the "triangle" and the "square." It was considered as a virgin number because it could not be multiplied by any other number to produce a number within the number ten nor could it be produced through multiplication by a whole number.

The mythology of our ancient ancestors included the seven planets, the seven Pleiades, the seven Hyades and before the altar of Mithras burned seven lights. The Gothic religion had seven deities: the Sun, Moon, Tuiscio, Woden, Thor, Friga and Saturn from which are derived the seven days of our modern week. The ancient Jews swore by that number because witnesses and seven sacrifices were offered to attest the truth.

Further revelations bear out the perfection of the number seven. The sabbath is the seventh day. Noah received seven days notice before the advent of the Great Food and the Temple of Solomon required seven years before it's erection was completed.

Upon reaching the Middle Chamber, symbolic of that portion of the magnificent edifice erected by Solomon, the initiate is introduced to the science of architecture and presented with the tools of his art or trade. They are the tools that are to be used in the erection of the spiritual edifice of his life.

Man is a triune being, composed of Body, Soul and Spirit. The Plumb typifying the soul, is employed in the erection of perpendiculars. Thus, it represents the upward strivings or aspirations of man's soul toward God. The Body is the Level extending along the level of time toward perfection. In the erection of the perfect man the Soul is joined to the Body by a right angle triangle to form a Perfect Square by the juncture of the two lines.

To become proficient in the use of his tools, the Fellowcraft's attention is directed to the Seven Liberal Arts and Sciences: Grammar, Rhetoric, Logic, Arithmetic, Music, Geometry and Astronomy by means of which he is enabled to beautify his life edifice. While the first three are most important in the exercise of his art, they are in a sense secondary to Geometry and its offshoots which are considered as the vital science of measurement.

Twenty-three centuries ago, Plato, the eminent Greek Philosopher, said, "God is always geometrizing." Among the offshoots of the science of Geometry are Astronomy and Astrology which were considered as a single science by the ancients, the latter of which is especially recommended to Masons as a subject for particular study.

The degree seeks to impress upon the mind of the candidate one basic tenet that, "Every Brother admitted within the walls of the Middle Chamber should heed the lessons inculcated and consider that, as a Freemason, he is a builder, not of a material edifice, but of a Temple more glorious than that of Solomon - a temple of Honor, See SUMLIN, Pg 10
ANOTHER DAY

A PICTORIAL REPORT

Prince Hall Day

Grand Master and Deputy Greet Hon. Sterling Tucker Chairman, D.C. City Council.

Commissioner Benjamin L. Hooks
Federal Communications Commission
Addresses Craft on Prince Hall Day.

Hon. James E. Taylor, M.W.G.M.
Jurisdiction of Massachusetts
brings greetings from
Mother Grand Lodge.

An Unforgettable Day At Constitution Hall

Hon. Harold S. Manner, M.W.G.M.
brings greetings from the
Jurisdiction of Pennsylvania.

Grand Master Cited By Bicentennial Commission

Grand Master Howard Honored by Bicentennial Commission.

Page 8
REMEMBER

Grand Worthy Matron Brings O.E.S. Greetings

Deputy Grand Master Congratulating R. W. Thomas L. Johnson, Chairman of Prince Hall Day.

Deputy Grand Master Introduces Distinguished Guests.

Georgiana Thomas Grand Chapter and O.E.S. honor Prince Hall.

Rev. Coretz Davis Giving Benediction

R.W.G. Chaplain Armstrong Reading Words from the Holy Writ.

Rev. Robert O. Williams Invokes Aid of Deity.
Success has finally come to Jesse War, who for eight years, as the only black member of the Prince Georges County Board of Education, has staged a long and bitter fight over desegregation of the county school system.

Beginning in 1973 when the court-ordered plan for busing was implemented, War has been virtually alone in his stand that the board utilize every possible means of preventing resegregation of county schools even if additional busing of students was necessary in order to comply with the court's order.

The board is now planning to name the 55 year old War as its new chairman to replace Sue V. Mills whose one term as chairperson will expire in December. Ms. Mills, leader of the conservative element of the board, has announced her intent to resign. Mr. War for the chairmanship of the board despite her adamant opposition to his desegregation theories. During the board meeting last week, she highly praised War as "a man of strong persuasion, dedicated service, and exceptional perception."

