

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF SUBORDINATE
LODGES OF THE UNITED GRAND LODGE

A.F. & A.M. FOR IOWA AND JUR-
ISDICTION. PRINCE HALL MASONRY

UNION LODGE NO. 1 KEOKUK

Warranted August 19, 1890. This lodge was formed by the union of York lodge No. 1, and Star Lodge No. 5, the new lodge taking the number of York lodge, which was No. 1 on the United Grand Lodge Roster.

York lodge No. 1 organized October 11, 1866. Original Warrant Grand Lodge Missouri, (No. 8) June 20, 1867. Re-warranted by African Grand Lodge of Iowa, August 9, 1881. Re-warranted by United Grand Lodge, July 14, 1887. Surrendered - *Warrant* August 12, 1890, and united with Star Lodge No. 5, in the formation of Union Lodge No. 1. It was the second lodge to be organized in Iowa, and the second to receive its warrant.

NORTH STAR NO. 2, DES MOINES

Original warrant issued by the Grand Lodge of Missouri as No. 31, July 4, 1871. Rewarranted by African Grand Lodge August 9, 1881. Rewarranted by United Grand Lodge July 14, 1887. It was organized October 6, 1870. See North Star Lodge No. 15.

SUMNER NO. 3, BURLINGTON

Original warrant Missouri No. 41. It was organized in June 1874, but at its own request did not receive its warrant until the meeting of the Grand Lodge in August, 1875. Re-warranted by African Grand Lodge, August 9, 1881. Rewarranted by United Grand Lodge, July 14, 1887. Warrant revoked July 12,

1917. Warrant re-issued July 14, 1920.

GOLDEN STAR NO. 4, OTTUMWA

Original warrant, Missouri No. 80, granted August 21, 1878. Rewarranted by African Grand Lodge, August 9, 1881. Rewarranted by United Grand Lodge July 14, 1887. Organized April 18, 1878.

STAR NO. 5, KEOKUK

Original warrant, Missouri No. 51, August 17, 1880. Rewarranted by Hiram Grand Lodge, August 26, 1884. Rewarranted by United Grand Lodge July 14, 1887. Warrant surrendered and union formed with York Lodge No. 1, under name and number of Union Lodge No. 1, Keokuk, August 19, 1890.

J. K. HILYARD LODGE NO. 6, MINNEAPOLIS; MINN.

Original warrant Missouri No. 38, July 2, 1872. Rewarranted by African Grand Lodge of Iowa, July 11, 1882. Rewarranted by the United Grand Lodge, July 14, 1887. Surrendered warrant to join in the formation of the Grand Lodge of Minnesota in 1895. Organized Sept. 15, 1871.

GARFIELD NO. 7, CHARITON AND ALBIA

Original warrant, African Grand Lodge No. 7, July 12, 1882, located at Albia. Permission granted to move from Albia to Chariton, June 27, 1886. Rewarranted by United Grand Lodge July 12, 1887. Warrant surrendered and lodge defunct July 10, 1888. It was organized as Winn Lodge U. D. but at the suggestion of the committee, name was changed to Garfield in honor of our martyred President.

NEWTON NO. 8, NEWTON

Original warrant, Missouri August 15, 1882. It was or-

ganized June 27, 1882. Surrendered its warrant, June 11, 1883, and was rewarranted by African Grand Lodge, July 11, 1883. Rewarranted by United Grand Lodge, July 14, 1887. Made its last report to the Grand Lodge in 1892. Revived with same name and number by the Grand Master in 1904. Ceased working again in 1909.

LINCOLN NO. 9, MT. PLEASANT

Original warrant African Grand Lodge No. 9, July 9, 1884. Rewarranted by United Grand Lodge, July 14, 1887. Last report in 1890. No record after that date.

KING SOLOMON NO. 10, CLEVELAND

Original warrant African Grand Lodge (No. 10), July 9, 1884. It was first organized at Chariton and permission granted to move to Cleveland, Sept. 23, 1884. Rewarranted by United Grand Lodge, July 14, 1887. Warrant revoked July 12, 1894.

EASTERN STAR NO. 11, MARSHALLTOWN

Original warrant, African Grand Lodge, July 9, 1884. Rewarranted by United Grand Lodge, July 14, 1887. Reported defunct in 1888.

PIONEER NO. 12, ST. PAUL, MINN.

Original warrant, Missouri No. 5, granted December 21, 1866. Rewarranted by African Grand Lodge of Iowa, July 9, 1884. Rewarranted by United Grand Lodge, July 14, 1887. Surrendered warrant to join Grand Lodge of Minnesota 1895. Organized August 4, 1866.

DECATUR NO. 13, SIOUX CITY

Original warrant, African Grand Lodge No. 13, July 15, 1885. Rewarranted by United Grand Lodge July 14, 1887. Grant-

ed permission to change number from 13 to 14, July 16, 1903, No. 14 having surrendered its warrant.

ANCHOR NO. 14, MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Original warrant, African Grand Lodge No. 14, July 12, 1887. Rewarranted by United Grand Lodge July 14, 1887. Surrendered warrant to join Grand Lodge of Minnesota, 1895.

NORTH STAR NO. 15, DES MOINES

Original warrant, Missouri (No. 31) July 4, 1871. Rewarranted by Hiram Grand Lodge August 26, 1884. Rewarranted by United Grand Lodge (No. 15) July 14, 1887. Surrendered warrant June 1, 1892. At the time of the formation of African Grand Lodge, North Star Lodge voted to surrender its warrant, the vote standing 11 for to 9 against, and the Grand Lodge of Missouri permitted the nine members to retain the old warrant. This accounts for the two lodges with the same number (31) in Des Moines. See African G. L. Proceedings 1884, page 61, and Hiram G. L. Proceedings, 1884, page 32.

SIMS NO. 16, OSKALOOSA

Original warrant, Missouri No. 50, August 16, 1876. Rewarranted by Hiram Grand Lodge (No. 2) August 26, 1884. Rewarranted by United Grand Lodge (No. 16) July 14, 1887. Name changed to Maple Grove Lodge No. 16, August 20, 1890. Organized Nov. 16, 1875.

MOUNT OLIVE NO. 17, CEDAR RAPIDS

Original warrant, Missouri (No. 86) August 19, 1879. Rewarranted by Hiram Grand Lodge No. 3, August 26, 1884. Rewarranted by United Grand Lodge, (No. 17) July 14, 1887. Organized June 5, 1878.

CEDAR GROVE NO. 18, BUXTON

Organized at Muckakinoek, and dispensed by Grand Lodge of Missouri. Warranted by Hiram Grand Lodge (No. 4) August 26, 1884. Rewarranted by United Grand Lodge July 14, 1887. Permission granted to move to Buxton July 9, 1901. Moved to Bucknell in 1923 and consolidated with Albia Star at Albia, Aug. 15, 1929.

CLARK LODGE NO. 19, DAVENPORT

Original warrant, Missouri No. 6, Dec. 22, 1866. Organized and dispensated at Muscatine August 11, 1866. Moved to Washington, Iowa, July 3, 1872. Moved to Davenport, 1882. Rewarranted by Hiram Grand Lodge, August 26, 1884. Rewarranted by United Grand Lodge (No. 19) July 14, 1887. Warrant taken up in January, 1888, and revoked at the 1888 Annual Session. This was the first Masonic Lodge of colored Masons to be organized and warranted in Iowa, having received its warrant six months prior to York Lodge, which asked to have its dispensation continued at the special session in December, 1866.

HIRAM NO. 19, DAVENPORT

Original warrant, United Grand Lodge (No. 19) dispensated August 18, 1891. Warranted August 17, 1892, of which the record says: "Davenport Lodge, U. D., selected for itself the name of Hiram and the Grand Secretary was ordered to number it on the roll of lodges, No. 19. Warrant arrested by the Grand Master in July, 1906. Warrant revoked by the Grand Lodge July 10, 1907. Revived by the Grand Master, July 2, 1910, and re-warranted with the old name and number by the Grand Lodge, July

12, 1910. See proceedings 1910.

REED LODGE NO. 20, RED OAK

Original warrant, Missouri No. 79, August 21, 1878. Rewarranted by Hiram Grand Lodge August 26, 1884. Rewarranted by United Grand Lodge July 14, 1887. It failed to report in 1888 and no further mention is made of it in the proceedings. Organized Jan. 18, 1878.

The above list of lodges, except Hiram No. 19, comprise those which took part in the organization, and received warrants from the United Grand Lodge at the time of the organization in 1887. The list that follows have been warranted since that date.

EUREKA NO. 20, MARSHALLTOWN

Dispensated October 13, 1892. Warranted as Eureka No. 21, July 11, 1893. See Proceedings 1893, page 13, Report of Committee on Dispensations and Charters, which reads as follows: "That the Eureka Lodge U. D., located at Marshalltown, be granted a warrant at cost, and Madison Lodge of Clinton be allowed to change its name to Clinton Lodge No. 20, and Eureka take No. 21." This "Report was adopted and warrants furnished." A personal examination of the original warrant of Eureka Lodge discloses the fact that the warrant carries the No. 20, and is dated July 13, 1893. Bro. Miles N. Bell had been elected Grand Secretary in 1892. On account of sickness he was unable to attend the 1893 session and Bro. George H. Cleggett was appointed to serve, and was elected Grand Secretary on the second day, July 12, 1893. He it was who made the records of that meeting supervised the printing of the Proceedings, and made

out the warrant for Eureka lodge and signed it as Grand Secretary and while it was granted on the 11th, he probably did not make it out until after his election. In explanation of the number, Bro. George L. Suter who was Worshipful Master of Eureka Lodge at the time it received its warrant, writes us as follows: "At the Grand Lodge Session of 1893, both lodges applied for a warrant. I, as the representative of Eureka lodge contended that as Madison lodge did not apply at the first session, or in 1892, for a warrant, and that Eureka did apply at the first session that she could, that Eureka lodge had the right to the lowest number. The Grand Lodge sustained my contention, and ordered the Grand Secretary to give Eureka lodge No. 20. This the Grand Secretary seems to have omitted from the Proceedings.

While we accept the warrant as the best evidence at this time, we feel we have no authority to change the attested and printed records of the Grand Lodge, hence we have given both records. We desire to state in this connection, that in making up the record of lodges, we have always, as the date of the warrant given the date on which it was granted, as shown by the report of the Committee on Dispensations and Charters. We think that is the proper date the warrant should carry. It is very likely there are other lodges where the date on the warrant will be a day or two later than that given in this record, and this can be explained on the same theory as advanced in the case of Eureka lodge.

McNEILL NO. 21, CLINTON

Dispensated as Madison Lodge, U. D., April 28, 1892. War-

ranted as Clinton Lodge No. 20, July 11, 1893. Number changed to 21, at the 1894 session. Name changed to McNeill in 1906 to comply with Section 45, Code 1905.

ENTERPRISE LODGE NO. 22, WEST SUPERIOR, WIS.

Dispensated as James Woodfork Lodge, U. D., in October 1893. Name changed to Enterprise Lodge, U. D., July 11, 1894, and dispensation continued. Warranted July 10, 1895. Warrant surrendered March 23, 1899.

CASCADE LODGE NO. 23, ROSLYN, WASHINGTON

Dispensated Dec. 26, 1889. Granted a warrant August 19, 1890. In the Proceeding, 1891, the Committee on Dispensation and Charters reported: "We have examined the petition of Cascade Lodge, U. D., at Roslyn, and find them worthy of being granted a warrant and that it be numbered 19." In 1892, Grand Master Gillam reported some dissatisfaction in the lodge and recommended that they get a warrant as the best way to settle the trouble. No action, however, is recorded, and reference to this lodge does not appear again until the 1896 session, when, although Grand Master Bland does not refer to it in his address, the Committee on Dispensations and Charters reported: "We also find a dispensation has been granted for a U. D. Lodge at Roslyn, Wash., and as they have not applied for a warrant, we recommend the dispensation be continued!" Report adopted. At the 1897 session, Grand Master Bland said: "About fourteen months ago I issued a dispensation to form a lodge in Roslyn, State of Washington!" A charter was granted July 14, 1897, and for the first time this lodge appeared on the roster as Cascade No. 23. Warrant surrendered to join G. L. of Wash-

ington in 1907.

CRYSTAL NO. 24, CHARITON

Dispensed October 3, 1898. Warranted July 13, 1899.
Failed to make report in 1905. Reported six members in 1906.
Warrant revoked in 1907.

RESCUE NO. 25, OMAHA, NEBR.

Dispensated December 5, 1898. Warranted July 13, 1899.
This lodge was first dispensated by Missouri on June 18, 1896.
It was warranted as Acacia Lodge No. 46, Missouri Register,
August 20, 1896. Surrendered its warrant Dec. 5, 1898 and the
members then petitioned the Iowa Grand Master for a dispensa-
tion, which was granted as above stated. To this Missouri
ed objects and withdrew fraternal relations with Iowa. It sur-
rendered its warrant in August 1919, to form Grand Lodge of
Nebraska.

ALBIA STAR NO. 26, ALBIA

Dispensated June 15, 1900. Warranted July 11, 1900. War-
rant revoked July 11, 1907. Not enough members.

ALBIA STAR NO. 26, ALBIA

Dispensation granted October 1, 1921. Warranted July 12,
1922, and permission granted to take the name and number of
the old lodge. Surrendered warrant and consolidated with *Golden*
Star ~~Golden Star~~ Lodge No. 18, at Albia, August 15, 1929.

GOLDEN CIRCLE NO. 27, CLARINDA

Dispensation given Nov. 4, 1902. Warranted July 15, 1903.
Warrant surrendered June 27, 1907.

TRINITY LODGE NO. 28, SEATTLE, WASH.

Dispensated Sept. 1, 1902. Warranted July 15, 1903. Sur-
rendered warrant to join the G. L. of Washington, 1907.

DUBUQUE LODGE NO. 29, DUBUQUE

Dispensation given November 26, 1903. Warranted July 13, 1904.

DORIC NO. 30, ENTERPRISE

Dispensated Nov. 1, 1904. Warranted July 10, 1906. Granted permission by the Grand Master to move to East Des Moines in 1909, and approved by the Grand Lodge July 12, 1910.

HIRAM U. D. DES MOINES

Dispensated by the Grand Master January 22, 1909. The Grand Lodge at its 1909 session refused to grant it a warrant, revoked the Dispensation and granted the members dimits. See 1909 Proceedings.

GUIDING STAR LODGE NO. 31, NORTH YAKIMA, WASH.

Dispensated June 25, 1906. Warranted July 11, 1906. Surrendered warrant to join Grand Lodge of State of Washington in 1907.

TWIN CITY LODGE NO. 32, COUNCIL BLUFFS

Dispensated Jan. 8, 1908. Warranted July 16, 1908.

KEYSTONE LODGE NO. 33, CLARINDA

Dispensated October 22, 1913. Warranted July 15, 1914.

PERFECT ASHLER LODGE NO. 34, MASON CITY

Dispensated January 14, 1914. Warranted July 15, 1914.

ST. JOHN'S LODGE NO. 35, WATERLOO

Dispensated April 20, 1915. Warranted July 13, 1915.

WESTERN STAR LODGE NO. 36, FT. DODGE

Dispensated Sept. 17, 1915. Warranted July 12, 1916.

BOAZ LODGE NO. 37, GRAND ISLAND, NEBR.

Dispensated June 20, 1917. Warranted July 12, 1917. The

members of this lodge formerly composed St. John's Lodge, No. 31, Missouri Register who having surrendered their warrant applied to Iowa for a dispensation. See Proceedings 1917 and 1918. Its warrant was arrested by the Grand Master and revoked by the Grand Lodge on July 11, 1918.

MARVIN LODGE NO. 38, HASTINGS, NEBR.

Dispensated June 30, 1917. Warranted July 12, 1917. The members of this lodge were formerly members of Marvin Lodge No. 36. Missouri Register, who having surrendered their warrant, applied to Iowa for a dispensation. See Proceedings 1917-1918. Surrendered warrant to form Grand Lodge of Nebraska, August, 1919.

PEARL CITY LODGE NO. 39, MUSCATINE

Dispensated Feb. 21, 1918. Warranted July 9, 1918.

TRUE AMERICAN LODGE NO. 40, GRAND ISLAND, NEBR.

Dispensated Sept. 17, 1918. Warranted July 9, 1919, surrendered warrant to form Grand Lodge of Nebraska, August 1919.

ROUGH ASHLER LODGE NO. 41, WASHINGTON

Dispensated May 21, 1920. Warranted July 14, 1920.

TUSCAN LODGE NO. 42, CENTERVILLE

Dispensated October 23, 1920. Warranted July 14, 1921.

CORINTHIAN LODGE NO. 43, FT. MADISON

Dispensated July 2, 1921. Warranted July 12, 1922.

CEDAR VALLEY LODGE NO. 44, VALLEY JUNCTION

Dispensation issued by the Acting Grand Master, Thos. Ligons May 17, 1924. Warranted July 10, 1924. Granted permission by the Grand Master to move to Des Moines, Aug. 27, 1924.

A table showing the number of lodges and the membership in good standing as reported at the annual session of the four different Grand Lodges that held jurisdiction in Iowa:

Grand Lodge of Missouri.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Lodge No.</u>	<u>Members</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Lodge No.</u>	<u>Members</u>
1866	2	19	1876	6	86
1867	2	28	1877	6	91
1868	2	30	1878	10	125
1869	2	32	1879	10	160
1870	2	34	1880	12	213
1871	3	49	1881	11	175
1872	3	49	1882	9	174
1873	3	52	1883	7	133
1874	4	47	1884	8	196
1875	4	63			

African Grand Lodge.

1881	5	102	1885	12	250
1882	7	106	1886	12	243
1883	7	146	1887	13	220
1884	10	210			

Hiram Grand Lodge.

1884	8	196	1886	7	175
1885	7	190	1887	7	165

Upon the organization of Hiram Grand Lodge on August 26, 1884, Missouri relinquished all claims of Masonic jurisdiction over Lodges in the State of Iowa.

FINALE

And now brethren, we are about to bring to a close the task you set for us, to compile a history of Negro Masonry in Iowa, together with a digest of the work and achievement of the M. W. United Grand Lodge, A. F. & A. M. of Iowa since its organization in Des Moines on July 14, 1887. There are doubtless many things connected with the annals of our affairs and constituting an important part of them which we have failed to present. It has not been because we are indifferent to their interest or their importance, but because we realize that the ^{our} ~~over~~ financial condition at this time does not justify the publication of a more extensive work. We have tried to present certain incidents and conditions with which the whole Fraternity should be familiar, in order that they may, when questioned, be able to answer intelligently, and be able to give a reason for the ~~faith~~ ^{felt} that is within them. We have given them because we have ~~faith~~ ^{felt} that it is due to our Fraternity that the outside world should know the true inwardness of some things which have seemed to give the lie to the pretensions of Masonry. We want them to know that our Masonry is legitimate; that we are all we profess to be, all we claim to be; that the principles of Masonry are all right, and that the deviations from them is not the fault of Masonry. We believe in the Divine Principles of Masonry--the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of man, and we say to you that the man who despises his brother because of some accident of birth, race or other circumstances is not imbued with the genuine spirit of Masonry

SPECIAL COMMUNICATION

FUNERAL LODGE

Mason City, Iowa, April 9, 1931.

Upon the call of Grand Master H. E. Williams, the M. W. United Grand Lodge A. F. & A. M. (Prince Hall Affiliation) for the State of Iowa convened in the Hall of Perfect Ashler Lodge No. 34, on the above date at 12:30 P.M. for the purpose of paying funeral honors to Bro. John D. Reeler, Past Grand Master and for the past fourteen years Grand Treasurer.

The Grand Lodge was opened in Ample Form by Grand Master H. E. Williams with the assistance of Bro. Horace Spencer, Senior Grand Warden; Bro. C. C. Johnson (2) acting Junior Grand Warden; Bro. N. L. Black, Grand Treasurer; Bro. Geo. L. Suter (20) acting Grand Secretary; Bro. Clarence Coffman, (35) acting Senior Deacon; Bro. M. L. Ewing; Junior Deacon, and other stations being filled by members of the Grand and local lodge who were present.

There were also present several members of the Grand Lodge among whom were P.G.M., I. L. Brown; P.G.M., A. G. Clark; P.J.G. W., H. A. Martin; Bro. Thos. Ligons, Grand Auditor and Past Masters and Representatives from several of the lodges in the jurisdiction.

The funeral procession, in charge of the Grand Marshall, moved from the lodge room to Union Memorial M. E. Church, of which the deceased was an officer and charter member, where the remains lay in state. The religious services were conducted by Rev. E. J. Penny, a former pastor of the church, assisted by the pastor and other local ministers and the church choir. Short eulogies were spoken by Past Grand Masters I. L. Brown and A. G.

Clark.

Adat Chapter No. 18, O. E. S. of which Bro. Reeler was a Past Worthy Patron attended in a body and presented resolutions testifying to the high regard in which he was held by the order. The casket was banked with a profusion of floral offerings, the mute testimonials of loving friends among whom he had lived and associated for many years.

Following the religious services, Grand Master H. E. Williams in a deeply impressive manner conducted the Masonic Burial Service. While Grand Master Williams had been called upon to preside at the funeral of three Past Grand Masters during his occupancy of the office, this was the first time he had personally conducted the Masonic Burial Service, but his rendition at this time was so beautiful and affective that it left a visible and lasting impression not only upon the Masonic membership but upon the entire audience which completely filled the church.

Following the services at the church the remains were escorted to the cemetery and interred with full Masonic honors.

The Grand Lodge then returned to the Hall of Perfect Ashler Lodge and was closed in Ample Form.

H. E. Williams, Grand Master,

Geo. L. Suter, Act. Grand Sec'y.

Note:- As there is no record of this Special Communication printed in the 1931 Proceedings of the Grand Lodge, I have prepared this report entirely from memory.-A. G. Clark.

FORTY-FOURTH ANNUAL COMMUNICATION.

CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA, July 13, 14, 15, 16, 1931.

BRO. H. E. WILLIAMS, Grand Master.

BRO. F. S. JOHNSON, Grand Secretary.

On Monday and Tuesday, July 13 and 14, the Grand Custodian, R. W. Bro. William Oney, conducted the regular Grand Lodge School of Instruction. Few schools have been better attended or more interest shown. The Worshipful Masters, Past Masters and Officers of the Grand Lodge seems to have awakened to a new sense of duty and are striving to make this feature of the Grand Lodge session a real benefit, and an inspiration to the entire jurisdiction. The closing feature of the School was the interesting and encouraging remarks by Past Grand Master S. Joe Brown, W. W. Gross and A. G. Clark, and Grand Secretary F. S. Johnson.

In accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and an act of the Last Grand Lodge, the officers and members of the M. W. United Grand Lodge of Iowa assembled in the hall provided by Mt. Olive Lodge No. 17, in the city of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, on Wednesday, July 15, 1931, and at 9:30 A. M. were called to order by the M. W. Grand Master, Bro. Henry E. Williams. The roll call of officers and lodges disclosed all officers present and in their stations and a constitutional number of lodges duly represented. The Grand Master then opened the M. W. United Grand Lodge in Ample Form in its Forty-fourth Annual Communication. Committees were then appointed and with the Deputy Grand Master, R. W. Bro. H. B. Smith presiding, Grand Master Williams read his Annual Address. It was his fourth report as Grand Master to the Grand Lodge, and showed he had in no way relaxed in his efforts to strengthen and advance the cause of Masonry in the Iowa jur-

isdiction. A notable feature of the address was his beautiful and touching tribute to the lives and characters of Past Grand Master John L. Thompson and Past Grand Master John D. Reeler, who had gathered up their working tools and passed to their reward during the year.

It was appearant from the Grand Master's report that several of the lodges were struggling against the effects of the present financial depression, yet none were discouraged or disposed to cease working. Neither could one discern a note of discouragement in the faces of the almost record attendance as they listened to the Grand Master's words of optimism and encouragement. It is true, as we seen it, the younger element in the Grand Lodge is determined to exert itself. This was clearly demonstrated in the debate on the report of the Grand Trustee regarding the establishment of a Masonic Home. The Trustees made the following report:

"Complying with the suggestion of the Committee on Grand Master's Address, the Grand Trustees have located a site for a Masonic Home and Farm near the city of Ottumwa, Iowa, which consists of thirty-one acres of ground, part of which is planted in fruit and berries, also truck patch, and some pasture land. The house has four rooms in good condition, some out buildings and a well. Price, \$3500.00 ^{cash} or on installments. ~~Cash~~ open for consideration. We recommend the purchase of this home."

To this report Bro. D. N. Crosthwaith, Jr., offered as an ammendment: "That the Grand Master appoint a committee to investigate the said property and if in his opinion it appears to be a good business proposition, and if he finds it to be reasonably unencumbered, and that it is possible to finance and fund any

deferred indebtedness, that he be impowered to draw on the Treasurer for the down payment. The final action to be discretionary with the Grand Master." This report was supported and finally adopted by the votes of the young members of the Grand Lodge who expressed themselves as able and willing to bear the burden and carry the responsibility.

A proposition to increase the working time of the Grand Lodge by opening the same on Monday was deferred for consideration until the next Annual Session.

The Grand Lodge voted to purchase from Mrs. Carrie Reeler the two volumns of the printed Proceedings of Iowa Grand Lodges which had been collected by her late husband P.G.M. John D. Reeler.

All Subordinate lodges reported to be in arrears of dues to the Grand Lodge were allowed further time in which to make payment.

The Committee on Grand Lodge History gave a detailed report covering the probable cost of printing the history and was authorized to proceed and have the same printed and to superintend the distribution of the same.

Ottumwa was chosen as the place for holding the next Annual Communication.

Bro. Henry B. Smith, Hiram Lodge No. 19, was elected Grand Master. The Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary were re-elected. Bro. Leland Greess, Decatur No. 14, was elected Grand Custodian.

Membership, 758. Total cash balance in all departments,
\$7636.03.

Year	Gr. Standard Bearer	Sr. Gr. Deacon	Jr. Gr. Deacon	Sr. Gr. Steward
1881	F. D. Bland	John Williams	Zack Taylor	H. H. Lewis
1882	W. T. Ewing	S. H. Martin	J. Paine	J. Williams
1883	N. Cortwright	W. T. Ewing	Z. Taylor	Wm. Coulson
1884	H. W. Gray	N. W. Bettis	Enoch Shaw	J. E. Shepperson
1885	R. Reynolds	Nathan Waller	J. E. Shepperson	F. Howell
1886	H. Hall	H. W. Gray	N. Cortwright	R. H. Taylor

Year	Jr. Grand Steward	Gr. Pursuivant	Grand Tyler
1881	Selby Johnson	W. A. Lane	W. H. Milligan
1882	Enoch Shaw	F. D. Bland	A. Winn
1883	Louis Mayes	F. D. Bland	Enoch Shaw
1884	J. G. Sterritt	B. J. Fuller	J. L. Neal
1885	H. W. Gray	Haywodd Hall	G. F. Kindrick
1886	B. J. Fuller	G. B. Williams	Thos. Williams

1881	C. C. F. C.	A. A. Bland	Geo. W. Black	J. L. Brooks
1882	C. C. F. C.	A. A. Bland	John Page	H. H. Lewis
1883	C. C. F. C.	A. A. Bland	G. H. Cliggett	H. H. Lewis
1884	C. C. F. C.	J. E. Gilliam	G. H. Cliggett	H. H. Lewis
1885	C. C. F. C.	E. W. Vaughn	J. L. Brooks	Orange Fields
1886	C. C. F. C.	A. A. Bland	J. L. Brooks	S. H. McCracken

HIRAM GRAND LODGE

Year	Grand Master	Deputy G. Master	Sr. G. Warden	Jr. G. Warden
1884	Alexander Clark	Alfred Harris	A. A. Pierce	Jas. Jemerson
1885	Alexander Clark	L. H. Reynolds	A. A. Pierce	Syke Fox
1886	Alexander Clark	A. A. Pierce	Jas. Jemerson	A. F. Bird

Year	Grand Treasurer	Grand Secretary	Grand Register	Grand Lecturer
1884	John Sims	M. N. Bell	J. D. Bush	L. H. Reynolds
1885	John Sims	M. N. Bell	J. D. Bush	Jas. Jemerson
1886	John Sims	M. N. Bell	O. B. Claire	Syke Fox

Year	Grand Chaplain	Grand Chaplain	Grand Chaplain	G.M.of Ceremonies
1884	Rev. W. A. Dove	Rev. Geo. Chambers	Rev. E. C. Thomas	B.F.Pemuston
1885	Rev. W. A. Dove	Rev. A. F. Bird	Rev. E. C. Thomas	J.L.Leachman
1886	Rev. W. A. Dove	D. W. Anderson	Rev. E. C. Thomas	J. Morris

Year	Grand Marshall	Gr.Sword Bearer	Gr.Standard Bearer	Sr.Gr.Deacon
1884	T. H. Benton	Syke Fox	J. S. Reed	O. B. Claire
1885	J. L. Bedell	R. Kryz	N. Dorsett	G. H. Jones
1886	T. H. Benton	T. J. Marshall	J. O. Williams	R. S. Brown

Year	Jr. Gr. Deacon	Sr. Gr.Steward	Jr. Gr.Steward	Gr.Pursuivant
1884	R. Cryst	J. E. Todd		J. O. Williams
1885	J. E. Todd	Jas. Barber	W. A. Sercey	H. Kitchen
1886	H. Kitchen	I. N. Daniels	J. E. Todd	C. Davis

Year	Grand Tyler	C. C. F. C.	C. C. F. C.	C. C. F. C.
1884	C. S. Gomers	M. N. Bell	J. D. Bush	L.H.Reynolds
1885	C. S. Gomers	M. N. Bell	A. J. Harris	L.H.Reynolds
1886	C. S. Gomers	M. N. Bell	A. J. Harris	Alex. Clark

GRAND OFFICERS OF THE UNITED GRAND LODGE A.F. & A.M.
FOR IOWA AND JURISDICTION

(Prince Hall Affiliation)

Year	Grand Master	Deputy Gr. Master	Sr. Gr. Warden	Jr. Gr. Warden
1887	G. H. Cliggett	John Sims	W. H. Jones	E. C. Thomas
1888	J. K. Hilyard	C. S. Gomer	J. S. Martin	E. T. Banks
1889	J. E. Gilliam	Geo. W. Black	J. H. Bruden	
1890	J. E. Gilliam	J. S. Martin	E. T. Banks	N. B. Nailen
1891	J. E. Gilliam	E. T. Banks	D. Wear	W. A. Searcey
1892	John D. Reeler	E. C. Thomas	Geo. Baptist	Jas. Woodfork
1893	John D. Reeler	Jas. Woodfork	N. B. Nailen	G. W. Baptist
1894	John D. Reeler	Jas. Higgins	Wm. Fields	John Williams
1895	A. A. Bland	Wm. Fields	J. Washington	W. H. Jones
1896	A. A. Bland	Jas. Washington	G. L. Suter	T. A. Coleman
1897	Jas. Washington	I. L. Brown	T. A. Coleman	Robt. Johnson
1898	I. L. Brown	Wm. Coulson	Robt. Johnson	Wm. Toler
1899	I. L. Brown	Wm. Coulson	J. F. Blagburn	C. Wheeler
1900	I. L. Brown	Robt. Johnson	Calvin Wheeler	J. F. Blagburn
1901	I. L. Brown	Robt. Johnson	J. F. Harris	W. H. Milligan
1902	I. L. Brown	W. W. Carey	W. H. Milligan	J. F. Harris
1903	I. L. Brown	W. W. Carey	U. S. Jones	U. S. Jones
1904	I. L. Brown	W. H. Milligan	David Thomas	D. Thomas
1905	W. H. Milligan	S. L. Tiggs	T. H. Sturgis	T. H. Sturgis
1906	W. H. Milligan	No Appointment	H. E. Jacobs	J. W. Bland
1907	W. H. Milligan	J. W. Bland	H. E. Jacobs	H. E. Williams
1908	W. H. Milligan	C. R. Foster	W. H. London	H. E. Williams
1909	W. H. Milligan	D. W. Anderson	W. J. Shepard	Albert Walker
1910	W. H. Milligan	Robt. Johnson	E. T. Banks	Ed. Martin
1911	E. T. Banks	D. W. Anderson	Ed. Martin	C. B. Woods

Year	Grand Master	Deputy Gr.Master	Sr.Grand Warden	Jr. Grand Warden
1912	John L. Thompson	B. B. Bright A. A. Bland	M. O. Culberson	H. E. Williams
1913	John L. Thompson	H. E. Williams	S. Joe Brown	C. F. Davis
1914	John L. Thompson	H. E. Williams	L. R. Willis	L. D. Lowry
1915	John L. Thompson	L. D. Lowery	J. E. Bradford	M. F. Askew
1916	S. Joe Brown	M. O. Culberson	M. F. Askew	Wm. Bailey
1917	W. W. Gross	J. E. Bradford	M. F. Askew	B. J. Hack
1918	W. W. Gross	J. E. Bradford	J. A. Spencer	W. P. Wade
1919	W. W. Gross	Geo. L. Suiter	Wm. Headlery R. S. Taylor	B. N. Hyde
1920	W. W. Gross	B. J. Hack	R. S. Taylor	D.N.Crosthwait
1921	W. W. Gross	H. E. Williams	B. N. Hyde	Ed. Askew
1922	W. W. Gross	J. E. Bradford	C. C. Culberson	A. W. Steppe
1923	J. E. Bradford	H. E. Williams	Thos. Lighon N. L. Black	Wm. H. Smith
1924	A. G. Clark	C. C. Johnson	A. R. Joyce	W. A. Watts
1925	A. G. Clark	M. F. Askew	D. N. Crosthwait	J. W. Young
1926	A. G. Clark	M. F. Askew	E. L. Dimitry	Clarence Coffman
1927	H. E. Williams	R. S. Taylor	Geo. W. Chipley	H. R. Crayton
1928	H. E. Williams	H. B. Smith	J. L. Nelson	H. A. Martin
1929				
1930				

ADD. FRATERNAL DEAD

1931-30

- Bro. Bates, Samuel, North Star Lodge No. 2, Dec. 5, 1930.
- Bro. Collier, Hicks, St. Johns Lodge No. 35, Nov. 8, 1930.
- Bro. Eberly, Joseph, Decatur Lodge No. 14, May 17, 1931.
- Bro. Heggins, Angus, North Star Lodge No. 2, Aug. 31, 1930.
- Bro. Johnson, Wm., North Star Lodge No. 2, July 22, 1930.
- Bro. Johnson, C. A., Eureka Lodge No. 20, Jan. 5, 1931.
- Bro. Jones, Henry, Cedar Grove Lodge No. 18, April 19, 1931.
- Bro. Kilbert Wm., North Star Lodge No. 2, Feb. 8, 1931.
- Bro. Manley, R. B., Keystone Lodge No. 23, Oct. 28, 1930.
- Bro. Nathaniel Marshall, Doric Lodge No. 30, June 11, 1931.
- Bro. Mosley, Luke, Cedar Grove Lodge No. 18, Dec. 5, 1930.
- Bro. Parker, Wm., North Star Lodge No. 2, Jan. 12, 1931.
- Bro. Reeler, J. D., Perfect Ashler Lodge No. 34, April 7, 1931.
- Bro. Taylor, Louis, Decatur Lodge No. 14, May 25, 1931.
- Bro. Tracy, John, North Star Lodge No. 2, Jan. 5, 1931.
- Bro. Thompson, John L., North Star Lodge No. 2, July 22, 1930.
- Bro. Walker, Frank A., Rough Ashler Lodge No. 41, Nov. 23, 1930.
- Bro. Wilkinson, Wm., North Star Lodge No. 2, Nov. 10, 1930.
- Bro. Wright, Henry, North Star Lodge No. 2, May 30, 1931.
- Bro. Wright, C. F., Eureka Lodge No. 20, Aug. 13, 1930.

Date	Grand Treasurer	Grand Secretary	Grand Lecturer	Grand Register
1887	D. W. Anderson	J. E. Gilliam	J. K. Hilyard	C. S. Stewart
1888	Syke Fox	J. E. Gilliam	J. H. Shepherd	R. A. Wilburn
1889	Syke Fox	G. H. Cliggett	E. W. Vaughn	J. D. Reeler
1890	D. W. Crawford	A. A. Bland	A. J. Harris	J. D. Reeler
1891	D. W. Anderson	J. D. Reeler	E. C. Thomas	Enoch Shaw
1892	J. E. Gilliam	M. N. Bell	J. L. Brooks	G. H. Cliggett
1893	W. H. Milligan	G. H. Cliggett	G. W. Bembry	C. H. Williams
1894	A. A. Bland	G. H. Cliggett	E. T. Banks	A. G. Clark
1895	T. A. Coleman	G. H. Cliggett	G. W. Day	A. W. Draine
1896	E. T. Banks	W. H. London	G. W. Bembry	Joseph Woods
1897	E. T. Banks	A. A. Bland	R. S. Brown	Joseph Woods
1898	N. B. Nailen	A. A. Bland	J. L. Brooks	T. H. Sturgis
1899	N. B. Nailen	A. A. Bland	J. F. Harris	Jos. L. Woods
1900	Wm. Coulson	A. A. Bland	W. H. London	Jos. L. Woods
1901	Wm. Coulson	J. F. Blagburn	Geo. L. Suter	J. H. Richmond
1902	Wm. Coulson	A. A. Bland	H. K. Hillon	L. H. Johnson
1903	Wm. Coulson	A. A. Bland	G. H. Cliggett	L. H. Johnson
1904	Wm. Coulson	W. W. Gross	J. F. Harris <u>Gr. Custodian</u>	L. H. Johnson
1905	A. A. Bland	H. K. Hillon	<u>E. T. Banks</u>	L. D. Lowery
1906	A. A. Bland	H. K. Hillon	E. T. Banks	L. D. Lowery
1907	H. K. Hillon	T. H. Sturgis	E. T. Banks	L. D. Lowery
1908	H. K. Hillon	T. H. Sturgis	W. P. Wade	L. D. Lowery
1909	H. K. Hillon	T. H. Sturgis	W. P. Wade	H. E. Jacobs
1910	H. K. Hillon	T. H. Sturgis	W. J. Shepherd	E. T. Blagburn
1911	H. K. Hillon	W. W. Gross	W. J. Shepherd	Harrison Gould
1912	W. H. Milligan	W. W. Gross	A. G. Clark	Harrison Gould

				Dep. Gr. Secretary
1913	M. O. Culberson	W. W. Gross	A. G. Clark	Harry Rose
1914	M. O. Culberson	W. W. Gross	A. G. Clark	Harry Rose
1915	M. O. Culberson	W. W. Gross	S. Joe Brown	Harry Rose
1916	J. D. Reeler	W. W. Gross	A. G. Clark	Harry Rose
1917	J. D. Reeler	Harry Rose	C. C. Johnson	W. H. Bailey
1918	J. D. Reeler	Harry Rose	C. C. Johnson	W. H. Bailey
1919	J. D. Reeler	Harry Rose	C. C. Johnson	W. H. Bailey
1920	J. D. Reeler	W. H. Bailey	J. E. Bradford	H. W. Rose
1921	J. D. Reeler	Geo. L. Suter	J. E. Bradford	F. S. Johnson
1922	J. D. Reeler	Geo. L. Suter	Albert Gate r	F. S. Johnson
1923	J. D. Reeler	Geo. L. Suiter	Albert Gate r	F. S. Johnson
1924	J. D. Reeler	F. S. Johnson	Wm. Bell	J. B. Mitchell
1925	J. D. Reeler	F. S. Johnson	Wm. Bell	J. B. Mitchell
1926	J. D. Reeler	F. S. Johnson	H. B. Smith	J. B. Mitchell
1927	J. D. Reeler	F. S. Johnson	H. B. Smith	J. B. Mitchell
1928	J. D. Reeler	F. S. Johnson	Wm. Oney	J. B. Mitchell
1929				
1930				

Date	Grand Chaplain	Sr. Gr. Deacon	Jr. Gr. Deacon	Grand Marshall
1887	C. W. Newton L. H. Reynolds	R. H. Taylor	Syke Fox	A. A. Bland
1888	E. C. Thomas J. M. Henderson	A. H. Myrick	B. J. Fuller	E. W. Vaughn
1889	James Higgins	F. C. Bollin	W. D. Crawford	Archie Brown
1890	Wm. Davis	C. F. Davis	Jas. Woodfork	Walker Dyer
1891	W. A. Dove	W. H. Scott	F. D. Bland	James Todd
1892	Wm. Field	W. H. Jones	A. A. Pierce	A. W. Bradford

1922	R. T. Lane	Thos. Lloyd	Wm. Bell	W. A. Watts
1923	R. T. Lane	L. J. Carter	A. R. Joyce	F. F. Jackson
1924	J. H. Reynolds	W. H. Lanelle	Shelton Pearl	R. T. Lane
1925	H. R. Crayton	Clarence Coffman	Wm. Gordon	Horace Spencer
1926	H. R. Crayton	Wm. Houghton	Horace Spencer	A. O. Powell
1927	I. W. Bess	A. O. Powell	G. E. Bailey	Horace Spencer
1928	I. W. Bess	C. C. Cowden	Artie Maxwell	Horace Spencer
1929				
1930				

Year	Sr.Gr.Steward	Jr. Gr. Steward	Gr.Sword Bearer	Gr.Stan.Bearer
1887	N. Dasset	H. H. Hooker	A. A. Pierce	R. S. Brown
1888	Robt. Harris	J. L. Neal	R. H. Taylor	R. S. Brown
1889	E. C. Thomas	J. L. Neal	C. F. Davis	S. H. McCracken
1890	F. C. Boling	W. A. Searcy	H. H. Hooker	Geo. W. Black
1891	A. Baker	John Harris	O. B. Clair	Ed. E. Jones
1892	J. L. Neal	W. A. Hilyard	J. F. Harris	F. G. Gaggins
1893	C. H. Mease	F. E. McNeill		C. Staughter
1894	E. H. Hamilton	James Adams		W. H. Jones
1895	S. Beck	J. H. Johnson	M. O. Culberson	J. L. Smith
1896	W. Bird	Robt. Johnson	E. L. Shaw	Wm. Raspberry
1897	B. J. Holmes	Saint Beck	A. M. Darmon	J. L. Brooks
1898	John Williams	J. F. Harris	H. Threadcroft	R. H. Taylor
1899	A. L. Mitchell	W. H. Henderson	Robt. Johnson	
1900	H. K. Hillon	Geo. Bembry	W. H. Milligan	A. Mitchell
1901	H. Hall	Geo. Bembry	Bert Jones	G. H. Cliggett
1902	H. H. Lewis	J. H. Johnson	U. S. Jones	R. R. Richmon
1903	John Morgan	G. Walker	W. H. London	

1904	S. L. Tiggs	W. S. Bryson	Wm. Gepson	G. D. Newman
1905	Ed. E. Jones	C. C. Allen	Wm. Fine	H. E. Jacobs
1906	Ed. E. Jones	T. A. Coleman	Wm. Fine	G. A. Johnson
1907	Ed. E. Jones	C. C. Folks	Wm. Fine	G. A. Johnson
1908	Ed. E. Jones	R. W. Johnson	Wm. Fine	Wm. Robinson
1909	Robt. Johnson	H. E. Elliott	A. L. Drew	C. F. Davis
1910	W. D. Crawford	H. E. Elliott	J. L. Brooks	L. D. Lowery
1911	W. D. Crawford	H. E. Elliott	E. L. Shaw	C. F. Davis
1912	Chas. Cousins	Ed. Martin	W. D. Crawford	C. M. Simmons
1913	C. F. Topson	Wm. Burrell	C. C. McGregor	W. D. Crawford
1914	J. E. Bradford	R. W. Franklin	J. C. Brooks	R. G. Potter
1915	Pierre Barquette	C. C. McGregor	Wm. Headley	D. G. Patterson
1916	Mabron Stewart	Luke Raglin	J. B. Lucas	F. J. Nott
1917	R. S. Taylor	C. M. Simmons	Mabron Stewart	U. G. Smith
1918	A. W. Steppe	Thos. Lloyd	C. T. Culberson	U. G. Smith
1919	A. H. Mayes	A. W. Steppe	Thos. Lloyd	T. C. Culberson
1920	J. W. Lacy	Thos. Robinson	J. D. Yancy	A. O. Powell
1921	G. Montgomery	R. H. Crayton	J. W. Roberts	J. W. Lacy
1922	L. W. Mayes	A. R. Joyce	A. B. Green	W. P. Parker
1923	W. A. Watts	P. A. Reeves	H. A. Martin	B. T. Lewis
1924	J. W. Young	J. D. Lamb	Jas. Rhodes	H. A. Martin
1925	Ernest Cole	Jas. Rhodes	Ed. Mease	Robt. Nelson
1926	Jake Nelson	Wm. Bruce	Ed. Mease	Chas. Sheppard
1927	Jas. Spencer	Wm. Turner	Chas. Davis	T. Franklin
1928	Robt. Nelson	C. M. Davis	G. E. Bailey	B. F. Griffin
1929				

Year	C. C. F. C.	C. C. F. C.	C. C. F. C.	G.M.Ceremonies
1887	Alex. Clark	J. E. Gilliam	M. N. Bell	Geo. Taylor
1888	Alex. Clark	J. E. Gilliam	M. N. Bell	A. A. Pierce
1889	G. H. Cliggett	J. H. Shepherd	A. A. Bland	Jas. Jemerson
1890	A. A. Bland	J. H. Shepherd	J. H. Bruden	S.H.McCracken
1891	J. D. Keeler	J. H. Shepherd	J. H. Bruden	W.D.Crawford
1892	Miles N. Bell	J. H. Shepherd	A. A. Bland	O. B. Clare
1893	J. H. Shepherd	E. T. Banks	A. A. Bland	John Harris
1894	J. H. Shepherd	J. L. Brooks	J. E. Gilliam	A.W.Ellington
1895	J. H. Shepherd			E. C. Thomas
1896	J. H. Shepherd	G. H. Cliggett	W. H. London	G. W. Day
1897	J. H. Shepherd	G. H. Cliggett	A. A. Bland	T. H. Sturgis
1898	No Record			John Warren
1899	No Record			Geo. Bembry
1900	E. T. Banks	J. F. Harris	A. A. Bland	J. F. Harris
1901	J. H. Shepherd	E. T. Banks	A. A. Bland	L. H. Johnson
1902	J. H. Shepherd	G. L. Suter	W. A. Searcy	C. C. Allen
1903	J. H. Shepherd	A. A. Bland	Robt. Johnson	Wm. Pemo
1904	J. H. Shepherd	Wm. Burrell	C. C. Allen	C. C. Allen
1905	J. H. Shepherd	G. H. Cliggett	Geo. L. Suter	H. W. Williams
1906	J. H. Shepherd	E. T. Blagburn	H. K. Hillon	M.O.Culberson
1907	J. H. Shepherd	E. T. Blagburn	T. H. Sturgis	M.O.Culberson
1908	I. L. Brown	J. L. Thompson	T. H. Sturgis	H. E. Jacobs
1909	I. L. Brown	E. T. Blagburn	T. H. Sturgis	Chas.Raleigh
1910	Geo. L. Suter	J. L. Thompson	T. H. Sturgis	J.H.Johnson
1911	S.Joe Brown	I. L. Brown	W. W. Gross	M.G.Newman
1912	Geo. L. Suter			James Woods
1913	Geo. L. Suter			F.A.Hackley

Grand Auditor

1914	Geo. L. Suter	H. E. Jacobs		B. J. Hack
1915	C. B. Woods	H. E. Jacobs		J. B. Rush
1916	J. L. Thompson	Geo. L. Suter		C.C. Johnson
1917	Geo. L. Suter	H. E. Williams		J.B. Lucas
1918	A. G. Clark	L. D. Lowery		Virgil Warren
1919	A. G. Clark	L. D. Lowery		W.A. Hammers
1920	A. G. Clark	L. D. Lowery	<u>Com. on Returns</u>	Geo. W. Ashby
1921	A. G. Clark	L. D. Lowery	J. B. Mitchell	C. B. Watkins
1922	J. L. Thompson	L. D. Lowery	J. B. Mitchell	W. C. Harne
1923	A. G. Clark	L. D. Lowery	J. B. Mitchell	Thos. Lloyd
1924	W. W. Gross	H. E. Williams	C. T. Culberson	N. A. Raglin
1925	W. W. Gross	H. A. Martin	C. T. Culberson	Russell Downey
1926	W. W. Gross	H. A. Martin	C. T. Culberson	Russell Downey
1927	W. W. Gross	Thos. Lighon	C. T. Culberson	L. Walker
1928	W. W. Gross	Thos. Lighon	C. T. Culberson	H.M. McCraven
1929				

Year	G. Pursuivant	Grand Tyler	G. Pursuivant	Grand Tyler
1887	I. Crawford	C. S. Gomer	1908 Wm. Burrell	H. Woodard
1888	Geo. W. Black	S.H. McCracken	1909 F. D. Bland	H. Gould
1889	B. F. Peniston	J.S. Martin	1910 J. W. Bland	Thos. Raleigh
1890	Robert Hearn	Syke Fox	1911 J. C. Wells	C. C. Allen
1891	Geo. W. Black	I. Curtley	1912 C. F. Davis	O. Fields
1892	C. F. Davis	S. Cain	1913 J. L. Brooks	T.A. Coleman
1893	J. L. Neal	B. Crawford	1914 Henry Moore	H.A. Harne
1894	Wm. Lester	S. Cain	1915 A. C. Wolder	Wells Fowler

1895	Linry Petts	Chas. Mease	1916	H. A. Harne	D.S.Johnson
1896	S. Beck	Jas. Woods	1917	virgil Warren	Wm.Herndon
1897	J. L. Smith	W. H. Scott	1918	R. P. Booth	J.B.Mitchell
1898	E. L. Shaw	L. Pitts	1919	P. Barquette	F.D.Bland
1899	E. C. Thomas	Z. Taylor	1920	C. C. Folks	John Shares
1900	Jas. Jemison	Henry Jones	1921	R. E. Nelson	C. E. Carr
1901	W. W. Carey	Syke Fox	1922	J.L.Washington	M.C.Marshall
1902	G. R. Warren	Geo. Taylor	1923	C. Coffman	E. Spencer
1903	W. W. Gross	A. N. Wade	1924	Wm. Garden	W.H.hernden
1904	H.W.Williams	Wm.Raspberry	1925	E.L.Dimitry	A. R. Joyce
1905	J.F.Harris	W. H. Bird	1926	G.W.Chipley	W. J. Taylor
1906	Wm. Burrell	H. E. Jacobs	1927	W. C. Bruce	Ed. Wilson
1907	R. W. Franklin	W. S. Bryson	1928	Thos. Lloyd	S. C. Schures

CHAPTER I.

HOW, WHEN AND WHERE FREEMASONRY WAS INTRODUCED AMONG THE NEGROES OF THE UNITED STATES.

The observations and the historical facts given in this chapter have been copied in full from the "Official History of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Masons for the State of Ohio, (Colored.)" They were compiled by order of the Grand Lodge by its Historiographer, the Most Worshipful and Honorable Brother William Hartwell Parham. Bro. Parham was stricken before the work had been completed and died on July 9, 1904. The Grand Master then appointed as Historiographer the Most Worshipful and Honorable Brother Jeremiah Arthur Brown, who collated the matter already compiled by Brother Parham, presented it to the Grand Lodge and the same was published in 1906.

We have carefully compared the record as herein given with such recognized authorities as William H. Grimshaw's "History of Freemasonry"; "The Negro Mason in Equity," by Samuel W. Clark; "Negro Masonry" by William H. Upton; "Prince Hall and His Followers" by George W. Crawford; and the critical review of "The Course of Freemasonry Among Colored Men", prepared by Worshipful Brother Willis N. Brent, Secretary and C. C. F. C. of the Grand Lodge of Missouri, and published in the Missouri Proceedings for 1926; and we feel amply justified in assuring the readers of this history that the historical facts are accurately stated and that the noble sentiments expressed are worthy a place in any history of Freemasonry among Negroes in Iowa.

and true in every walk of life, their memories are embalmed in our minds as the peers of any men we have ever known. With few exceptions they have all been gathered to their fathers. The one notable exception is Right Worthy Brother W. D. Crawford, of Marshalltown, a member of Cedar Grove Lodge No. 18. He was a member of the Convention that organized the Grand Lodge and has served it as Grand Treasurer, Senior Grand Warden and Grand Chaplain. So far as we have been able to learn but three other members of the Convention are still living. They were all members of Sims Lodge No. 16 at Oskaloosa at that time. They are Bro. C. F. Topson, now a member of Doric Lodge No. 30, at Des Moines; John Sims of Washington, D. C.; and Henry Hockedy of Oskaloosa. Brothers Sims and Hockedy have been unaffiliated for more than twenty-five years.

We desire to return our fraternal thanks to all the brethren who have gave us assistance in the preparation of this work. We especially want to thank Bro. F. D. Bland of Keokuk, a true son of an illustrious father, for the use of a complete set of Missouri Grand Lodge Proceedings covering the period of ^{his} his jurisdiction over Iowa.

Fraternally,

A. G. Clark, P.G.M.

October 1931

FOREWARD

In presenting this volume to the Fraternity, and others who may be interested, we do it as a means of preserving the record of the establishment of organized Masonry among the Negro race in the State of Iowa, to perpetuate the history of The Most Worshipful United Grand Lodge A. F. & A. M. for the State of Iowa, and to serve also as a testimonial commemorative to the memories of those noble brethren who aided in its establishment, and to those who preceded us in giving their time, their talents, their income and their moral support by which this Grand Lodge has reached its present proud position in the Masonic World. We have sought to show to our posterity how welcome to be numbered with the greatest Fraternity known to mankind, that they may know and realize that we are legitimately in possession of the Mysteries. We have strictly endeavored to compile the facts, as recorded in the records, without personal comment or criticism. In the few instances where the printed record differed from our personal knowledge of the facts we have given both.

It was our good fortune, when a young boy, living in Muscatine, to have known those early men, members of Clark Lodge No. 6, of that city, and also several of the members of York Lodge No. 8, of Keokuk, who were the pioneers in conferring the degrees in Iowa, and in later years ^{to have} it has been associated fraternally with those noble-hearted, faithful men, who united at the Altar of Masonry and brought forth this United Grand Lodge in Wisdom, Strength and Beauty. Good men, tried

no matter how high he may rank in the organization.

In presenting this history we have sought to bring to the younger members of the Fraternity a vision of the past out of which the present has come to flower, and from whose wise and prospective sowing the fruits of the future will grow. While we honor ourselves by thus recalling the men of other days, we also lay upon our selves the obligation to labor, as they labored, with forward looking thoughts, while establishing more firmly the work of their heads. If you with the changed conditions of affairs, with the pathway already traveled by them, do not succeed in making a record that shall out shine theirs, then you are inferior to them, and unworthy the legacy of their glorious record. The older ones of us will not always be with you. Of some of us it is true that--

"Already in the western sky,
The clouds bid us prepare,
To gather up our working tools,
And part upon the square."

But I have an abiding faith in the conquest of right and justice in the dark to come. The Great Architect of the Universe will be with you my brethren as he has been with our Fathers in the past and you shall see the dawning of that better day when --

"Sense and worth over all the earth,
Shall bear the palm and a'that."
When man to man the world over,
Shall brothers be, and a'that."

ditions as they exist today.

While we, as members of the universal family, share in this general interest, no less than our brethren of other races and climes, we have also another occasion which to us is one of special interest and concern.

In consequence of our peculiar situation as a race in this "glorious free republic (?)" this model "land of the free and home of the brave," we find ourselves compelled to fight for every foot of vantage ground we have ever obtained in the past or which we may desire to secure in the future. If we have secured any rights or benefits enjoyed by others, our title is questioned and denied; if we attempt to secure even the inalienable rights accorded to every citizen under that great charter of rights--the Declaration of Independence--we find the hateful, ugly monster of American prejudice casting its baleful shadow athwart our path and blasting every prospect or promise of hope.

Of human institutions there is none that so loudly and so uncompromisingly proclaims and teaches the universal brotherhood of man, and that so consistently conforms its practice to its declarations as the fraternity of Freemasons. Freemasonry knows no creed, clime, religion, social condition nor color; it only knows and proclaims to mankind, that one is your father - "The Grand Architect of the Universe" - and all ye are brethren.

In the days of slavery when the fugitive slave law was the dominant power in this country, some poor bondman who has escaped from the tender mercies of slavery, has been pursued even to the very al-

tar of Christianity, and dragged hence back to his old prison house again, by legal process.

It is said that history repeats itself. Let us see.

In spite of slavery, in spite of American Negrophobia more than a century ago, the black man of America escaped from the unfriendly conditions of America, sought and obtained admission into the temple of Masonry, knelt at its altar, worshipped at its shrines, under the benign influences of other climes and other conditions.

American prejudice, jealous of any advantage thus secured in spite and really in defiance of its influence and behest, pursued him into the very temple of Masonry and sought by specious pleas and technicalities to deprive him of his fraternal rights and privileges.

For more than a hundred years this contest has gone on. On the one side, have been arrayed the influences of wealth and station and the claims of consanguinity, on the other nothing but simple justice and right. Yet justice and right have prevailed. Every argument that could be mustered, every objection that could be urged, has had its consideration, and due weight - yet our status has not been changed nor our title disproved, and today, the Negro, as a Mason, occupies an unassailable position, and possesses an unimpeachable title. Every assault has been a boomerang; every indictment of us has been a self-arraignment of our enemies.

The introduction of Freemasonry among the colored men of this country, therefore, is to the Negro Mason an event of the highest interest as well as of vital importance. With his history, he must be thoroughly familiar in all its details. It is his duty to know it for his own enlightenment and also that he may be prepared to defend his

claims against the assaults of ignorance and race prejudice. We say ignorance because we know of no organization so bitterly assailed by men who are so totally ignorant concerning it, as Masonry among Negroes. Ninety-nine white men out of every hundred, perhaps we should be nearer the truth to say nine hundred and ninety-nine out of every thousand American Masons, who denounce Negro Masons as irregular, clandestine, etc., are as ignorant on the subject as the infant born yesterday. Somebody has told them that Negro lodges were spurious, etc., and that's their entire stock of information of the subject. Demand the proofs, and you have driven them into a corner. But it matters little or nothing to us about them so far as the purposes of this history are concerned, whether they know or do not know. It does matter though, that we should know whence came we.

Now, while this history is a local one, yet we feel that no history of Masonry among Negroes is complete which does not tell the story of the introduction of Masonry in America among colored men. We do not propose to introduce arguments to prove our legitimacy. That is no longer necessary. "New Day, New Duty," by Bro. Caldwell, "The Negro Mason in Equity," by Bro. S. W. Clark, "Negro Masonry," by Bro. Upton, and the admissions of some of the bitterest of our opponents, have answered all such questions so irrefutably, that there is nothing further to prove; but we merely propose to tell the simple story when, where and how, the Negro in America was inducted into the mysteries.

On the sixth day of March, A. D. 1775, in an army lodge attached to one of General Gage's regiments, then stationed in and near the city of Boston, Massachusetts, Prince Hall, Cyrus Joubus, Bensten Slinger,

Thomas Sanderson, Prince Taylor Cato Spear, Boston Smith, Peter Best, Fortin Howard, Prince Reese, John Cantin, Peter Freeman, Benjamin Tiber, Buff Buform and Richard Lily, all colored men residents of the city of Boston, were initiated, passed and raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason by the R. W. Bro. J. B. Batt, W. M., of the said army lodge. These were the first colored men who are known to have been inducted into the mysteries of Masonry in this country. The conferring of degrees on colored men in England and her other colonial possessions, was no unusual thing, but in the American colonies this was the first known instance. For the degrees conferred, each one of the fifteen brethren paid fifteen guineas for entering, seven guineas for passing, and three guineas for raising. In accordance with the customs of that period, the lodge in which the degrees were conferred, granted them authority to meet as a lodge to go in procession to divine services on St. John's Day - or in the language of their authority - "to walk on St. John's Day," and as a lodge they might bury their dead, "in manner and form," but they could not confer degrees nor perform any other Masonic work.

For nine years these faithful and devoted brethren, together with others who had received their degrees elsewhere, assembled and enjoyed their limited privileges.

Finally in March, 1784, being desirous of exercising all the powers and prerogatives of a regular warranted lodge, Prince Hall, as the representative of the brethren, indited and forwarded the following letter:

Mr. Moody.

Most Worshipful Sir- Permit me to return you my brotherly love and gratitude for your kindness to my brethren when in a strange land. When in time of need you stood their friend and brother (as they inform me), and as much as you have done it to them, I take it as done to me, for which I now beg leave to return you, the Wardens and the rest of the brethren of your lodge, my hearty thanks. I hope you will forgive whatsoever you may have seen amiss in them.

Dear Brother, I would inform you that this lodge hath been founded almost eight years, and we have had only a permit to walk on St. John's Day, and to bury our dead in manner and form. We have had no opportunity to apply for a Warrant before now, though we have been importuned to send to France for one, yet we thought it best to send to the Fountain from whence we received the Light, for a Warrant; and now, dear brother, we must make you our advocate at the Grand Lodge, hoping you will be so good (in our name and stead), to the Royal Grand Master and the Grand Wardens and the rest of the Grand Lodge, who, we hope, will not deny us, nor treat us beneath the rest of our fellow men, although poor yet sincere brethren of the craft. After wishing you all happiness here and hereafter, I beg leave to subscribe myself your loving friend and brother,

PRINCE HALL.

The Mr. Moody to whom Prince Hall addressed the above letter, was W. M. of a lodge in the city of London.

The application was fraternally submitted by him to the Grand Lodge and on the twenty-ninth day of September, 1784, a Warrant duly signed, sealed and attested, was granted to Prince Hall and his as-

sociates under the name and style of African Lodge No. 459.

The following is a copy of that Warrant:

A. G. M.

To All and Every.

Our Right Worshipful and Loving Brethren - We, Thomas Howard, Earl of Effingham, Lord Howard, etc., Acting Grand Master, under the authority of his Royal Highness, Henry Frederick, Duke of Cumberland, etc., Grand Master of the Most Ancient and Honorable Society of Free and Accepted Masons, send greeting:

Know ye that we, at the humble petition of our right trusty 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 a 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 said petition and of the great trust and confidence reposed in every of the said above named brethren, hereby appoint the said Prince Hall to be Master; Boston Smith, Senior Warden, and Thomas Sanderson, Junior Warden, for opening the said Lodge, and for such further time only as shall be thought 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 said Lodge, but that such election shall be regulated agreeable to such by-laws of the said Lodge, contained in the Book of Constitutions; and we hereby will, and require of you, the said Prince Hall, to take special care that all and every, the said brethren, are to 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 that purpose, an account of your proceedings in the Lodge, together with all such rules, orders and regulations as shall be made for the good government of the same, that in nowise you omit once in every year to send to us, or our successors, Grand Masters, or Rowland Holt, Esq., our Deputy Grand Master for the time being, an account^X of your said proceedings, and copies of all such rules, orders and regulations as shall be made as aforesaid, together with ^a the list of 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, ^{likely} we will require of 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.

Given at London under our hand and Seal, this 29th day of September, A. L. 5784, A. 1784, by the Grand Master's Command. ^{of Masonry}

(SEAL)

R. HOLT, Deputy Grand Master.

^{Witness} Attest: William White, Grand Secretary.

Although this Warrant was granted in 1784 it was not received by the lodge until April 29, 1787, owing to the failure of one Brother Gregory (to whom the matter had been entrusted), to call at the office of Grand Secretary White and get it.

8 In February, 1797, Captain James Scott, a seafaring man, brother-in-law to John Hancock, one of the signers of the American Declaration of Independence, being in London, was requested by Prince Hall to bring the Warrant for African Lodge back with him.

Captain Scott called on the Grand Secretary, Sir. Wm. White, and received the Warrant and paid the required fee for which he was given the following receipt:

"Received 28th of February, 1787, of Captain James Scott, five pounds, fifteen shillings and six pence, being the fee on the Warrant of Constitution for the African Lodge at Boston, for the Grand Lodge of the Society of Free and Accepted Masons.

" 5, 15s, 6d.

WM. WHITE, Grand Secretary."

On the 29th of April, 1787, Captain Scott delivered the Warrant to Prince Hall in person.

The Boston, Massachusetts, Sentinel, under date of May 2, 1787, prints the following communication from Prince Hall concerning the reception of the Warrant:

"African Lodge, Boston, May 2, 1787.

"By Captain Scott, from London, came the charter, etc., which his Royal Highness, the Duke of Cumberland, and the Grand Lodge have been graciously pleased to grant the African Lodge in Boston. As the brethren have a desire to acknowledge all favors shown them, they, in public manner, return particular thanks to a certain member of the fraternity, who offered the so generous reward in this paper some time since, for the charter supposed to be lost; and to assure him, though they doubt of his friendship, that he has made them many good friends.

"PRINCE HALL."

The arrival of the Warrant very naturally caused much rejoicing d by that little bank of black Masons, and was made the occasion of a

public demonstration of the Lodge on St. John's Day, December 27, 1787. The newspapers of the day nearly all noticed it. One of the papers in a spirit of ridicule spoke of the Lodge as "The Saint Black Lodge," instead of "African Lodge." To this Prince Hall made answer in the following communication.

"Messrs Draper and Folsom.

"Dear Sirs - I notice a paragraph in your paper of the 31st of our celebration on the 27th, in which you style us "The St. Black Lodge." Believing you intended to give a fair and candid statement of the facts, I take the liberty to inform you that our title is not Saint Black Lodge, but "African Lodge," nor do we aspire after any high title, but only that the Supreme Architect of the Universe may diffuse in our hearts, the true spirit of Masonry, love to God and to our fellow men, which we humbly conceive to be the grand pillar of Ancient Freemasonry. With due respect to the publishers, I beg leave to subscribe myself.

Your obedient servant,

"PRINCE HALL, W. M."

A most dignified reply and withal carrying with it a subtile rebuke. Answering the fool according to his folly lest he be wise in his own conceit, and yet not answering the fool according to his folly in such a way as to be like unto him.

It will be observed that there are certain requirements made in the Warrant concerning the rendering of an annual account of the condition of the lodge and the remittance of a sum for Grand Charity.

That the requirements were conformed to is evidenced by the following letters from the Grand Secretary, Sir. Wm. White, in 1792, to

Prince Hall, and from a later Grand Secretary in 1870 to the Grand Master of Massachusetts:

London, August 20, 1792.

"Right Worshipful Brother- I have the pleasure of sending inclosed the printed proceedings of the Grand Lodge, by which you will perceive the flourishing state of our Society; and in the account of the 24th of November, 1787, you will find accredited your donation to the Charity Fund, ten dollars sent by Captain Scott, and that of the 18th of April last, your donation of one guinea. I am much obliged to you for the sermon you sent me, which I think very well written, and very appropriate for the occasion.

"When you next write to me, I should be obliged to you if you would let me know if the lodges in the enclosed list, which were constituted by the Grand Lodge of England, are yet in being, as we have never heard from them since the commencement of the late war in America, or indeed, long before; and in case they have ceased to meet, which I rather apprehend, they ought to be erased from our list of lodges.

"I am much obliged to you for the account you give respecting your own lodge, to which I sincerely wish success, as I should be happy to have it in my power to contribute thereto.

"Inclosed I send you one of the calendars for the present year, of which I beg your acceptance.

"I remain with fraternal regard, Right Worshipful Brother, your obedient servant and brother,

"WM. WHITE."

Extract from a letter of the Grand Secretary of England to the Grand Master of Massachusetts, dated May 5, 1870:

"As you are already aware, the Warrant for the African Grand Lodge was granted in 1784, and was numbered 459; but the fee for the warrant, 4, 4s, does not appear in our Grand Lodge accounts until the 4th of April, 1787. The following remittances were received for the Charity Fund from the African Lodge, viz.:

"November 25, 1789, 2, 2s, 11d.

"April 18, 1792, 1, 1s,

"November 27, 1793, 1, 5s, 6d.

"November 22, 1797, 1, 5s."

In the year 1797 Prince Hall, upon a petition from thirteen brethren in Philadelphia, for a dispensation to establish a lodge in that city, granted their petition, according them as he termed it, "a license to assemble and work." Of the thirteen who signed the petition, ten are known to have received their degrees in England. Subsequently this lodge was warranted.

Another lodge was also warranted by Prince Hall in Providence, Rhode Island.

Concerning the authority of Prince Hall to establish, warrant and constitute lodges, there has been much dispute but the consensus of opinion among the best informed Masonic writers is that he doubtless had the authority either as a Provincial Grand Master or by special authority delegated by the Grand Lodge of England, and that in the absence of either, he would not have been lacking in as good authority as that which created the majority of the lodges of that period.

On this subject we quote the Grand Secretary of Iowa in a letter under date, 1875, written to Bro. John D. Caldwell; he says:

"My opinion is that the Negroes can make as good a show for the legality of their Grand Lodges as the whites can. It is only a matter of taste and not of law.

"Signed, THEODORE S. PARVIN."

Albert Pike, Sovereign Grand Commander, A. and A. Scottish Rite, writes as follows, on the same subject:

"My Dear Friend and Brother- I can see as plainly as you, that the Negro question is going to make trouble. There are plenty of regular Negro Masons and Negro lodges in South America and the West Indies, and our folks only stave off the question by saying that Negro Masons here are clandestine. Prince Hall Lodge was as regular a lodge as any lodge created by competent authority, and had a perfect right (as other lodges in Europe did) to establish other lodges, making itself a Mother Lodge. That's the way the Berlin Lodges, Three Globes and 'Royal York' became Grand Lodges."

This testimony is especially valuable, coming from a man who declares himself in the strongest terms as opposed to the recognition of Negro lodges, who declares that he would leave Masonry rather than accept Negroes as brothers. Yet he does not try to excuse his Negrophobia by misrepresenting the status of Negro lodges. While we cannot respect Bro. Pike's Masonic spirit very highly and think that the institution would not have been a loser by his withdrawal from it, yet we admire the frankness with which he deals in the discussion of the question. He admits that his prejudice against Negroes is his only reason. We think his Masonry spurious, clandestine and irregular, and

unworthy of recognition in that fraternity whose proudest boast is its universality.

The committee of the Grand Lodge of our own state bears testimony in the following language:

"Your committee, Lucius V. Bierce, Enoch T. Carson, Ferdinand Wilmer, Louis H. Pike, Chas. A. Woodward, deem it sufficient to say that they are satisfied beyond all question that colored Freemasonry had a legitimate beginning in this country, as much as any other Freemasonry; in fact, it came from the same source."

Grand Master Griswold, of Minnesota, in an annual address to his Grand Lodge, says:

"After a somewhat careful investigation of this matter, I am satisfied that the so-called irregularities attending the organization of the first colored Grand Lodge in this country were fewer in number and of less importance than those pertaining to some other American Grand Lodges. Grand Lodges now venerable with age, to whom we look with feelings of reverence, who have been mighty powers in giving tone to American Masonry - who stand today deservedly in the lead and from whom we trace our Masonic descent. The facts are, brethren, that with reference to these matters we are living in glass houses and it is not, in my opinion, at all wise for us to engage in the sport of throwing stones."

Carl Wiebe, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Hamburg, in a letter to the Hon. Brother Wm. H. Upton, M. W., Grand Master of the M. W. Grand Lodge of Washington, under date of March 8, 1899, in discussing this question, says:

"I believe it is unwise and unjust to dispute the legal standing of any Lodge or Grand Lodge which practices Masonry according to our standard and has been doing a good and honest work amongst the people of its own class for upward of a hundred years. It may be possible or even admissible to contest the legal standing of a Lodge or Grand Lodge at the time of its establishment, but if such Lodge or Grand Lodge has withstood the contention of legality and afterward does withstand the severe test of vitality for over a hundred years, then, in my opinion, it has conclusively proved that it owes its existence not to mere chance or caprice, but that it is destined to fulfill a mission and supply a want. It can then claim our fraternal esteem and even our recognition if it keep within the bounds and practices of pure and ancient Masonry."

Commenting on this the M. W. Brother Upton, one of the bravest, truest and best informed Masons of today, found either in this country or elsewhere, says:

"Tested by this rule, the act of Prince Hall, which for more than a century has withstood, not only the devouring tooth of Time, but every attack that the ingenuity of five generations of his white brethren could devise, and has resulted in diffusing the pure light of Masonry through more than a thousand lodges, among three nations of men, and in offering to eight millions of souls, practically their only opportunity to obtain a knowledge of the Word which was in the beginning, is beyond successful attack."

The first lodge to which Prince Hall granted a warrant or "license" in Philadelphia was styled African Lodge No. 459, being same name and number as the original lodge in Massachusetts.

On June 8, 1810, Prince Hall being dead, George Middleton, then Grand Master of Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Boston, granted a warrant to establish Union Lodge No. 2. In 1811 a warrant was granted to open Laurel Lodge No. 5, and Phoenix Lodge No. 6, in 1814.

On the anniversary of St. John the Evangelist's Day, December 27, 1815, a convention of the lodges of Pennsylvania was held in the city of Philadelphia for the purpose of establishing a Grand Lodge, which was done, Absalom Jones being elected the first Grand Master, and the Grand Lodge being known under the style and title of the First African Independent Grand Lodge of F. A. A. Masons of North America for the State of Pennsylvania.

Who was Prince Hall? This is a question which must naturally suggest itself to the reader.

Prince Hall was born on the 12th day of September, A. D. 1748, at Bridgetown, Barbados, British West Indies. His father was Thomas P. Hall, an Englishman, and his mother, whose Christian name we have never seen mentioned, was a free colored woman of French descent. The family while highly respected by those about them for their piety and uprightness of life, were people of humble means, not far removed from poverty. Thomas Prince Hall, the father of young Prince, was a leather worker by trade and employment. At the early age of twelve years, Prince was apprenticed to learn his father's trade. Ambitious for a broader field and brighter prospects than his home and employment offered, he conceived the idea of coming to America.

His parents are said to have opposed his idea very decidedly, but with the stubbornness and impetuosity of youth and ambition, he could

not be turned from his course. So that early in the year 1765, when less than seventeen years old, either with his parents' reluctantly given or without their consent, as many his age have done, he left home to seek his fortune in a strange land. Having but little money he worked his way as a seaman on the vessel on which he came. He landed in Boston, Mass., in March, 1765, after a journey of well nigh a month.

In a strange country without relatives, friends or even acquaintances, his pluck and resourcefulness were in urgent need; and they did not desert him.

In a new country such as ours was at that time, trained labor and untrained labor, in fact any kind of labor was in demand. A sturdy young fellow, with a stout heart, willing hands and four years and more of the discipline which an apprenticeship at an exacting trade implied, was not likely to be long idle. He soon found employment. He seems to have been not only an industrious young fellow but frugal, thrifty, and economizing, for at the end of eight years he had saved enough from his earnings to become a freeholder and a voter. Apprenticed at such an early age, he had had little or no opportunity for mental training. In order to acquire this and supply his physical needs at the same time, there being no night schools in his neighborhood, he took private lessons at night after his toils of the day.

"He, while his companions slept,
Was toiling upward, in the night."

About the year 1774 a remarkable Christian awakening swept through the New England States, kindled and fanned by the fervid exhortations of Richard Boardman and Joseph Gilmore, two missionaries of the Methodist

Church. Among the many converts was Prince Hall. Feeling that it was his duty to proclaim the unsearchable riches of the gospel to them that sat in darkness, he became a close student of the Bible, and in due time was admitted to the Christian ministry. His first charge was at Cambridge, Mass., where he is said to have done great good, building up a large and influential congregation. AS a minister he is represented as earnest, eloquent and uncompromising. From the fact that he sent a copy of one of his sermons to the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of England, we are of the opinion that his pulpit utterances were prepared with care, duly digested and elaborated before delivery. He does not seem to have been of that class of early preachers who took no thought of what they should say, but simply opened their mouths in the pulpit, trusting to God to fill their minds with matter and their mouths with words.

He early became an outspoken enemy of slavery, and hesitated not to denounce it on all proper occasions. He did not feel that being free himself he could be indifferent to the pitiable condition of others. On the contrary, he felt that he was not really free so long as his brethren were suffering in chains. He believed that,

"True freedom is to share,
All the chains our brothers wear;
And with heart and hand to be
Earnest to make others free.

On one occasion a member of his lodge and other free colored men of the city of Boston being kidnapped by the captain of a vessel and carried off to be sold into slavery, Prince Hall petitioned the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to throw about these defenseless men the aegis of the great commonwealth and save them from impending horrors of slavery. The General Assembly and the Governor

thus appealed to exerted their influence and the men were returned. He indited and had numerously signed a number of petitions to the General Assembly of Massachusetts protesting against slavery and the slave trade:

The following is a copy of one of the petitions so sent:

"To the Honorable Council and House of Representatives for the State of Massachusetts Bay, in General Court assembled, January 13, 1777.

"The petition of a great number of Negroes who are detained in a state of slavery in the bowels of a free and Christian country - Humbly Shewing:- That your petitioners apprehend that they have in common with all men, a natural and an unalienable right to that freedom which the great Parent of the Universe hath bestowed equally on all mankind and which they have never forfeited by any compact or agreement whatsoever. But they are unjustly dragged by the cruel hand of Power from their dearest friends and some of them even torn from the embraces of their tender parents- from a populous, pleasant and plentiful country- and in violation of the laws of nature and of nations and in defiance of all the tender feelings of humanity, brought hither to be sold like beasts of burden and like them condemned to slavery for life. Among a people professing the mild religion of Jesus, a people not insensible of the sweets of rational freedom- nor without spirit to resent the unjust endeavors of others, to reduce them to a state of bondage and subjection. Your Honors need not to be informed, that a life of slavery, like that of your petitioners, deprived of every social privilege, of everything requisite to render life even tolerable, is far worse than non-existence. In imitation of the laudable example of the good people of these states, your petitioners have long and patiently waited the event of petition after petition, by them presented to the legislative body of this state and cannot but with grief

reflect that their success has been but too similar. They cannot but express their astonishment, that it has never been considered, that every principle from which America has acted in the course of her unhappy difficulties with Great Britain pleads stronger than a thousand arguments in favor of your petitioners. They, therefore, humbly beseech your Honors to give this petition its due weight and consideration and cause an act of the legislature to be passed whereby they may be restored to the enjoyment of that freedom which is the natural right of all men- and their children (who were born in this land of liberty) may not be held as slaves after they arrive at the age of twenty-one years. So may the inhabitants of this state (no longer chargeable with the inconsistency of acting themselves, the part which they condemn and oppose in others) be prospered in their present glorious struggles for liberty; and have those blessings secured to them by heaven, of which benevolent minds cannot wish to deprive their fellowmen.

"And your petitioners as in duty bound shall ever pray.

"PRINCE HALL,

"PETER BESS, AND OTHERS."

Notwithstanding Prince Hall was of English birth and parentage yet his sympathies were with the colonists during the Revolutionary struggle. He enlisted in the American Army in February, 1776, remaining until about 1782, when he returned to Boston, married a Miss Phoebe Parker of that City, and settled down as a man of affairs. On the 7th of December, 1807, at the age of well nigh sixty years, after an illness of four weeks, caused by pneumonia, Prince Hall was called from labor.

His funeral was attended by a very large number of the best citizens of Boston of both races. His body was interred with the impressive

ceremonies of Masonry in Copp's Hill burying ground. A monument was erected to his memory by the Masons of Massachusetts at Copp's burying ground. This monument, which is built of marble, consists of a broken column resting on a marble base, and is a tasty and significant design and does credit to the brethren of Massachusetts. With great pomp and display it was unveiled June 25, 1895, Bro. John J. Smith, the last surviving member of old "African Lodge, No. 459," being present. Every colored Grand Lodge in the country was represented.

UNITED GRAND LODGE OF IOWA, A. F. & A. M.

(PRINCE HALL MASONRY)

A Genealogical History

By A. G. Clark

As traced by regular succession up and through Hiram Grand Lodge (1884) and African Grand Lodge (1881) of Iowa; Missouri (1865), Ohio (1849), Pennsylvania (1815), Massachusetts (1791), African Lodge No. 459 (1784), Grand Lodge of England (1717).

UNITED GRAND LODGE OF IOWA-1887

A full report of the proceedings of the convention in which this Grand Lodge was organized will be found in the printed proceedings for the year 1887. The Convention met in the hall of North Star Lodge No. 2, in Des Moines, Iowa, at 3 p. m., July 12, 1887. Twenty lodges, seven from Hiram Grand Lodge, and thirteen belonging to African Grand Lodge, were represented. The Committee on Credentials reported 51 delegates present and entitled to one vote each and each lodge three votes each. All working lodges in Iowa at that time were represented. Centerville Lodge U. D. claimed by Hiram Grand Lodge, and John G. Jones, Lodge, No. 5, Council Bluffs, African Grand Lodge register, were defunct and took no part in the convention.

A permanent organization was effected by electing Alexander Clark, Grand Master of Hiram Grand Lodge, Chairman; J. K. Hilyard, Grand Lecturer of African Grand Lodge, Vice Chairman; Geo. H. Cleggett, Grand Master of African Grand Lodge, Secretary; and M. N. Bell, Grand Secretary of Hiram Grand Lodge, Assistant Secretary.

The resolution to unite and form the United Grand Lodge of Iowa, A. F. & A. M. was passed on the second day, Wednesday, July 13, 1887, the vote being 58 for to 53 against. On Thursday, July 14, 1887, the following officers were elected and installed:

Grand Master, Geo. H. Cleggett, Des Moines.
Deputy Grand Master, John Simms, Oskaloosa.
Senior Grand Warden; W. H. Jones, Keokuk.
Junior Grand Warden, E. C. Thomas, Cedar Rapids.
Grand Treasurer, D. W. Anderson, Keokuk.
Grand Secretary, J. E. Gilliam, Keokuk.

HIRAM GRAND LODGE, IOWA, 1884

Organized August 26, 1884, in the Hall of North Star Lodge, No. 31, East Des Moines, dissolved July 14, 1887.

The record says: "Pursuant to a regular call issued as per arrangement made on the 23d day of April 1884," the following Iowa lodges belonging to the Grand Lodge of Missouri, met in convention and resolved to form the M. W. Hiram Grand Lodge of Iowa:

Clark Lodge, No. 6, Davenport.
North Star, No. 31, East Des Moines.
Sims Lodge No. 50, Oskaloosa.
Star Lodge, No. 51, Keokuk.
Reed Lodge, No. 79, Red Oak.
Mt. Olive, No. 86, Cedar Rapids.
Cedar Grove, U. D. Muchakinock.
Centerville Lodge, U. D. had been notified, but was not represented.

The following officers were elected:

Grand Master, Alexander Clark, Muscatine.
Deputy Grand Master, A. Harris, Keokuk.
Senior Grand Warden, A. A. Pierce, Cedar Rapids.

Junior Grand Warden, Joseph Jimmeson, Muchikinoek.
Grand Treasurer, John Sims, Oskaloosa.
Grand Secretary, M. N. Bell, East Des Moines.

It held annual session in Keokuk, 1885; Oskaloosa, 1886; Des Moines, 1887. Its records are preserved in printed proceeding 1884, 1885 and in the organization proceedings of the United Grand Lodge, 1887. Alexander Clark was its first and only Grand Master. Miles N. Bell was its only Grand Secretary. It granted one warrant to Cedar Grove No. 4, Muchikinoek.

AFRICAN GRAND LODGE, IOWA, 1881

Organized at Keokuk, August 9, 1881; dissolved July 14, 1887. The record says: "In response to the will of the Chairman, the following lodges (Missouri Register) duly represented, met in the city of Keokuk, Aug. 9, 1881," and resolved to organize themselves into a Grand Lodge for the State of Iowa:

Sumner Lodge, No. 41, Burlington.
John G. Jones Lodge No. 91, Council Bluffs.
Golden Star Lodge, No. 80, Ottumwa.
North Star Lodge, No. 31, Des Moines.
York Lodge, No. 8, Keokuk.

The following officers were elected and installed:

Grand Master- John Page, Des Moines.
Deputy Grand Master- John L. Brooks, Burlington.
Junior Grand Warden- M. C. Thomson, Ottumwa.
Senior Grand Warden- Geo. W. Black, Washington.
Treasurer- Orange Fields, Keokuk.
Secretary- A. A. Bland, Keokuk.

It held annual sessions at Des Moines, (1882), Burlington (1883), Ottumwa (1884), St. Paul (1885), Keokuk (1886), Des Moines (1887). The full records of its organization and its annual communications are preserved in its printed proceedings for each year. Was incorporated under the title of M. W. African Grand Lodge, A. F. & A. M. for the State of

Iowa. The following were its Grand Masters: John Page, Des Moines, 1881; John L. Brooks, Burlington, 1882; Joseph H. Shepard, Des Moines, 1883; A. A. Bland, Keokuk, 1884, 1885; Geo. H. Cleggett, Des Moines, 1886, 1887. It organized and granted warrants to six new lodges.

~~X~~
THE GRAND LODGE OF MISSOURI, 1865.

From the records we have before us, we learn that: "Returning from this session (The Grand Lodge of Ohio) which closed June 24, 1865, the Missouri members invited the three lodges in St. Louis, Mo., to the formation of a new Masonic center. In July 1865, several weeks subsequent, a convention of these, with the Past Masters and old members residing in St. Louis, was held in the Masonic Hall. There was a full representation of the H. McGee Alexander No. 8; Prince Hall, No. 10, and Lone Star No. 22, by their respective Masters and Wardens. At this convention the Grand Lodge of Missouri was organized with the following officers:

Grand Master- H. McGee Alexander.
Deputy Grand Master-
Senior Grand Warden- John Sexton.
Junior Grand Warden- Geo. Phillips.
Grand Treasurer- H. P. Brooks.
Grand Lecturer- Rev. Moses Dixon.
Grand Secretary- Wm. Roberson.

At this meeting the Grand Secretary was instructed to procure a warrant from the National Grand Lodge, which he received on July 5, 1866, and a special communication was held in St. Louis, December 20, 21, 22, 1866. In the meantime two lodges had been established in Iowa, York Lodge U. D. at Keokuk, and Clark Lodge U. D. at Muscatine, by Rev. Moses Dixon, Grand Lecturer. (*Clark Lodge No. 6 established first then York Lodge later*)

GRAND LODGE OF OHIO, 1849

The three lodges which organized the Grand Lodge of Ohio were organized and warranted by "The First Independent African Grand Lodge of North America

for Pennsylvania." In the Official History of the Grand Lodge of Ohio, (Page 31) we find the following record:

"Whereas the delegates of Corinthian Lodge No. 17, True American Lodge No. 26, and St. John's Lodge No. 27, of Free and Accepted Ancient York Masons, subordinate to the Grand Lodge for the State of Pennsylvania in convention assembled in the city of Cincinnati, State of Ohio, May 3, A. D. 1849, A. L. 5849, ceased working under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge for the State of Pennsylvania, and organized and established a Grand Lodge for the State of Ohio."

The following officers were elected:

Grand Master- Thos. W. Stringer.
Deputy Grand Master- Richard H. Gleaves.
Senior Grand Warden- Joseph C. King.
Junior Grand Warden- Ephraim Bancroft.
Grand Treasurer- George Peterson.
Grand Secretary- O. T. B. Nickens.

Ohio established three lodges in the State of Missouri; Prince Hall, No. 10, 1851; H. McGee Alexander, No. 8, 1864, and Lone Star No. 22, 1861. A full account of the withdrawal of these lodges and the causes leading up to it may be found in the report on Foreign Correspondence by Willis N. Brent and published in the Missouri Proceedings for 1876. It is copied verbatim in the Official History of the Grand Lodge of Ohio, page 97.

GRAND LODGE OF PENNSYLVANIA, 1815

On St. John's Day, December 27, 1815, a convention of the craft was held for the purpose of organizing a Grand Lodge for the State of Pennsylvania. It assembled at Masonic Hall, 155 Lombard Street, and consummated the organization by the election of Rev. Bro. Absalom Jones, Grand Master; Richard Parker, Deputy Grand Master; Thos. Depee, Senior Grand Warden; Prim Clover, Junior Grand Warden; Peter Richmond, Grand Secretary. The subordinate lodges surrendered their old warrants to the

Mother Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, and took out warrants from the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania. The title of the Grand Lodge was fixed as follows: "The First African Independent Grand Lodge of F. & A. M. of North America for the State of Pennsylvania." The lodges which took part were rewarranted and numbered as follows: Union, No. 1; Laurel, No. 2; and Pheonix, No. 3. These lodges were all warranted by Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Massachusetts.

PRINCE HALL GRAND LODGE OF MASSACHUSETTS, 1791

Of the organization of this Grand Lodge, Dr. W. H. Grimshaw in his History of Free Masonry, Chapter IX says: "On June 24, 1791, a general assembly of the craft was held at Masonic Hall, Golden Fleece Water Street, Boston, Mass., for the purpose of organizing a Grand Lodge of Masons for Massachusetts". It was named African Grand Lodge of Boston, Mass., and the following Grand Officers elected:

Grand Master- Prince Hall.
Deputy Grand Master- Nero Prince.
Senior Grand Warden- Cyrus Forbs.
Junior Grand Warden- Geo. Middleton.
Grand Secretary- Prince Taylor.
Grand Treasurer- Peter Best.

The Grand Officers were installed in ample form by Grand Master Prince Hall, assisted by brethern from St. Andrew's lodge (White). It later became known as African Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, and after the death of Prince Hall, in 1807, at the meeting in 1808, the name was changed to Prince Hall Grand Lodge, by which it is now known.

AFRICAN LODGE NO. 459, 1784

The warrant for this lodge was issued to Prince Hall and his followers by the Grand Lodge of England under date of September 29, 1784. It was received by him in Boston on April 29, 1787. It is the recognized authority for all regular Negro Masonry in America, and its regularity

has been established beyond the possibility of dispute. See copy of warrant.

GRAND LODGE OF ENGLAND, 1717

The great masonic event of the eighteenth century, says Mr. Gould in his history, was the Assembly of 1717,-- out of which sprang the Grand Lodge of England, the mother of Grand Lodges.

The lodges that met on St. John's Baptist Day, June 24, 1717, at the Goose and Gridiron ale-house, were:

1. At the Goose and Gridiron ale-house, in St. Paul's Church yard.
2. At the Crown ale-house, in Parker's Lane, near Drury Lane.
3. At the Apple Tree tavern, in Charles street, Covent Garden.
4. At the Rummer & Grapes tavern, in Channel Row, Westminster.

They and some old brothers met at the said Apple Tree, and having put into the chair the oldest Master Mason (now the Master of a lodge), they constituted themselves a Grand Lodge pro tempore in due form, and forthwith revived the quarterly communication of officers of lodges (called the Grand Lodge), resolves to hold the Annual Assembly and Feast, and then choose a Grand Master from among themselves, till they should have the honor of a noble birth at their head.

Accordingly, on St. John's Baptist Day, in the third year of King George I., A. D. 1717, the Assembly and Feast of the Free and Accepted Masons was held at the aforesaid Goose and Gridiron ale-house.

Before dinner the oldest Master Mason (now the Master of a lodge) in the chair, proposed a list of proper candidates and the brethern by a majority of hands, elected Mr. Anthony Sayer, Gaulton, Grand Master of Masons, who, being forthwith invested with the badges of office and power by the said oldest Master and installed, was duly congratulated by the assembly, who paid him the homage. --The History of Freemasonry by Robert Freke Gould, 1886.

CHAPTER II.

THE GRAND LODGE OF MISSOURI, HER ANTECEDENTS, AND A RECORD OF HER JURIS- DICTION OF LODGES IN THE STATE OF IOWA FROM 1866 TO 1884.

It is well here to correct a statement found in Grimshaw's History of Free Masonry. In Chapter XL, under the heading "Free Masonry in Iowa-1870", he says: "The first three lodges in this State (Iowa) were established and chartered by the Grand Lodge of Ohio in 1870." This statement is wholly incorrect. The Grand Lodge of Ohio never established nor held a chartered lodge in Iowa. Nor were the first three lodges established in 1870. The Grand Lodge of Missouri is the only Grand Masonic jurisdiction that ever established, or attempted to establish, subordinate lodges in the State of Iowa. And it held undisputed jurisdiction in Iowa from its organization in 1865 until the organization of African Grand Lodge in August 1881. And during that time chartered ten lodges in the State. This record is, perhaps, without a parallel in the History of American Grand Lodges,- white or colored. That at the time of its organization there were no Masonic lodges in Iowa, although there were a number of Masons residing in the State who held their membership in Missouri, Illinois and Ohio. Of these, we can only speak positively of (two.) Alexander Clark and Jacob P. Pritchard, both residents of Muscatine, Iowa, were members of Prince Hall Lodge No. 10 (Ohio Register), located in St. Louis, Missouri, which lodge became Lodge No. 1 at the organization of the Grand Lodge of Missouri. Both of these Masons were present at the organization convention in June, 1865, and became members of the Grand Lodge at its first special communication held in St. Louis December 20 to 26, 1866, and took an active part in its proceedings. Bro. Pritchard served

as W. G. Sword Bearer and on the Committee of Ways and Means, and Bro. Clark was Chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means and also served on the Committee of Grievances. Both were appointed on a special committee to whom was reserved the report of Bro. Moses Dickson, R. W. Grand Lecturer who had organized two lodges in Ohio. It was largely due to the influence and activity of these two pioneer Masons that brought organized Masonry into Iowa at that early date. They both demitted from Prince Hall Lodge and assisted in the formation of Clark Lodge No. 6 at Muscatine, Bro. Clark being appointed Worshipful Master and Bro. Pritchard Senior Warden. Bro. Pritchard, however, soon withdrew from Clark Lodge and placed his membership back in Prince Hall Lodge at St. Louis, where it remained until he moved his family from Muscatine to Kansas City. And he helped to organize Roan Lodge No. 25 and was its first Worshipful Master. In 1870 he was elected Senior Grand Warden and in 1881 Deputy Grand Master. Pritchard Lodge No. 42 and Pritchard Court No. 3, H. of J., which he helped organize, are named in his honor. He died at Kansas City March 13, 1875. He has a daughter, Mrs. Sadie J. Hart, now living at 4841 Federal Street, Chicago, Illinois, who is quite prominent in the adoptive rites in the orders of Heroines of Jericho and Eastern Star. Bro. Clark remained a member of Clark Lodge until it became defunct in 1888. While it is possible that other Iowa Masons may have been present at these initial meetings of the Missouri Grand Lodge, their names do not appear in any of the printed records I have been able to obtain. No members of York Lodge No. 8 at Keokuk are mentioned in the proceedings until the meeting in June 1867, when, as will be shown in the record that follows, the Lodge received its charter.

The following account of the antecedents and the causes leading up to the organization of the Grand Lodge of Missouri can be found in the

Grand Lodge proceedings of 1876, compiled by Worshipful Bro. Willis N. Brent, Grand Secretary, which reads as follows:

"The three Lodges which formed the 'Hiram Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania,' in 1837, were all chartered by the 'African Lodge' and its successor, the first of which as early as March, 1797.

The Hiram Grand Lodge established daughter Lodges in Pennsylvania, Delaware and Ohio. In 1847, another Grand Lodge was formed in Pennsylvania, by refractory subordinates of the Hiram Grand Lodge. In 1849, the Delaware subordinates formed the Hiram Grand Lodge of that state.

The three Ohio Lodges were all located at Cincinnati; 'Corinthian,' 'True American,' and 'St. John's.' By the concurrence of these Lodges, the Grand Lodge for the State of Ohio and its jurisdiction, was formed in 1850, and the formal recognition by Hiram Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, followed shortly after. This new Grand Lodge planted daughter Lodges in Missouri, Illinois, and Kentucky. The first formed in Missouri, being Prince Hall Lodge, September 23d, 1851, located at St. Louis. Two others were subsequently established, and the Missouri Lodges were numbered upon the Register of the Grand Lodge of Ohio as follows: 'H. McGee Alexander Lodge, No. 8,' 'Prince Hall No. 10,' 'Lone Star No. 22.' These were all located at St. Louis.

The Missouri members were held in high esteem, and filled many conspicuous stations; among others, those of Grand Master, Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary, and Grand Lecturer, the last being filled, during several consecutive years, by Bro. Moses Dickson, afterward Grand Master of Missouri. Possessing talent and energy, and ardent zeal in this office, it cannot be denied that to his labors is largely due the credit of effecting the first uniformity in the work of colored Masons in the West. In the election of 1865, the Missouri members were wholly ignored. An

analysis of the constituent Lodges shows very clearly how it was done, but the records and brethren who participated, are silent as to the reason why. There were eighteen Lodges upon the register, nine in Ohio, three in Illinois, two in Kentucky, one in Tennessee, and three in Missouri. The Committee on nominations presented two reports, and it is a singular fact, that though there were but two Ohio men, out of five members on the committee, all of the elective officers on both reports, were allotted to Ohio men, save two. The majority report, which was presented by a Kentucky and the two Ohio members, was a straight home ticket, except that Missouri was accorded the second place, that of D. G. M. The minority report, presented by a member from Missouri and one from Illinois, strange to say, also favored an almost exclusive Ohio ticket, conceding however the first place to Illinois, the third to Kentucky, and all the rest to Ohio. In open session, the Illinois member of the minority, was himself substituted for an Ohio nominee for the fourth place. The minority report was successful, and thus Missouri, with a member of the committee on nominations having the three strongest Lodges in the jurisdiction, was openly snubbed. Illinois with three Lodges, got the Grand Master and Junior Grand Warden; Kentucky with two, the Senior Grand Warden; Ohio, the D. G. M., Treasurer, and Grand Secretary. The conclusion is obvious.

Returning from this session, which closed June 24th, the Missouri members invited the three Lodges in St. Louis to the formation of a new Masonic centre. In July, several weeks subsequent, a convention of these, with the Past Masters and old members residing in St. Louis, was held in the Masonic Hall. There was a full representation of the H. McGee Alexander, No. 8, Prince Hall, No. 10, and Lone Star, No. 22, by their respective Masters and Wardens. The breach which was so obvious at Columbus only a few weeks before between the Missouri members, now seemed entirely

closed; the utmost peace and harmony seemed to prevail; the organization was duly effected, with Bro. H. McGee Alexander, a zealous and intelligent Mason, as Grand Master. Bro. W. P. Brooks and Bro. Wm. Roberson, were chosen Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary, positions which they had but recently filled in the Grand Lodge of Ohio. To Bro. Moses Dickson was assigned the honorable and very responsible position of Grand Lecturer, which he had so acceptably filled under the Grand Mother Lodge, with the task of building up and extending the new organization. How far he succeeded in this arduous task, will subsequently appear from the report of the Committee on Dispensations and Charters. The Ohio Grand Lodge was organized as an independent body, and six years from that event, became a member of the 'National Compact.' The new organization closely followed that precedent. Established in July, 1865, the petition to the National Grand Lodge for a Grand Warrant by the Grand Officers, bears date of June 1st, 1866. The Grand Secretary had been authorized to procure such warrant; and on its arrival, a 'Special Communication' was called to remodel the organization to the requirements of that document."

We now copy from the record as printed in the proceedings of the Grand Lodge sessions held at St. Louis, December 20 to 26, 1866, and June 18 to 21, 1867.

The proceedings opened with a copy of the original Charter issued by the Colored National Grand Lodge of the United States legalizing and empowering the Grand Lodge of Missouri to proceed and work as a Grand Lodge. We reproduce that historical document here that the future student of Masonry in Iowa may better understand the conditions under which Negro Masonry was trying to operate at that time, and better understand the origin of the present day so-called Compact organizations that are now trying to establish themselves as regular Masons in many parts of the country.

THE WARRANT
OF THE
MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE
FOR THE
STATE OF MISSOURI.

To all whom it may concern:

The Most Worshipful National Grand Lodge of the Most Ancient and Honorable Fraternity of Free and Accepted Ancient York Masons of the United State of North America, (according to the old Constitution at York, in the Kingdom of England,) duly established and organized for the said United States, according to the resolutions and by the authority of a grand Convention, held in the City of Boston, State of Massachusetts, on the 24th, 25th, 26th and 28th days of June, A. D. 1847; A. L. 5847.

Wisdom, Strength, Fraternity.

WHEREAS, A petition, bearing date June 1st, A. D. 1866, was presented in the name of Henry McGee Alexander, and others, praying the grant of a Charter of Constitution and erection in the usual form, for holding a Grand Lodge in the State of Missouri, under the name and title of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge for the State of Missouri; and under the authority of the Most Worshipful National Grand Lodge of the United States of North America, proposing the persons after mentioned to be the first Office bearer thereof, viz: Henry McGee Alexander, Most Worshipful Grand Master, John Sexton, Right Worshipful Grand Senior Warden; Geo. Phillips, Right Worshipful Grand Junior Warden; Wm. P. Brooks, Right Worshipful Grand Treasurer, and William Roberson, Right Worshipful Grand Secretary;

which petition having been duly considered, we are pleased to ordain a Charter, to be issued in the terms under written;

KNOW YE, therefore, That the Most Worshipful National Grand Master, and the National Grand Lodge, have constituted, erected and appointed; likewise they hereby constitute, erect and appoint the Grand Master, Grand Wardens and brethren above named to be now and in all times coming a true and regular Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons for the State of Missouri, under the name, style and title of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Ancient York Masons for the State of Missouri. And we do hereby authorize and empower our Worshipful and beloved Brethren, and their successors in office, to constitute by Charter, or organize by Dispensation, Subordinate Lodges within the said State of Missouri, according to the Constitution of Masonry, and of the Most Worshipful National Grand Lodge, upon the payment of such fee as may be determined by the said Most Worshipful Grand Lodge; also to make choice of a Grand Master, a Deputy Grand Master, Grand Wardens and other Grand Officers annually; to receive and collect funds for the support of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, and for the payment of such sums as may be assessed by the Constitution and Regulations of the Most Worshipful National Grand Lodge;

And we do further authorize and empower the said constituted brethren and their successors to have and determine all and singular matters and things relating to the craft within their jurisdiction, with the assistance of the members of said Grand Lodge, subject to an appeal to the Most Worshipful National Grand Lodge. Such appeal, however, shall be signed by at least three members of said Grand Lodge, and shall possess and exercise all the powers and functions of a State Grand Lodge. And we do hereby require the said constituted brethren to attend the Most Worshipful National Grand Lodge, at their triennial communications and other meetings

by their Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, and Grand Wardens, or by proxy regularly appointed; also, to keep a fair and regular record of all your proceedings in a book to be kept for that purpose; and we do enjoin upon the officers and brethren of said Grand Lodge that they be punctual in their payments of such sums as may be assessed on them by the National Grand Lodge, and to make regular returns annually to the National Grand Secretary, or to the Most Worshipful National Grand Lodge, of the names and members of all the Lodges under the jurisdiction of said Grand Lodge, where located; of the suspensions, expulsions, and of the Charters surrendered; also, the number of members belonging to each Subordinate Lodge, and of the election and installation of the officers of the Grand Lodge.

And we do hereby declare that the proceedings of the said Grand Lodge, in National Grand Lodge, to commence from the Twenty-fourth day of June, Anno Domini, One Thousand Eight Hundred and Sixty-six; and lastly, we do hereby authorize and empower our said Worshipful Brothers, Henry McGee Alexander, John Sexton, and George Phillips, to install their successors, being first duly elected and chosen, to whom they shall deliver this warrant, and invest them with all the powers and dignities to their offices respectively belonging; and such successors shall, in like manner, from time to time install their successors, &c., &c., &c., such installation to be upon or near St. John the Evangelist's, or St. John the Baptist's day, during the continuance of this Grand Lodge forever; Provided always that the said above named Worshipful Brothers, and their successors, pay due respect to the Most Worshipful National Grand Lodge and the ordinances thereof; otherwise this Warrant to be of no force or virtue.

Given by the authority of the Most Worshipful National Grand Lodge, under the signatures of the Most Worshipful National Grand Officers and the

Seal of the Most Worshipful National Grand Lodge, this Twentieth day of June, Anno Domini One Thousand Eight Hundred and Sixty-six, and in the year of Masonry Five Thousand Eight Hundred and Sixty-six.

RICHARD HOWELL GLEAVES, M. W. N. G. M.

M. W. N. D. G. M.

WILLIAM EDWIN GIBSON, M. W. N. S. G. W.

CHARLES T. DUTCHER, M. W. N. Y. G. W.

JOHN HENRY BUTLER, M. W. N. G. F.

Attest: JONATHAN DAVIS, M. W. N. G. S."

The First Special Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted A. Y. Masons for the State of Missouri and its jurisdiction thereunto belonging, was held in the City of St. Louis, commencing December 20th, A. D. 1866, A. L. 5866.

A full representation of Prince Hall Lodge No. 1, Lone Star Lodge No. 2, H. McGee Alexander Lodge No. 3, were present. The Grand Master submitted his report from which we cull the following:

During the past six months there have been nine Lodges opened by Bro. Moses Dickson, R. W. G. L., who was commissioned with proper authority to open the following Lodges:

August 11, Clark Lodge, Muscatine, Iowa
October 4, York Lodge, Keokuk, Iowa.

The Grand Secretary then made his report from which we cull the following facts:

The first duty performed was to draw up the Warrants for the Three Lodges composing this Grand Lodge, viz: Prince Hall Lodge No. 1; Lone Star Lodge No. 2, and H. McGee Alexander Lodge No. 3.

On April 7, 1866, I wrote Bro. R. H. Gleaves, N. G. Master of the Most Worshipful National Grand Lodge of U. S. of N. A., informing him that we had in July 1865, withdrawn from under the jurisdiction of the

Grand Lodge of Ohio, and established an Independent Grand Lodge, for the State of Missouri, at the same time asking him on what conditions we could become a Member of the National compact. I received an answer dated April 12, 1866, stating the conditions under which we could be received in the National compact. A copy of the letter I have in my possession.

The conditions being satisfactory, I by order of the Grand Lodge of Missouri complied, and wrote for a Warrant, which I received on the 5th of July, 1866, which is now held by our Grand Master.

From "Money Received" we note the following:

August 21, 1866, from M. Dickson, for three Dispensations to open Pioneer Lodge St. Paul, Minnesota, Clark Lodge, Muscatine, Iowa, and York Lodge, Keokuk, Iowa, \$30.00.

The Committee on Dispensations and Charters recommended that a Warrant be granted Clark Lodge, Muscatine, Iowa.

The Committee to whom was referred the Report of Bro. Moses Dickson, R. W. G. L., made the following report:

"We, your Committee, to whom was referred the Report of Bro. Moses Dickson, R. W. G. L., beg leave to report that, we find that he has formed the following lodges:

Pioneer Lodge St. Paul, Minnesota.
Clark Lodge, Muscatine, Iowa.
York Lodge, Keokuk, Iowa."

At the morning session we find the following Resolution:

"That the Officers of Clark Lodge No. 6, and Far West Lodge No. 7, be installed in this Grand Lodge this evening at 7 o'clock."

At the evening session the following is the record:

"M. W. G. Master, H. McGee Alexander proceed to install the Officers of Clark Lodge No. 6, and Far West Lodge No. 7, as follows: Bro. Alexander Clark, W. M. of Clark Lodge No. 6, and Bro. Hogan Green, W. M. of Far West Lodge No. 7."

At the afternoon session on Wednesday, December 26, 1866, the following record was made:

"Your Committee having examined the petitions of the following Lodges for a continuance of their Dispensations, would respectfully ask that their prayer be granted." Among the Lodges named was York Lodge U. D. Keokuk, Iowa, whose Dispensation was continued until the month of June, 1867.

At the Grand Lodge session held in St. Louis commencing June 18, A. D. 1867, A. L. 5867, the following is the report of the Committee on Dispensations:

"We, your Committee on Dispensations and Charters, beg leave to Report, that as the 'York Lodge, U. D. Keokuk, Iowa,' having applied in regular form for a Warrant, we recommend that their prayer be granted."

On Motion of J. W. Smith, Bro. William A. Dove, was duly installed W. M. of York Lodge No. 8, Keokuk, Iowa. Also, Bros. David Lawrence S. W., and A. T. Strong J. W. of the same Lodge.

It will be clearly seen from this record when the two first Lodges were organized in Iowa and when they received their Charters.

The Grand Lodge held two annual communications in Iowa, 1872 and 1882, both at Keokuk.

Iowa Masons were held in high esteem and many were selected to fill important stations in the Grand Lodge. The following Iowa Masons were honored with elective offices:

Grand Master-Alexander Clark, Muscatine, 1870, 71, 74, 75, 76.
Deputy Grand Master-Alexander Clark, 1867, Wm. A. Dove, Keokuk, 1869; York E. Anderson, Keokuk, 1872; A. A. Bland, Keokuk, 1877.
Senior Grand Warden-Alfred Harris, Keokuk, 1882; John Sims, Oskaloosa, 1883.
Junior Grand Warden-Wm. A. Dove, Keokuk, 1867; York E. Anderson, Keokuk, 1870; A. A. Bland, Keokuk, 1878.
Grand Treasurer-Alexander Clark, 1868.
Grand Secretary-Geo. W. Guy, Keokuk, 1870, 71, 73, 74; Alexander Clark, 1872.

Following are the elective Grand Officers and the time and place of holding the Grand Lodge while exercising jurisdiction in Iowa:

The first special communication was held in the city of St. Louis, Missouri, commencing December 20th, 1866. Grand officers present:

H. McGee Alexander, G. Master,	Moses Dickson, G. Lecturer,
John Sexton, G. S. Warden,	Sam Livingston, G. Chaplain,
George Phillips, G. J. Warden,	E. S. Woodson, G. M. of Ceremonies,
George Phillips, G. J. Warden,	Henry Turner, G. Marshal,
W. P. Brooks, G. Treasurer,	J. P. Richards, G. Sword Bearer,
Wm. Robertson, G. Secretary,	Henry Lewis, G. S. Steward,
Albert Essex, G. S. Deacon,	W. J. Burk, G. J. Steward.
Edward Butler, G. J. Deacon,	

The first annual communication was held in the city of St. Louis, commencing June 8th, 1867. Grand officers present:

H. McGee Alexander, G. Master,	James Davis, G. Treasurer, (Pro Tem.)
John Sexton, G. S. Warden,	Wm. Roberson, G. Secretary,
George Phillips, G. J. Warden,	Members of Grand Lodge, eighteen.

The second annual session convened in the city of St. Louis, Mo., June 17th, 1868. Grand officers present:

Alexander Clark, D. Grand Master,	Jas. R. Davis, S. G. Warden,
acting Grand Master. Grand	John Sexton, J. G. Warden, (Pro Tem.)
Master H. McGee Alexander	Wm. P. Brooks, G. Treasurer,
having died April 20, 1868.	Robert O. Smith, G. Secretary.
Moses Dickson, D. G. Master, (Pro. Tem.)	

The third annual session convened in the city of St. Louis, Mo., the first Monday in June, 1869. Grand officers present:

Moses Dickson, G. Master,	Wm. Roberson, J. G. Warden,
W. P. Brooks, D. G. Master,	Alex. Clark, G. Treasurer,
Francis Roberson, S. G. Warden,	Robt. O. Smith, G. Secretary.

The fourth annual communication convened in Hannibal, Mo., July 4th, 1870. Grand officers present:

Alexander Clark, G. Master,	J. W. Braxton, J. G. Warden (Pro Tem.)
W. A. Dove, D. G. Master,	Robt. O. Smith, G. Secretary,
G. W. Guy, S. G. S. Warden, (Pro Tem.)	W. P. Brooks, G. Treasurer.

Past Grand officers present: Moses Dickson, W. R. Lawton, Past Grand Masters; J. M. M. Stokes, Past Senior Grand Warden; J. W. Hughes, Past Junior Grand Warden.

The fifth annual communication convened in Memphis, Tenn., July 3d,
1871. Grand officers present:

Alexander Clark, G. Master,	A. Bostic, J. G. Warden, (Pro Tem.)
W. R. Lawton, D. G. Master,	W. P. Brooks, G. Treasurer,
J. P. Pritchard, S. G. Warden,	G. W. Guy, G. Secretary.

At the close of the installation exercises, Hon. W. H. Gray, of J. M. Alexander Lodge No. 4, located at Helena, Arkansas, in behalf of Bro. John Boyd, of King Solomon Lodge No. 20, at Memphis, Tennessee, and the members of J. Q. Johnson Lodge No. 30, at St. Louis, Missouri, presented M. W. Bro. Alexander Clark a fine gold-headed cane, the wood for which had been cut on Lookout Mountain in Tennessee, in token of their brotherly love and esteem for him as Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons for Missouri and jurisdiction. That cane is now in possession of his son A. G. Clark.

The sixth annual communication convened in Keokuk, Iowa, July 1st,
1872. Grand officers present:

Alexander Clark, G. Master,	A. Essex, G. J. Warden,
J. P. Pritchard, D. G. Master,	J. G. Pettiford, G. Treasurer (Pro Tem.)
J. K. Hilyard, S. G. Warden,	G. W. Guy, G. Secretary.

The seventh annual communication convened in Independence, Mo., July
1st, 1873. Grand officers present:

W. R. Lawton, G. Master,	J. W. Hughes, J. G. Warden,
York Anderson, D. G. Master,	J. G. Bruce, G. Treasurer,
J. W. Braxton, S. G. Warden,	A. Clark, G. Secretary.

The eighth annual communication convened in Jefferson City, Mo.,
July 17th, 1874. Grand officers present:

W. R. Lawton, G. Master,	J. W. Hughes, J. G. Warden,
J. W. Braxton, D. G. Master,	J. G. Bruce, G. Treasurer,
J. J. Pettiford, S. G. Warden,	G. W. Guy, G. Secretary.

Past grand officers present: Brothers Moses Dickson, Alexander Clark,
William Brooks, W. N. Brent.

The ninth annual communication convened in Columbia, Mo., July 6th,
1875. Grand officers present:

Alexander Clark, G. Master,
W. B. Ousley, D. G. Master,
L. S. Fisher, S. G. Warden,

P. A. Hubbard, J. G. Warden,
W. N. Brent, G. Treasurer,
G. W. Guy, G. Secretary.

The tenth annual communication convened in St. Louis, Mo., August 15th, 1876. In the absence of Grand Master Alexander Clark, Brother Moses Dickson acted as Grand Master. A dispatch was received from Grand Master Alexander Clark, announcing his unexpected detention at Rock Island, that he would arrive at eight o'clock P. M., and requested that the Grand Lodge be called off until that hour. Called off. Grand officers present:

Alex. Clark, G. Master,
W. A. Dove, D. G. Master,
L. S. Fisher, S. G. Warden,

J. Lange, J. G. Warden,
J. J. Bruce, G. Treasurer,
W. N. Brent, G. Secretary.

The eleventh annual communication convened in St. Joseph, Mo., beginning August 21st, 1877. Grand officers present:

Alex. Clark, G. Master,
J. M. M. Stokes, D. G. Master,
H. H. Jones, S. G. Warden,

Geo. W. Dupree, J. G. Warden,
A. Hubbard, G. Treasurer,
W. N. Brent, G. Secretary.

The twelfth annual communication convened in Sedalia, Mo., commencing August 20th, 1878. Grand officers present:

M. Dickson, G. Master,
A. Bland, D. G. Master,
J. F. Abbey, G. S. Warden,

C. H. Williams, G. J. Warden,
J. J. Bruce, G. Treasurer,
W. N. Brent, G. Secretary.

The thirteenth annual communication convened in Macon City, Mo., beginning August 19th, 1879. Grand officers present:

W. N. Brent, G. Master,
J. N. Wheeler, D. G. Master,
T. A. Head, S. G. Warden,

A. Bland, J. G. Warden,
J. J. Bruce, G. Treasurer,
R. O. Smith, G. Secretary.

The fourteenth annual communication convened in Hannibal, Mo., beginning August 17th, 1880. Grand officers present:

W. N. Brent, G. Master,
A. Hubbard, D. G. Master,
A. R. Chinn, S. G. Warden,

A. B. Goodwin, J. G. Warden,
J. J. Bruce, G. Treasurer,
R. O. Smith, G. Secretary.

The fifteenth annual communication convened in Kansas City, Mo., beginning August 16th, 1881. Grand officers present:

W. N. Brent, G. Master,	J. J. Bruce, G. Treasurer,
A. R. Chinn, D. G. Master,	R. O. Smith, G. Secretary.
C. H. Williams, S. G. Warden,	

Past Grand Masters present: M. Dickson, A. Clark, W. R. Lawton.

The sixteenth annual communication convened in Keokuk, Iowa, beginning August 17th, 1882. Grand officers present:

W. M. Brent, G. Master,	W. H. Jones, G. J. Warden,
J. M. M. Stokes, D. G. Master,	J. J. Bruce, G. Treasurer,
J. C. C. Owens, G. S. Warden,	R. O. Smith, G. Secretary.

Past Grand Masters present: Moses Dickson, W. R. Lawton, Alex. Clark.

The seventeenth annual communication convened in St. Joseph, Mo., beginning August 21st, 1883. Grand officers present:

R. O. Smith, G. Master,	J. J. Bruce, G. Treasurer,
J. C. C. Owens, D. G. Master,	W. N. Brent, G. Secretary.
J. Turner, J. G. Warden,	

Past Grand Masters present: Moses Dickson, Alex. Clark, W. N. Brent.

The eighteenth annual communication convened in Sedalia, Mo., beginning August 19th, 1884. Grand officers present:

R. O. Smith, G. Master,	S. Bruce, J. G. Warden,
W. H. Jones, D. G. Master,	J. J. Bruce, G. Treasurer,
John Simms, S. G. Warden,	J. H. Pelham, G. Secretary.

Past Grand Masters present: W. R. Lawton, Alex. Clark.

Following is a list of the Lodges organized in Iowa by the Grand Lodge of Missouri, with their charter members:

CLARK LODGE No. 6, MUSCATINE.

This Lodge was organized in Muscatine, August 6, 1866, by R. W. Moses Dickson, Grand Lecturer, and received its Charter from the Grand Lodge December 21, 1866.

Charter Members.

Alexander Clark, W. M.,	A. W. Carter, S. D.,
J. P. Pritchard, S. W.,	A. Redman, J. D.,
George Manley, J. S.,	Charles Lindsey, S. S.,
Benj. Mathews, Treasurer,	James Cook, Tyler,
Geo. W. Black, Secretary.	

Members: J. Rease, C. Montgomery, B. Taylor.

All the members were residents of Muscatine, except Geo. W. Black and A. W. Carter, who resided in Washington. It was in this Lodge that the writer received his first introduction to Masonry. It was entirely operative, however, and consisted in assisting his Father to carry some of the furnishings for the Lodge up into the room where they were set up.

YORK LODGE NO. 8, KEOKUK.

Organized October 11, 1866, by Grand Lecturer Moses Dickson. War-ranted June 20, 1867.

Charter Members.

W. A. Done, W. M.,	George Bland, S. D.,
David Lawrence, S. W.,	Henry Triplet, J. D.,
Aug. B. Story, J. W.,	Sike Fox, S. S.,
C. Logan, Treasurer,	Ward Story, J. S.,
York Anderson, Secretary,	Chas. Osborn, Tyler.

Members: Martin Bland, Henry DePugh, Ed Poindexter, Gilbert Phelps, James Brown, J. F. Jordan, Addison Morris.

NORTH STAR LODGE NO. 31, DES MOINES.

Organized October 6, 1870, by Grand Master Alexander Clark. War-ranted July 4, 1870.

Charter Members.

A. W. Carter, W. M.,
I. S. Carter, S. W.,

S. B. Smith, J. W.,
A. Brown, Treasurer,
S. W. Birney, Secretary.

Members: Peter Bell, O. Carter, Geo. Carter, T. L. Carter, Edward Davidson, Harrison Deberg, Martin Essex, Jefferson Logan, Geo. Poin-dexter, Samuel Sikes.

One of the charter members of this Lodge is still living, although not identified with Masonry,- Samuel Sikes, Fairfield, Iowa.

Grand Master Clark, in referring to his visit to this Lodge in his annual address for 1875, thought proper to insert the following notice from the Iowa State Register of June 24, 1875:

"YORK MASONRY: This evening there is to be a public installation of the officers of North Star Lodge, York Masons, followed by a festival in the lodge room on Court Avenue. Alexander Clark, Grand Master, will appear as installing officer. The lodge room has been furnished and up in a manner extremely creditable to the members of the organization. The floor is covered with an elegant ingrain carpet of the best manu-facture. The officers' stations are of oiled walnut and the room is lighted with an expensive and handsome chandelier. The ante-rooms and halls leading thereto are similarly lighted. The traditional 'pillars' are elegant specimens of carving and gilt costing \$40.00; they are said to be the finest in the State."

SUMNER LODGE, NO. 41, BURLINGTON.

Organized June ____, 1874, by W. R. Lawton, Grand Master. Warranted July 11, 1875.

Charter Members.

John Brooks, W. M.,
E. Ridlie, S. W.,
M. F. Banks, J. W.

SIMS LODGE, NO. 50, OSKALOOSA.

Organized November 16, 1875, by Alexander Clark, Grand Master. Warranted August 16, 1876.

Charter Members.

John Sims, W. M.,
Joseph Jammison, S. W.,
Hobert A. Armstrong, J. W.,
Jerry Watson, Treasurer,
J. D. Bush, Secretary.

Members: J. F. Bush, Byron Owens, Peter Ringo, F. J. Marshall, John Williams, Chas. Johnson, George Turpin, Lewis Day, Burtin Dimmit, Mumford Rollins.

Two of the ^{charter}members of this Lodge are still living,- John Sims, Washington, D. C., and Hobart A. Armstrong, Buxton, Monroe County, Iowa. Neither are identified with Masonry at this time. Mr. Armstrong is, without a doubt, the wealthiest negro in the State of Iowa, owning over 2000 acres of the best Iowa land.

STAR LODGE, NO. 51, KEOKUK.

Organized December 29, 1879. Warranted August 17, 1880.

Charter Members.

Syke Fox, W. M.,
Alfred Harris, S. W.,
Chas. Hackett, J. W.,
W. H. Jones, Treasurer,
J. E. Gillam, Secretary.

Members: *Joseph* James Miles, W. Williams, S. Harris, C. Logan, C. Davis, J. Clark, R. Chryst, H. J. Vaughn, C. Aldin, E. Carrell, J. Boymean, G. Bannister, A. Wilburn, G. Wilson, J. Benton, S. C. Harris, F. Dunkerson, W. Hampton, N. Wear, W. Dickson, D. Fox, G. Kendrick, C. Hunt, J. Glens, M. Alexander, N. Muller, S. Dickson, J. P. Anderson, J. Marriot, J. Harris.

This Lodge was formed largely out of demitted members of York

Lodge No. 8.

MITCHELL LODGE, NO. 58, CORNING.

Organized _____, by Alexander Clark, Grand Master. War-
ranted August 17, 1876. It made its last report to the Grand Lodge in
1880 and was dropped from the roster.

Charter Members.

N. S. Mitchell, W. M., Chas. Mason, J. W.,
Wm. Smith, S. W., John Howe, Treasurer,
Chas. Roundtree, Secretary.

Members: Harrison Vennable, James Stewart, Wm. Crawford, Henry Webb,
Levi Broomfield.

REED LODGE, NO. 79, RED OAK.

Organized January 18, 1878, by Grand Master Moses Dickson. War-
ranted August 21, 1878.

Charter Members.

Nathan Dorsett, W. M., John Reed, J. W.,
Anderson Bracken, S. W., Spencer Reed, Treasurer,
David Harris, Secretary.

Members: Henry Marley, Joseph Bolden, Henry James, G. W. Woodward,
Anos Bird, James McRay, Adam Williams, Wm. Anderson, Samuel Davison,
J. H. Mason, Walter Young.

GOLDEN STAR, NO. 80, OTTUMWA.

Organized April 18, 1878, by Moses Dickson, Grand Master. War-
ranted August 21, 1878.

Charter Members.

Enoch Shaw, W. M., Zachariah Taylor, J. W.,
Oscar Conners, S. W., Peter Holmes, Treasurer,
Wells Fowler, Secretary.

Members: M. C. Thomson, Gust Moore, John Harris, Essex Harne, Chris Harris,
Wesley Lee, James Parkerson, John Pearsons, Jordon Payne, Wm. Hutchinson,
Prentiss Green, Chas. White, Stephen Green, Chas. Moss, James Campbell,
Sylvester Lee, Benj. Summitt, Chas. Lewis, Geo. Gable.

MOUNT OLIVE LODGE, NO. 86, CEDAR RAPIDS.

Organized June 5, 1878, by Grand Master Moses Dickson. Warranted August 19, 1879.

Charter Members.

C. S. Gomer, W. M.,
Rev. Andrew Ford, S. W.,
E. C. Thomas, J. W.,
R. Gomer, Treasurer,
A. A. Pierce, Secretary.

Members: Wm. O'Brine, Wm. Johnson, Wm. O. Cryn, Peter Johnson, N. Johnson, T. R. Van Pelt, Peter Galloway, Wm. Raspberry, Green Butler, Samuel Hutchinson.

JOHN G. JONES LODGE, NO. 91, COUNCIL BLUFFS.

Organized April 27, 1878, by Grand Master Moses Dickson. Warranted August _____.

Charter Members.

Chas. Haley, W. M.,
Geo. W. Wesley, S. W.,
John A. Richardson, J. W.,
B. H. Warner, Treasurer,
M. C. Johnson, Secretary.

Members: Rev. C. W. Newton, P. Jackson, W. H. Harrison, P. C. Phillips, Benj. Owens, Frank Bellamey, Chas. Scantlan.

C. R. COLEMAN LODGE, NO. 101, BOONSBOROUGH.

Organized February 13, 1880, by Willis N. Brent, Grand Master.
Warranted August 17, 1880. Surrendered warrant August 21, 1883.

Charter Members.

Stephen Alexander, W. M.,
W. W. Harper, S. W.,
Robert H. Coates, J. W.,
Geo. Steel, Treasurer,
Wm. Kennie, Secretary.

Members: Geo. F. Pollard, Geo. H. Hughes, Lewis Williams, H. C. Bunte, Andrew McGee, John Brown, Wm. McKerney, Albert McGee, Frank Hayden, Chas. Reed, Mack Saunders.

In reporting the surrender of the charter of this lodge, Grand Secretary Willis N. Brent gives a little history of this organization. He says:

"Coleman Lodge, No. 101, Boonsborough, Iowa, by unanimous vote,

decided to surrender its charter. The causes are few and there was perfect harmony. Boonsborough is a coal mining station. Several years ago several hundred colored miners were attracted by the splendid prospects and, for a time, there was general prosperity. The strata became unproductive and many men were discharged and some retained under reduced wages and reduced hours of labor. Removals then commenced and have been continued. The lodge was opened February 13, 1880, with 30 members, by our Worthy Bro. C. R. Coleman and has ever since profited by his knowledge and experience. Their number was finally reduced to seven and on the eve of his removal he applied for his demit and they determined to close up as no other course was left them. By direction of the Grand Master certificates were issued to all of them, and wherever destiny may lead them within this jurisdiction, we bespeak for them a cordial welcome."

It is well known to many Iowa Masons that members of this lodge settled in Mahaska County and were employed in the mines at Muchakinock. Several placed their demits in Sims Lodge, No. 50, while others were instrumental in the organization of Cedar Grove Lodge at Muchakinock.

NEWTON LODGE, U. D., NEWTON.

Organized June 27, 1882, by Robert O. Smith, Grand Master. Warranted August 15, 1882.

Newton Lodge was never warranted by the Grand Lodge of Missouri. In speaking of its determination to change its affiliation, the Grand Secretary, Willis N. Brent, has the following statement in the 1883 Missouri proceedings:

"Newton Lodge at Newton, Jasper County, organized June 27, 1882, with seventeen members, by its own action June 11, 1883, transferred

Hiram Grand Lodge August 26, 1884.

Charter Members.

W. R. Larcy, W. M.,
R. S. Brown, S. W.,
J. T. Cannaday, J. W.,
C. W. Tyler, Treasurer,
J. H. Lewis, Secretary,

J. Thurman, Tyler.

J. S. Martin, S. D.,
John Green, J. D.,
C. Ayers, S. S.,
J. Lee, J. S.,
T. A. Coalman, Chaplain,

INTRODUCTION

From time to time since the organization of the M. W. United Grand Lodge of Iowa steps have been taken to preserve its history as contained in the printed Proceedings. Grand Master J. E. Gillan, in 1892 was the first to suggest the collection and binding in suitable size volumes the Proceedings to be preserved in the Grand Secretary's office. How poorly this idea was carried out was brought to the attention of the Grand Lodge in 1906 by Grand Secretary H. K. Hillon when he said: "Prior to 1904 you have not even on file in this office the printed Annual Proceedings." He further said: "I have collected records in the form of Printed Proceedings from 1888 up to date and securely converted them into one volume, and placed it in this office as the property of the Grand Lodge."

It is doubtful if any one living to-day can tell what became of this unique and valuable volume. Again in 1918 the Grand Secretary was instructed to collect a complete file of the Proceedings of African Hiram and the United Grand Lodge, but it was not till 1918 that the Grand Secretary was able to report the file complete. It was brought down to date by Grand Secretary Johnson in 1922 and is now resting securely in the Iowa Masonic Library at Cedar Rapids.

The idea contained in Grand Master J. D. Reelers recommendation made in 1894, for the appointment of a Statistition was broader and more extensive than the record contained in the printed Proceeding. It would have laid the foundation for a history of Negro Masonry in Iowa, which antedated the organization of the first

Grand Lodge by fifteen years, unfortunately Bro. Reeler's idea was never carried out.

It was at the Annual Communication in 1906 that the matter of compiling the history of Negro Masonry in Iowa was officially brought to the attention of the Grand Lodge. Grand Master W. H. Milligan in his Annual Address, offered as recommendation No. 2, "That there be a committee of one appointed at this session to compile the history of Negro Masonry in Iowa and report at the session in 1907, and that he be allowed traveling expenses."

This recommendation was approved by the Committee on Jurisprudence, to which it was referred, but at sometime during the session the number composing the committee was changed from one to three for under the head "Special Committee" is found the following record:

"Pursuant to a former resolution, the Grand Master proceeded to appoint a standing committee to compile History on Negro Masons and Masonry in the Masonic jurisdiction of Iowa, to report at Grand Session in 1907. Committee: J. H. Shepard, Chairman; H. K. Hillon, H. E. Jacobs."

This committee answered "present" at roll call in 1907, but no further mention is made of it in the Proceedings except they are renamed in the list of appointments. In 1908 there is no report of any work done by the Committee, and at that session Grand Master Milligan appointed an entire new committee consisting of Past Grand Master I. L. Brown, Chairman; Bro. J. L. Thompson and Bro. J. Wilber Morris. In the stormy session of 1909 the Historical Committee seems to have been lost as it does not again appear in the

proceedings.

The subject of a Masonic History was not again officially brought to the attention of the Grand Lodge until the Annual Session in 1913. At that session Grand Master John L. Thompson offered the following recommendation:

Masonic History to the end that Iowa and her Jurisdiction may have a complete Authenticated Masonic History to file away in the archives of our Library, especially the early Masonic History of every Lodge that was ever under our Jurisdiction and to get this History before it is lost in the death of all the early devotees of Masonry, I therefore recommend that a committee of three be appointed styled Committee on Masonic History and that committee have the power to compile and print in book form giving the date of each local lodge organization together with at least the elective officers of each Lodge from date of organization to present time together with all other important history at the expense of the Grand Lodge, the same, when printed to be sold at a price to be fixed by the Committee, said book to contain a brief history of Negro Masonry in America with cuts of as many of the Grand Officers and other prominent Masons.

This recommendation was discussed in an informal way on the floor of the Grand Lodge, but no definite action was taken.

At the Annual Session in 1915 the committee on jurisprudence made as a part of its report the following: "Section 1, Be it enacted that a committee be appointed by the M. W. Grand Master to prepare a History of Negro Masonry in Iowa." Grand Master Thompson, who was re-elected very graciously appointed the members of the jurisprudence committee, Past Grand Master J. H. Shepard, W.

H. Milligan and J. B. Reeler, as the Historical Committee. Bro. Shepard under-took the work for the committee and had made good progress, when ill health interrupted the work and death came before he was able to make a report to the Grand Lodge.

The subject was not again brought to the attention of the Grand Lodge until 1927, when Bro. A. G. Clark was asked to undertake the work.

The proposition came as a complete surprise to me, as I think it did to most of the members of the Grand Lodge. For twenty ~~five~~ ⁵ years, I had responded to the call for my service and I now felt there was nothing left but to accept the duty and perform it as best I could.

I make no apology for any defects which may suggest themselves to the reader. I have done the best I could. The task has not been an easy one by any means. It has required the expenditure of much time and great labor, yet it has been a pleasure to me. I have felt in doing this work that the men of to-day, and those who shall come after us, ought to know the origin, growth and work of this Grand Lodge; they ought to know who were the men that have made it what it is to-day, tracing it from its small beginning to its present status. It was someone's duty to do this work. The Grand Lodge seemed to think it was mine, and knowing of no better way by which to serve them, I have willingly acquiesced in their decision.

CHAPTER III.

AFRICAN GRAND LODGE.

It is difficult at this time to determine when the agitation for the establishment of a Grand Lodge in Iowa first began. It is known, however, that the question was being discussed among some of the prominent Masons both in Iowa and Missouri several years before any attempt at organization was begun. That the sentiment was growing stronger and making an impression upon the officials of the Grand Lodge of Missouri is evidenced by the fact that Grand Master Moses Dickson, after having visited the Lodges in Iowa in 1878, felt constrained to not only take notice of it but to give it his indorsement in his annual address to the Grand Lodge at the Annual Communication held in Sedalia August 20, 1879. Under the heading, "A Grand Lodge", he said:

"In my visit thru Iowa I found a desire among some of the Lodges and many of the leading Masons to erect a Grand Lodge. I felt it my duty to encourage the idea for I believe a Grand Lodge in the State of Iowa will materially strengthen Masonry among colored men in the West, and Iowa has a sufficient number of Lodges to open a strong Grand Lodge. No better material is to be found than we have in some of these Grand Lodges."

One might ask, why look forward for a reason why Iowa should have a Grand Lodge? Ambitions, no doubt, there were, and disappointments, too. But the majority of the proponents of an Iowa Grand Lodge were largely influenced by the conditions as stated by Grand Master Dickson.

But there was a strong opposition to the movement, and Grand Master Dickson's indorsement, while it encouraged its friends, awakened its opponents to a more intelligent and organized opposition. The Committee on Grand Master's address evidently overlooked or, at least, made no mention of it. Nor do the Minutes show that it was discussed on the floor of the Grand Lodge. A study, however, of the election results would indicate

that some thing was needed to appease the Iowa brethren. Iowa had but three representatives in that session of the Grand Lodge. York Lodge No. 8 was represented by its Worshipful Master, Bro. Orange Field, Deputy Grand Master, Bro. Austin A. Bland, and Past Grand Master, Bro. Alexander Clark who was Grand Lecturer. The officers of Reed Lodge U. D. at Red Oak and Golden Star Lodge U. D. at Ottumwa were installed during the session, but are listed as U. D. Lodges in the Report of the Committee on Credentials. Bro. Bland was elected Jr. Grand Warden, Bro. Alexander Clark reappointed Grand Lecturer, and Bro. Field appointed Grand Standard Bearer. Grand Master Dickson failed for re-election and Past Grand Secretary Willis N. Brent was elected by a large majority to succeed him. On the question of an Iowa Grand Lodge, the new Grand Master and Bro. Clark were known to be opposed to it, while Bro. Bland and Bro. Field were favorable to it.

The first year (1878-9) of Grand Master Brent's administration passed without any important developments in Iowa Masonry. No lodges were organized during the year and no effort was made to organize a Grand Lodge. The sentiment, however, in favor of action was becoming more general and was being discussed very generally among Masons in Des Moines, Ottumwa, Burlington, and Keokuk.

The 1879 Session was held at Macon, Missouri, August 19th to 22d. Iowa Lodges were represented by P. G. M. Alexander Clark, G. L.; Austin A. Bland, J. G. W.; Clark Lodge No. 6 by Geo. W. Black, W. M.; York Lodge by Syke Fox, W. M.; Bro. John Page, F. W. M. of North Star Lodge, held proxies for North Star and Reed Lodges; Bro. Clark held proxies for Sims No. 50, Mitchell No. 58, and Golden Star No. 80; A. A. Bland proxies for Sumner No. 41. This was considered a very creditable repre-

sentation of Iowa Lodges, and in the Committee assignments it was recognized by the appointment of Bro. Clark as Chairman of the Committee on Masonic Jurisprudence and Bro. Page Chairman of the Finance Committee. But in the election of officers, Iowa members did not fare so well. Grand Master Brent was a candidate for re-election and Past Grand Master Clerk was nominated by Pritchard Lodge of Kansas City to oppose him. Brent was elected by 308 to Clark's 185- Brent's majority 133. Neither of the candidates was regarded as friendly to the move. No Iowa Mason, however, was put in nomination for an elective office and only Bro. Bland received an appointment,- that of Grand Marshall.

It is needless to say that this treatment did not please the Iowa members and on their return to their homes the agitation for a Grand Lodge became stronger and more widespread. In fact, it became so strong that by December of that year the opposition, led by Past Grand Master Clark, realized that steps must be taken to checkmate its influence and the following communication was prepared and sent to all Lodges:

"FACTS FOR IOWA MASONS OF COLOR.

BE NOT DECEIVED.

MUSCATINE, IOWA, Dec. 5, 1879.

Worshipful Masters, Wardens, and Brethren of the Subordinate Lodges of Iowa, working under the Jurisdiction of Missouri. Lodge, No. 8:

DEAR BRETHREN: After my kind regards, permit me in that new name, which all true Masons have received, to caution you against a scheme for a Grand Lodge for Iowa which is being pressed and put forward by a few ambitious, disappointed office-seeking Masons of St. Louis, aided and abetted by a few ambitious, unthinking Masons of Iowa. Now, brethren, I am opposed to the organization of a Grand Lodge for Iowa, as every thinking Mason must be, because we are not able to support one, and without any argument on my part, I submit the following simple facts for your calm consideration, viz:

Now, it is true we have ten (10) lodges, but the membership of these ten (10) lodges are only one hundred and forty (140), which is but an

average membership of two ordinary lodges, or fourteen members to each lodge, with little or no timber to increase from. Now these ten lodges are paying on an average \$60 per year room rent, which amounts to \$600, and for fuel, light and stationery, and tyler, an average fee of \$20 per month, making \$200 more, or \$800 in round numbers. Now eight of these ten lodges are poorly furnished, and will require from \$100 to \$200 each to furnish them with masonic furniture, working tools, jewels and clothing, to make them respectable and worthy of the name of a blue lodge of F. A. A. M.

Now in the face of these facts and expenses, we, the 140 Masons of Iowa, are asked by unthinking men to increase our expenses, by forming a new Grand Lodge, the expense of which will be as follows:

For Grand Secretary's Salary, per year,	- -	\$100.00
Grand Lodge stationery,	- - - - -	10.00
Grand Master's stationery,	- - - - -	10.00
Grand Officer's traveling expenses to and from		
Grand Session,	- - - - -	70.00
Committee on Foreign Correspondence,	- - - - -	50.00
Printing Grand Lodge Proceedings,	- - - - -	<u>200.00</u>
Making a total of	- - - - -	\$440.00

Now where is the \$440 to come from? Well, for the first year each lodge would have to pay \$25 for a warrant. This would give \$250; that would only leave each lodge taxed \$19; this would be \$190; and that would make the \$440.

But what about the next year? Of course a direct tax of \$30 or \$40 per each lodge. Now, I say we cannot pay this enormous tax to meet this expense. Clark Lodge, No. 6, by resolution, declares against it; the two lodges in Minnesota will not go with it; we have no timber- no territory to increase our number or our jurisdiction. Illinois, Michigan, Nebraska, and Colorado, each have a Grand Lodge, covering all the territory around us.

The scheme is unwise and incompatible with the interests of Craft Masonry. Now we are members of the largest and ablest Grand Lodge (colored) in the United States, and are only paying the small sum of twenty-five cents per member, yearly Grand Lodge dues; this amounts to \$35 per year instead of \$440, which we will be compelled to pay under the proposed new Grand Lodge, which must, of course, be small and insignificant. I say: reason, justice and common sense say we will remain under our well established Grand Lodge for the present, and by economy accumulate means to furnish our lodge rooms, and a fund to care for our sick and disabled Masons, their wives, widows and orphans, and be able to bury them when dead, etc. Let each lodge send her W. M. in person to our next Grand Session at Hannibal, and we will talk together. I am,

Fraternally yours,

Past Grand Master Grand Lodge of Missouri.

Please read this in open lodge."

What effect this appeal had upon Iowa Masons can only be judged by some of the more important actions that followed. It is evident that it gave both sides a concrete proposition for debate and created much discontent and dissatisfaction in many of the lodges. The first open break came when York Lodge, No. 8, of Keokuk, sought to surrender its warrant. The only record of this procedure on the part of York Lodge that the writer has been able to find, is contained in the Report of Grand Master Brent to the Grand Lodge at Hannibal in August 1880. Under a sub-head, "Surrender of Charter-York Lodge", he said:

"SURRENDER OF CHARTER-YORK LODGE.

On the 8th of December, 1879, I received a petition from 'York Lodge, No. 8,' located at Keokuk, Iowa, requesting to be allowed to surrender its Charter, said petition having the names of fourteen members signed thereto, being in regular form and having all external evidences of being the regular and spontaneous action of the Lodge; there being at the time eighteen members of the Lodge, fourteen of whom had united in said petition. Accompanying the petition was the Charter and Inventory of the said Lodge, and duly executed receipt for the property. In one week from time of said action and surrender of said property, a protest was received from the minority members of said Lodge, on the right of said action, numbering four persons, and now, by persuasion, personal appeals and misrepresentation, increased to seven or eight. The protest was duly considered, and by request I visited Keokuk on the 26th of December. Attended by almost the entire membership of said Lodge I sat until two A. M. in the hearing of the case and investigation of its affairs. Its condition was indeed deplorable. Discord and anarchy reigned. The W. M.--a man remarkable for his clemency--though sustained by the majority of the Lodge, was utterly powerless to assert the authority of his office, and it seemed for a time that it would become necessary to declare its Charter under arrest, with all of the consequences which such action involved.

Upon a careful and exhaustive examination of the case I sustained the protest of the minority and decided that the Charter had not been properly surrendered, said objection resting upon one allegation only, viz: that proper notice of intention to take action upon the propriety of surrendering the Charter had not been furnished non-resident members.

Then the sole question of Charter was duly considered, and upon certain concessions and guarantees for the future, I decided to return said Charter, which had been, as stated, in my custody during the examination, and was done by my order, and all property of said York Lodge placed in possession of the minority, January 22d, 1880. It is proper that every appearance of insubordination and disregard of duly constituted authority should be promptly rebuked, and it remains for the Grand Lodge to take such action as in the premises it deems best, and I recommend that the Lodge be censured and debarred further participation in the deliberations of this session for violations of law and disregard of the regulations of the Order."

In this report, however, the Grand Master does not mention the fact that on December 26th, three days after his visit to York Lodge and before he had returned its warrant, he had organized a new Lodge in Keokuk which was warranted as Star Lodge, No. 51. This fact will explain to some degree the condition as stated by him in his report of York Lodge in 1881.

The Committee on Grand Master's Address reported on the matter as follows:

"So much as relates to the surrender of the charter of York Lodge should be referred to a special committee, and insomuch as there appears to be illegalities which we, your committee, fail to see, we further recommend that York Lodge be debarred from any further participation in the Grand Lodge until the matter be satisfactorily disposed of by the Grand Lodge."

On page 50 we find the following statement:

"In the matter of York Lodge, a special committee, consisting of Bros. J. G. Pettiford, G. W. Black and Wm. Jackson was appointed, with power to send for persons and papers.

On motion of Bro. J. G. Pettiford the committee was discharged without report, and the subject deferred for consideration in open Lodge."

On page 53 the following action was had:

"The matter of the surrender of the Charter of York Lodge No. 8, Keokuk, Iowa, was next considered. Time was extended thirty minutes, fifteen minutes and five minutes, successively; and after much discussion, it being made to appear that York Lodge was in a state of contumely, and that our M. W. Grand Lodge was sorely aggrieved by the indignity and in-

sult to which our Grand Master was subjected within the said York Lodge, it was ordered that the said York Lodge, No. 8, be placed under the censure of the M. W. Grand Lodge, and debarred from any further participation in the Grand Lodge during its will and pleasure."

This was the status of York Lodge in the Grand Lodge of Missouri from August 19, 1880, until August 16, 1881. In that session the Grand Master again called the Grand Lodge's attention to York Lodge in the following statement:

"York Lodge.

In my report of last year your attention was called to the condition and action of this Lodge. On page 53, (Proceedings of 1880) your action is thus reported:

The matter of the surrender of the Charter of York Lodge No. 8, Keokuk, Iowa, was next considered. Time was extended thirty minutes, fifteen minutes and five minutes, successively; and after much discussion, it being made to appear that York Lodge was in a state of contumely, and that our M. W. Grand Lodge was sorely aggrieved by the indignity and insult to which our Grand Master was subjected within the said York Lodge, it was ordered that the said York Lodge No. 8, be placed under the censure of the M. W. Grand Lodge, and debarred from any further participation in the Grand Lodge during its will and pleasure.

The sentence of censure and debarment have not been removed, although the Lodge has continued to exercise its functions during the year.

Many complaints and charges have been made by the officers and members of Star Lodge, Keokuk, alleging that, three members of York Lodge, and through them said Lodge was guilty of seeking to alienate the Lodges in Iowa from their relation to this Grand Lodge. That said men called a convention to meet in Des Moines, December 25, to organize a Grand Lodge for Iowa. Said convention was held, but a majority of Lodges through their representatives were opposed to the movement, and the convention then voted its condemnation of the measure and adjourned. Bros. Bland, Fields and Bettis, called another convention at Keokuk, August 10, 1881, but the result has not yet been reported to me.

I am in receipt of many letters, appeals and telegrams requesting my presence, protection and intervention. I have studiously refrained from any connection with said movements except so far as the honor of the Grand Lodge and interest of its constituents in Iowa required—all of the facts are attested by the communications of D. D. P. G. Master Alexander Clarke whose absence in Europe robs the case of much of its interest. From evidence and the papers submitted there is undoubted revolution and attempted renunciation of Masonic allegiance by the three men mentioned and through them the members of York Lodge.

Arrest of warrant seems the only course left, and I have purposely deferred to your judgment in this extremity.

Papers are herewith submitted."

The Committee on Grand Master's address, in its report on Wednesday, August 17th, in reference to York Lodge, said:

"So much as referred to York Lodge, we would respectfully recommend that this Grand Lodge expell Austin Bland, Orange Field and N. W. Pettis."

This report was "approved." If any further action was taken in the Grand Lodge or any trial had in which these three members were found guilty and expelled, there is no record made in the printed proceedings. The Grand Lodge ever afterwards referred to them as expelled Masons. York Lodge had been placed under censure by the Grand Lodge, but at no time had its warrant been arrested by the Grand Master or revoked by the Grand Lodge. That year it had paid its Grand Lodge dues of \$3.00 which had been accepted and reported in the proceedings. It was in this condition when it had, nine days before the 1881 session of the Grand Lodge, joined in organizing African Grand Lodge of Iowa. The standing of this Lodge was made one of the grounds for refusing to recognize African Grand Lodge.

Two unsuccessful attempts were made to organize a Grand Lodge for Iowa in the fall of 1880. The first was a call for a convention in Des Moines for October 12, 1880, which was adjourned to meet at Ottumwa December 20, 1880. There is no attested report to be found in any of the printed proceedings of what action was taken at either of these meetings. The best statement of what transpired is one made by Bro. A. A. Bland in his report on Foreign Correspondence, printed in the 1883 proceedings of African Grand Lodge, which is believed to be substantially correct.

"The African Grand Lodge of Iowa must be the 'thorn in the flesh' to the Grand Lodge of Iowa, that being counted one of the strongholds of Iowa Masonry. The move was hotly opposed by many of Missouri's leading men, but in this, as in many other cases, the wrong was triumphant, and out of it grew quite a number of unpleasant circumstances.

The next move was to attach the property of York Lodge, located at Keokuk, Iowa. Attorneys were employed to prosecute the case, but on investigation they found that the Grand Lodge of Missouri could hold no claim against York Lodge, she belonging to the African Grand Lodge of Iowa. That attachment, therefore, was never served. The attorneys, however, presented their compliments in the shape of a bill for \$40, which was duly paid. See page 92 of their proceedings for 1882.

The Grand Master (Brent), claims in his address that York Lodge was under censure at the time she took part in the organization of the African Grand Lodge of Iowa. In reply, we would say York Lodge worked regular under the Grand Lodge of Missouri for one year after the vote of censure (which was at first for the remainder of the session; afterwards altered to suit certain parties) having charge of her (York Lodge) warrant, and paid up all dues and returned the warrant to Missouri with a letter stating the reasons for so doing.

He also states that out of twelve lodges represented at Des Moines, eight were opposed to the organization. Truth would have made him say that nine lodges were in favor of organizing and three were opposed to it, two of which were represented by Alexander Clark, who came with the full intention to break up the project. He persuaded one more lodge to his side, namely Sims No. 50. Finding himself still powerless, he proposed a compromise, offering to let the new Grand Lodge have \$200 if they would wait one year, until he accomplished something he had in mind in connection with his trip to Europe to the Ecumenical council; fearing, we suppose, that if he went into the Grand Lodge of little Iowa it might detract from his honors that he would get as a representative of the Grand Lodge of big Missouri, or perhaps defeat some of his plans. The proposition was in part accepted, the objectionable part being that the time was too long; so we adjourned to meet in Ottumwa, December 20, 1880.

The Grand Master's statement concerning the Ottumwa convention is also untrue, for there were only six lodges present when the convention was called. A. Clark came into the convention and reported that he came clothed with power from the Grand Master of Missouri to expel all of us if we dared attempt to organize.

To avoid trouble from that source a motion prevailed to adjourn, to meet again at the call of the chairman.

After this was done, A. Clark claiming that he had the proxies for several lodges in his pocket, assumed the chair. He made a motion to adjourn sine die, he seconded the motion, he then put the question and it carried, for there was only one vote and he voted that himself.

And now comes the all-absorbing question, that is Brent's Jurisprudence, that it takes a majority of all the lodges in a state to or-

ganize a Grand Lodge. This differs very materially from Webb and Mackey, and we were taught to consider them standard authority."

Of course, it was a well known fact that Mr. Clark's mission to England, of which Bro. Bland speaks, had no Masonic significance. He went to London as a delegate from the general conference of the African M. E. Church to the Ecumenical Conference of the Methodist Church which met in London in September, 1881.

It is reasonable to be believed that had the leaders accepted the proposition made by Mr. Clark that he would have carried out his promise and that a Grand Lodge would have been established in Iowa and much of the dissatisfaction, confusion and rivalry that followed the organization of African Grand Lodge and the organization of Hiram Grand Lodge would have been avoided.

The only disagreement to be found in the statement made by Bro. Bland is in regard to the Ottumwa convention. Did it adjourn sine die or adjourn to meet at the call of the chairman? The latter construction seems to have prevailed as it was made the basis of a call for the convention which organized African Grand Lodge. The following report of the convention and organization of African Grand Lodge is to be found in the printed proceedings and organization of the said Grand Lodge:

NOTICE!

To all W. M.'s and Wardens and Brethren of Lodge No. _____

The time has come to take such measures as in your judgment may seem best as to the Convention which was called at Des Moines, October 12th, 1880, for the purpose of organizing a Grand Lodge for the State of Iowa, and adjourned to meet at Ottumwa, December 20th, 1880, which met on that day, and adjourned to meet at Keokuk, at the call of the Chairman. I

have therefore fixed the day and time to meet in the city of Keokuk, Tuesday, August 9th, 1881, at 2 o'clock P. M.

JOHN PAGE,

Chairman.

The above is a copy of a call which was sent to the various lodges in the State.

In response to the will of the Chairman the following lodges duly represented, met in the City of Keokuk, August 9th, 1881.

Sumner Lodge, No. 41, Burlington, Iowa; John G. Jones Lodge, No. 91, Council Bluffs, Iowa; Golden Star Lodge, No. 80, Ottumwa, Iowa; North Star Lodge, No. 31, Des Moines, Iowa; York Lodge, No. 8, Keokuk, Iowa.

The convention was called to order by P. D. D. G. M., John Page, Chairman. The Chairman read the call and stated the object of the meeting briefly, after which G. H. Claggett, of Des Moines, was chosen Secretary, pro tem.

The Secretary read the minutes of the previous meetings, which were on motion adopted.

Brothers, G. W. Black, O. Fields and A. A. Bland, committee on credentials, made their report as follows. We, your committee, beg leave to report the following lodges legally represented. York Lodge, No. 8; North Star Lodge, No. 31; Sumner Lodge, No. 41; Golden Star Lodge, No. 80; John G. Jones Lodge, No. 91.

The committee on resolutions, Orange Fields, John Williams, M. C. Thomson, reported the following which was unanimously adopted.

WHEREAS, York Lodge, No. 8; North Star Lodge, No. 31; Sumner Lodge, No. 41; Golden Star Lodge, No. 80; John G. Jones Lodge, No. 91, Free and Accepted Masons, being met in convention on the 9th day of August, A. D., 1881, A. L. 5881, believing it to be for the good of the craft, that a

Grand Lodge for the State of Iowa be established; therefore be it

Resolved, That as the representatives of the lodges aforesaid, we do hereby organize ourselves into a Grand Lodge for the State of Iowa.

Resolved, Further, that a notice of these proceedings of this Grand Lodge be forwarded to all the Grand Lodges of the known world, and that we do ask that we be recognized as a Grand Lodge, and be duly welcomed into the brotherhood of Grand Lodges.

A. A. Bland, John Brooks, O. Fields, committee on nominations which was appointed at a previous meeting, reported as follows: that in the judgment of this committee we refer the making of nominations back to the convention. We recommend that the convention take an informal ballot, and the two highest in number of votes, be the candidates for Grand Master.

On motion the report was approved and the committee discharged.

The Chairman appointed brothers Jas. Higgins assistant Secretary.

The committee on credentials made the following partial report: We find here present twelve Past Masters, also the representatives of five lodges, making a total of twenty-seven votes.

On motion of brother W. H. Milligan, the report of the committee was approved and the committee discharged.

In accordance with the recommendation of the committee on nominations, the convention took an informal ballot for candidates for G. M., which resulted as follows:

A. A. Bland, 12 votes; John Page, 9 votes; John Brooks, 4 votes; Geo. W. Black, 2 votes; whole number of votes cast, 27.

A. A. Bland and John Page having the highest number of votes,

were declared the candidates for G. M.

A ballot was then taken with the following result, John Page 20 votes, A. A. Bland 7 votes. On motion of brother A. A. Bland, the election of brother John Page was made unanimous, and he was dully declared, Grand Master.

The election of Grand Officers was the continued order of business.

Brothers Geo. W. Black, A. A. Bland, John Brooks and Orange Fields were put in nomination for Deputy Grand Master. Brothers Bland and Fields respectfully declined the nomination. The ballot was taken with the following result: brother John Brooks 15 votes, brother Geo. W. Black 12 votes; brother Brooks was duly elected D. G. M., and so declared.

Brother Geo. W. Black was put in nomination for the office of Senior Grand Warden, also brother M. C. Thomson for the same office; brother Thomson declined the nomination; brother A. A. Bland moved that the nomination of brother Black be made unanimous, and that the Secretary be instructed to cast the vote of the convention for Geo. W. Black, for Senior Grand Warden, which was accordingly done and duly declared.

The following brethren were elected by acclamation.

Brother M. C. Thomson for Junior Grand Warden; brother Orange Fields for Grand Treasurer; brother A. A. Bland for Grand Secretary; brother W. H. Milligan for Grand Tyler.

The various committees having completed their work were discharged, and a lodge of Master Masons/^{was} opened in due and ancient form. Rev. brother T. L. Smith officiating at the altar. The lodge was called from labor to refreshments to be called on at 8 P. M., for the installation of Grand Officers.

EVENING SESSION. The time being observed, the lodge was called from refreshments to labor, brother M. C. Thomson, acting Chaplain.

The following Grand Officers were then duly installed by R. W. brother A. A. Bland, P. D. G. M.

NAMES OF GRAND OFFICERS.

M. W., John Page, Grand Master, Des Moines, