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Mason City, Iowa
Feb. 28, A.D. 5945-1945
Office of Grand Master

✓ The late Past Grand Master, A. G. Clark, who was himself born the son of a Grand Master, Alexander Clark, Sr., formerly Grand Master of Missouri, founder and only Grand Master of the Hiram Grand Lodge and one of the charter members of the present United Grand Lodge of Iowa. He devoted most of his time during the past twenty years of his life, which ended in June 1939, to the compiling of what he modestly styled as History of the United Grand Lodge of A.F.&A.M. of Iowa and Jurisdiction which is in fact and is a great deal more.

✓ It comprises about two hundred and fifty pages of type written matter, divided into ten subdivisions, six of which he styles as chapters and four of which he styles as tables.

✓ Chapter (I) is entitled "How Free Masonry Was Introduced Among Negroes of the United States" and contains an accurate history of Prince Hall Free Masonry from the institution of the first lodge, known as African Lodge No. 459 in Boston in 1775, down to the organization of the Grand Lodge of Missouri in 1866.

✓ Chapter (II) is entitled "The Grand Lodge of Missouri". It gives her antecedents, and a record of her jurisdiction of lodges in Iowa from 1866 to 1884, in which he traces the origin and history of the Grand Lodge of Missouri from which Prince Hall Free Masonry was brought into Iowa, and continues down to 1884, the year the last group of Iowa Lodges withdrew from the Missouri Jurisdiction and were organized by his father, Alexander Clark, Sr., into Hiram Grand Lodge.

✓ Chapter (III) is entitled "African Grand Lodge" and gives the very interesting account of the steps leading up to the organization of African, the first Grand Lodge of Prince Hall Free Masons for Iowa, which was organized in 1881. It also gives a brief summary of each Grand Session from 1881 to 1886, the year before the organizing of our present United Grand Lodge.

✓ Chapter (IV) is entitled "Hiram Grand Lodge" and traces the various steps which led up to the organization of Hiram, the Grand Lodge organized by his father in 1884 and presided over by him until it joined with African and formed our present United Grand Lodge in July 1887.

✓ Chapter (V) entitled "The Formation of the United Grand Lodge, A.F.&A.M. for Iowa and Jurisdiction", gives in detail the steps leading up to the organization of the present Grand Lodge between 1884 and 1887.

✓ Chapter (VI) entitled "The United Grand Lodge", begins at its first annual communication in 1888 and brings the history down to its forty first annual communication, held in Burlington in 1928.

✓ The History is followed by four tables of statistics, the first of which is styled by Bro. Clark. Table No. 1 contains statistics showing the number of members in each Iowa Lodge reported to either the Grand Lodge of Missouri, the African Grand Lodge, the Hiram Grand Lodge or the present United Grand Lodge from 1866 down to and including 1937. Bro. Clark's Tables ended with the year 1929, the year he turned the manuscript over to

the Grand Lodge. Past Grand Master S. Joe Brown, who has served as secretary of the publication committee since its appointment in 1929, has continued these tables down to include the year 1937, the date of our last printed Proceedings.

Table No. 2 as continued by past Grand Master S. Joe Brown, contains the names and the dates of election and appointment of every brother ever elected or appointed to office in any Lodge in Iowa from 1866 down to 1937.

Table No. 3 continued by Bro. Brown, gives the names and dates of every brother ever elected to office in any subordinate lodge in Iowa from 1866 down to 1937.

This History should be in every Negro's home for it contains the name of every Mason and his lodge name and number and the date of death of every brother who died a member of any lodge in Iowa from 1866 down to 1937.

Howard Brown, Grand Master