The selection of Mr. War for the coveted seat of prestige was virtually assured during last week's elections when two conservative members, Nicholas R. Eny and Kathleen Barker lost their seats on the board to moderates Susan B. Bieniasz and Joann T. Bell. Norman H. Saunders, who is expected to be named to succeed Mr. War as Vice President of the Board when he assumes office as its President this May 22.

The selection of Mr. War to head the public school system comes at a time when black enrollment in the county's schools is increasing rapidly. Among the current year's student population, blacks comprise 37 per cent of the total enrollment in the county's 220 schools, an increase from 34 per cent during 1975 and 29 per cent in 1973 when implementation of the court-ordered desegregation plan was implemented.

Confucius say: -

"Man, who talk, say much. . . . . . . .
"Man, who write, say more. . . . . . .
"But, picture speak louder. . . . . . . .

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ARCH, From Pg 10
day, 17th. The Grand Chapter was represented at both the Divine Service of Jonathan Davis Consistory No. 1, A.A.S.R., 32nd, and Ionic Lodge No. 17, PHA. Saturday, 30th we were represented at the 156th Annual Grand Convocation of the Most Excellent Grand Chapter of the jurisdiction of Pennsylvania, held in Philadelphia; Saturday, 13th, Annual Convocation of the Jurisdiction of Maryland.

COMING EVENTS:
GRAND CONVOCATION - Saturday, November 20, 1976 9 a.m. North Hall Masonic Temple ANNUAL RED, WHITE and GOLD BALL - Friday, January 14, 1977, Masonic Temple Ballroom

EASTERN ALLIANCE SESSION - Saturday, January 15, 1977: North Hall, Masonic Temple.

In the next issue we will endeavor to bring you a history of Royal Arch Masonry in the District of Columbia.

Under The Sword.

KNIGHTS TEMPLAR IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA


The following officers were duly installed: Sir John T. Costin, Eminent Commander; Sir John A. Gray, Generalissimo; Sir Ananias Herbert, Captain General; Sir James Hebron, Prelate; Sir Carter A. Stewart, Treasurer; Sir John F. Lemmons, Recorder; Sir W.H. Edinburgh, S.W. Sir Charles Hunt, J.W.; Sir William H. Thomas, S.B.; and Sir William Tunna, Warden.


Mount Calvary Commandery No. 14, chartered 1872, A.O. 751 by the G.C. of the D.C. Sir John A. Edwards, Eminent Commander; Sir A.W. Tucker, Generalissimo; Sir T.A. Jackson, Captain General; Sir A.W. Tancil, Prelate; Sir John H. Burrrill, Treasurer; Sir John N. Dorset, Recorder; Sir R.N. Morris, A. Jackson; Sir Thornton Davis, J.W.; Sir Jeremiah Cropper, Warden Guard. The officers were duly installed by the grand officers.

The GRAND COMMANDERY - Grand Commandery of Knights Templars organized January 16th 1871, for the District of Columbia. Rising Sun Commandery, No. 11, Baltimore, Md. Simon Commandery, No. 12, Henderson Commandery, No. 13, and Gethsemane Commandery, No. 16, working under the charter of the Grand Commandery of Philadelphia, Pa., met in convention on the above date and elected grand officers as follows:

Em. Sir Win. H. Thomas, Grand Commander; Sir Charles Howard, Deputy Grand Commander; Sir Charles H. Twine, Gr. Generalissimo; Sir Adolphus H. Lewis, Grand Captain; Sir Charles H. Twine, Grand Prelate; Sir Horace Smith, Grand Senior Warden; Sir John W. Heard, Grand Junior Warden; Sir James H. Jackson, Grand Treasurer; Sir John G. Goines, Grand Recorder.

The three old Commanderies surrendered their old warrants and took out warrants dated January 16th, 1871, and the following Commanderies have been chartered since: Mt. Lebanon, No. 2, chartered January 16th, 1871; Henderson, No. 2, chartered January 16th, 1871; Gethsemane, No. 3, chartered January 16th, 1871; Mount Calvary, No. 4, chartered January 16th, 1871; Georgia, No. 7, chartered January 16th, 1871; Savannah, Ga.


Simon, Henderson and Gethsemane Commanderies were organized as aforesaid by the Grand Commandery of Philadelphia, Pa. Mount Calvary, No. 4, Georgia, No. 7, and St. Philip's, No. 8 were chartered by the Grand Commandery of the District of Columbia.

Sirs William H. Thomas, John T. Costin, John A. Gray, David P. Jones, and Adolphus Hall were the founders of the higher degrees of Masonry in the District of Columbia.

At the Annual Grand Assembly of the John W. Freeman Grand Commandery, held, Saturday, October 9, 1976, the following Officers were elected and appointed;


Over The Broken Triangle

In 1960 King Solomon Council No. 5, Royal and Select Masters, P.H.A. was organized and received their Charter in 1961. The first Council was composed of Herbert A. Bates, Lloyd A. Tyler and Emmanuel Weaver. Omega Council No. 6, was organized in 1961 and received its Charter in 1962 with John Sade, Samuel Jackson and Harry D. Fleming sitting in the Council. The Chapters were issued by the Prince Hall Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of the State of New York adn Jurisdiction under which they still work. Since that time we have had two Past Grand Thrice Illustrious Masters, namely Samuel A. Jackson and the late John I. Slade.

Present Grand Council Officers are Illustrious Companions Clifford Burton (6), Grand Trustee and Grand Lecturer; Julius Snoddy (5), District Deputy Grand Thrice Illustrious Master, Osborne E. Brooks, Sr. (6), Grand Captain of the Guard; Linwood T. Johnson (6), Grand Conductor of the Council and Wilfred C. Medley(6), Grand Marshall. On Monday, November 1, 1976 the two Councils joined and gave the 8th Masonic Degree to eleven (11) candidates; the 9th and 10th degrees will be conferred on Monday, December 6th and Thursday, January 20th respectively.

We trust that your Bicentennial Year has been a Joyous One:

A — Always
J — Jesus
O — Others
Y — You
O — Our
U — United
S — States
O — One
N — Nation
E — Everlasting
A — MERRY CHRISTMAS and A HAPPY NEW YEAR to each and everyone remembering that without CHRIST there is not CHRISTmas.

O.E. BROOKS, Sr.
Your York Rite Editor
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Bicentennial Notes .......

Historical data on the lodges .... which failed to submit their resumes in time for publication of the Bicentennial Issue.

History of Warren Lodge

No. 8

1871 - 1976

by PDGM Elvin R. Sheppard
Secretary-Emeritus

In the spring of 1867, several brethren of the craft, sensing the need for another lodge in the jurisdiction of the District of Columbia for the dissemination of Masonic knowledge, petitioned the National Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania for a charter.

That Grand Lodge, after careful consideration of the petition and finding the brethren well-qualified for the great work of Masonry, granted their prayer and duly constituted the lodge as Warren Lodge No. 9, F. & A.M. of Washington, D.C. named in honor of General A.E. Warren, an American General in the Revolutionary War and a Past Grand Master of Masons of Massachusetts.

After serving under the National Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania for nearly four years, the lodge’s brethren felt that their interests could be better served in the jurisdiction of the District of Columbia and, accordingly, petitioned the Grand Lodge of that Jurisdiction for a warrant for a lodge therein. Meeting all necessary qualifications, the petition was granted and duly constituted on December 27, 1871 as Warren Lodge No. 8.

Installed as the first officers of the newly constituted lodge were the following brethren: James H. Thomas - Worshipful Master, W.H. Peach - Senior Warden, J.B. Hutchinson - Junior Warden, William Hill - Treasurer and C.H. Stokley - Secretary.

In 1887, a number of brethren demitted from the Lodge for the purpose of forming a new lodge to be later known as St. John’s Lodge No. 12. Several years later, in 1899, another memorable event transpired when a few of the wives, mothers, sisters and daughters of Master Masons in good standing petitioned the lodge for a dispensation of adoption. Their petition was granted after due consideration and examination and an Eastern Star Chapter was organized and became known as Queen of Sheba Chapter No. 2, O.E.S.


During the 109 years of its existence, the lodge has been loyal to its constituted authority and has credibly performed all duties delegated to them by the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia. On various occasions, members of Warren Lodge have been elevated by the Grand Lodge to stations and places of honor and trust. Among the past and active elective Grand Officers now serving in the jurisdiction are: M.W. P.G.M. Joseph N. Yearwood Jr., P.D.G.M. Elvin R. Shappard and Right Worshipful Grand Trustees Charles E. Lynch, William H. Braxton Jr. and Raymond L. Gray - Emeritus.

Throughout its venerable history the Masters, who have been elected to rule and govern the lodge, have drawn their designs upon the lodge’s Trestleboard which have been zealously executed by its brethren. Worshipful Master Paul H. Kelly, who now directs the destiny of the lodge, has been outstanding in the performance of his duties, assisted by the following elective officers now serving during this Bicentennial Year: Senior Warden, Francis J. Gantt; Junior Warden, P.M. William H. Braxton Jr.; Treasurer, Clarence J. Dendy; Secretary and P.D.G.M. Elvin R. Shappard - Secretary Emeritus.

The founders of our lodge believed that a part of Masonry’s great mission is the development of the better attributes of our nature, the schooling of our hearts to sublime emotions of charity and the attainment and realization of the fraternity’s objective - Brotherhood, the “Loving and Serving of One Another.” They left us a rich legacy of Masonic principles and, in accepting that heritage, we unite to make it serve as a noble purpose in our time as it served during the formative years of the lodge. The success of our noble endeavor will be greatly enhanced by bringing to our task the same devotion to human welfare and promotion of common good which inspired those in whose footsteps we now follow and seek to emulate.
"The first stone is or ought to be laid in the Northeast corner of the building where the effulgent rays of the sun shine continuously and provide light for the workmen as they engage in their operative work."

LAYING OF THE CORNERSTONE

AT
GRACE MEMORIAL
BAPTIST CHURCH

Grand Master Howard Speaks At Cornerstone Service

Grand Marshall Proclaims Laying of Cornerstone

Grand Master Pronounces Benediction

Grand Senior Warden Levels Stone

Congregation of Grace Memorial Baptist Church
Martha Chapter Holds Awards Banquet

On July 1, 1976, at the Annual Awards Dinner of the Georgiana Thomas Grand Chapter, Martha Chapter No. 11 was congratulated. We take pride in the fact that our members walked away with a total of twenty (20) awards, plus one that was received by a member of the family, of one of our members. Those receiving awards are as follows: The Minnie L. Banks Award was received by P.M. Blanche Webb, for having sold the highest number of tickets for the Grand Worthy Matrons Activity. The Edwards Bankett Award, was awarded to our Conductress, Sis. Eloise Hardy, this was the first year for this award, and a member of Martha Chapter was the first to win it. The Georgiana Thomas Memorial Award was also awarded to a member of Martha Chapter, Sis. Mamie J. Simmons, P.G.M. as the outstanding Past Grand Matron of the year, who is also our first sister to grace the Grand East. P.G.M. Simmons was ill and not present — the award was received by our Worthy Matron, Alma A. Jordan. The Thornton A Jackson Award was presented to P.G.P. Leroy Crummer, as outstanding Past Grand Patron of the year. P.M. Ethel H. Lomax was the recipient of a special award, presented by the Grand Worthy Matron, this award was also received by P.G.P. John Smith, P.G.M. Alice Lee, and J.R. P.M. Elmar Nichols. Another new award, The Gold Seal Club Award which was also received by members of Martha Chapter, they were Past Matrons, Ethel Lomax, Gracie Whitherspoon, Annie B. Harris, and Mamie Gary. Miss Robin Josey who is the niece of Sis. Olivia Tyson, she sang the scholarship award in the amount of $425.00, she sang a beautiful solo, which was enjoyed by all who were present.

To make the evening more complete, recognition of the following Sisters for having done the most outstanding degree work were as follows: W.M. Alma A. Jordan, Conductress, Eloise Hardy, Assoc. Conductress, Sarah Horn, Esther, Alma Burney, Martha, Ruby Fisher, Adah, Laura Werts and Chaplain, Atlanta Littlejohn. Praises be unto you Martha Chapter and to sum it all up in a word you’re Dy-no-mo-noono-mite.

Other events in the life of Martha Chapter No. 11 are, The Gala Day that was had by all on June 28, 1976 the fortieth Anniversary of Brother and Sister Edelbert Jenkins, which was held at Metropolitan Baptist Church, at 5 p.m. The affair was well attended by a host of their church, Masonic services, and Masonic dignitaries. The ladies of the evening were too numerous to name, presented a dazzling array of splendor, attired in their finest, looking from sunset to blushing pink. The men of the evening also presented quite a picture also, dressed in formats topped off with pink shirts. Past Matron, Honthalena Williams rendered a beautiful solo, and as usual was enjoyed by all. Sis. Mildred Bridges catered the affair, and as usual out did herself. She received many compliments.

Sisters Vivian Duncan and Josephine Stell of the Ways and Means Committee, together with Sisters, Margaret Patterson, and Alice Walker of the Visitation Committee, are to be congratulated for the successful Brunch Cruise which was held on July 15. 1976, the time was had by all. Sis. Catherine Mills Southall of E. Liverpool, Ohio, was among the many guests who adored the evening, together with G.W.M. Treasurer, one (1) Grand Trustee, one (1) Grand Chapter Reporter.

The Jewel Contest held in 1972 was revived to test the proficiency in exemplification of degree work. Datcher Chapter met the challenging criteria and received the second award for faultless performance. Worthy Matron Harris served as Electa that year and was presented $50.00. Five successive officers were also cited for performance. This was not a first since Datcher Chapter received first place in 1923 and held this honor for many years thereafter.

Listed below are just a few of the Awards. Conductress indica tifes that we have received:

1923 — Received a Gold Jewel for the best ritualistic work in this jurisdiction.
1935 — Placed first in the Grand Lodge Activity for reporting the highest amount of money.
1960 — Received the Taylor-Brooks Award for having the highest attendance at the Schools of Instruction.
1963 — Received the Second Sunday Masonic-OES Forum Attendance Award.
1964 — Minnie L. Banks Award for the highest amount of money reported for the Grand Worthy Matron's Activity.

International Grand Association Conductress Alice Stamp Jackson was presented the first Georgiana Thomas Award.
1965 — Won first place in the Great Esther's Day, the celebration held at Cannan Baptist Church.
1966 — Received the Minnie L. Banks Award for the highest amount of money reported for the Grand Worthy Matron's Activity.
1968 — Completed $500.00 life membership in the NAACP which was started in 1964.
1973 — P.G. James Ross received the Thornton A. Jackson Award for outstanding service to the jurisdiction.

In the 60's and 70's several officers were cited for proficiency in their work. The praise is given to the fine leadership through Worthy Matrons who encouraged us to press forward in our achievements. We have been inspired by the Past Officers serving in the Georgiana Thomas Grand Chapter. The work of the past stands as a beacon light to brighten our pathway.

Worthy Matron Harris has a list of outstanding events during 1976-First prayer breakfast held at the Temple, including Past and Present Officers;
2. M.W. Prince Hall Grand Lodge. Worshipful Masters of Datcher Lodge No. 15 and Warren Lodge No. 8 (Henry C. Patterson and Ruth Crayton), officers and past officers of the Chapter — an impressive start for the New Year.
3. A first — daughter Mrs. Valerie Harris Jones, in concert at the Masonic Temple in September. First hospitality hour outside of the Temple for the Past Matrons and Past Patrons at Channel Inn (Pier 7) in Southwest Washington, and first dinner-dance at Walter Reed's Army Officers Club, and a summer cruise to Bermuda.

Datcher Chapter is striving to maintain the high standards set by their predecessors. "We live in the present; we dream of the future; and we learn eternal truths from the past." Mme. Chiang Kai Shek.

HISTORY OF RUTH CHAP IN No. 8 1914-1978

Ruth Chapter No. 8, O.E.S. P.H.A. was organized June 12, 1914. Past Matron Minnie T. Conway of Miriam Chapter and Past Grand Matron William Wells of Gethsemane Chapter were the founders. Brother Henri Gordon and Sis. Julia Coleman Smith were the first officers to grace the East.

Sister Mabel Dye one of the Charter Members is still living. Ruth Chapter was awarded the honor of Honorary Charter Member on Past Matron Maude G. Worthington having joined two years later. The Chapter went on to achieve higher ambitions having four (4) Grand Worthy Matrons and five (5) Grand Worthy Patrons, two (2) Grand Lecturers, three (3) Assistants Grand Lecturers.

During the parade of progress many of the members have worked in key positions in the Georgiana Thomas Grand Chapter. We now have Past Matron Edna F. Brownie as Associate Grand Conductress of the Georgiana Thomas Grand Chapter.

Worthy Matron Ruby D. Funches and Worthy Patron William R. Smith are carrying on the tradition.

The Spirit of Love, Faith and Togtherness.

Motto — "In Unity there is strength".

Scripture Verse — "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills from whence cometh my help."
Psalm 121:1

BICENTENNIAL NOTES

HISTORY OF DATCHER CHAP IN No. 7 1904-1976

Datcher Chapter No. 7, O.E.S. — officers (2) to (4) per row: Raymond Edwards, San
tine, Leah R. Warren, Conductress; Ida McClumey, Treasurer; John L. Walker, Associate Patron; Viola White, Associate Matron; ISABELLE L. HARRIS, Worthy Matron; ROBERT GROSS, Worthy Patron; P.M. Isabella Finley, Secretary; Dorothy Washington, Assistant Secretary; Elma L. Knox, Exalted; 2nd row: Elize Johnson, U.S. Flagbearer; Gertrude Tunes, Martha; Audrey Harrison, Warder; P.M. Ethel Prince, Ch. of Trustees; Freda Breider, Esther; Allie Brawton, Marshall, Mary Moore, Christian Flagbearer; and Brenda Darby, Ruth 3rd row: P.M. Bessie Trice, Truss, Francis L. Moore, Chaplain; P.M. Adina B. Carter, Pianist; Pearl Syms, O.E.S. Flagbearer; P.M. Dorothy Medley, Assistant Secretary; and Ernestine Warren, Adah. Not show — P.M. Irene Thomas, Trustee; and P.A.P. Henry Washington, Assistant Pianist.

Datcher Chapter No. 7, O.E.S. P.H.A. evolved from a club, the Willing Workers, organized in 1903 by Brother John D. Washington, Master of Charles Lodge No. 15. It's membership was largely comprised of female relatives of Datcher Lodge members. Charted on May 23, 1904, the name of the group was changed to Datcher Chapter No. 15. The first officers were: John D. Howard, Sr., Worthy Patron, Worthy Matron, Associate Matron, Emma Young, Treasurer, Bertie Bowie, Secretary, Susie Edwards, Con
ductress, Emma Hawkins, Associate Conductress, Florence Cunningham: Adah, Estelle Scott; Ruth; Edmonia Berry; Esther, Anna A. Brown, Martha, Lizzie Edwards, Electa, Susie Fulton, Warder, Annie Smith, and Sentinel, Charles Cunningham who served in this station for 38 years.

The Grand Chapter changed the number of the subordinate chapters during the 1920 ad
dministration to reflect the order of their organizations. Thus, Datcher Chapter No. 15, seventh in order of organization became Datcher Chapter No. 7.

Many of Datcher's Past Matrons and Patrons not only served their chapter with distinc
tion, but also served the Grand Chapter.

Datcher Chapter has given this jurisdiction seven (7) Grand Worthy Matrons, eight (8) Grand Worthy Patrons, six (6) Scotts, (3) Assistant Grand Lecturers, three (3) International Grand Associate Con
ductress, one (1) Grand Secretary, one (1) Grand Lodge & Blood Bank Support

PRINCE HALL GRAND LODGE

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**Foto — News**

**Felix Lodge No. 3**

**Grand Visitation**

M.W.G.M. John D. Howard, Jr., receiving gavel from W.M. Edward C. Booker

Grand Master Howard presented with plaque

Blood Bank Chairman Awards Certificates

P.M. James L. Ridley, "Oldest Past Master," being congratulated by Grand Master

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**HISTORY OF ELECTA CHAPTER NO. 6**

1902-1976

**Chapter Histories**

**Continued in**

**NEXT ISSUE...**
Season's Greetings

The Prince Hall Masonic Digest

wishes

FOR ALL

Merry Christmas

and a

Happy New Year

John D. Howard, Jr. M.W. Grand Master

Quincy A. Ponder, W. Editor-in-Chief

Grafton J. Daniels, W. Editor-in-Chief, Emeritus

Roscoe L. Ayers - Executive Officer

and the

STAFF