

THE NEGRO IN MASONIC LITERATURE"

BY

HARRY A. WILLIAMSON

A BIBLIOGRAPHY CONTAINING OVER FIVE HUNDRED REFERENCES
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BROOKLYN, N. Y

April 11th 1923.

Mr. W. W. Gross, G.M.,
United Grand Lodge of Iowa,
Keokuk, Ia.

Dear Sir and Bro:

Many thanks for your letter of the 7th. From your proceedings I was able to get about all that was required at the time and the same is by now in possession of the brother in Switzerland. In today's mail I received a letter from a prominent white Mason of Chicago relative to the same matter, except the Swiss brother desired an opinion relative to the differences between the white and colored organizations over here.

Am collecting further statistics for a book I am compiling and ask you to inform me upon certain subjects. Grimshaw states that Ohio established three Lodges in Iowa in 1870, but the official history of Ohio does not mention this fact so far as names and dates are concerned. Can you tell me the names and numbers of the first Iowa Lodges; where they came from; the complete date of the organization of the African Grand Lodge; what Lodges composed it; the same in the case of the Hiram Grand Lodge; which of all the original Lodges are still in existence, also, if your G.L., is incorporated, the date thereof. My desire is to present absolutely correct data. In running down such matters prepared by past historians, I have found very many inaccuracies. Your letter mentions the formation of your present Grand Lodge as of July, 1887, somewhere I found a date of June 18th that year. Which is it?

Keep your eye out for an issue of the Negro World which will contain my article "Bogus and Compact Masons!"

Bro. Clark has been of assistance in putting me in touch with a number of references for the revision of my Bibliography, which had been unknown to me. Up to date I have collected 1003 references and have in my possession, 333 of the items. These are from America; Canada; France; England; Germany; India; Australia and Africa. This feature is a particular hobby.

Appreciating your kind interest in the above matters, I am

Sincerely and fraternally

Harry A. Williamson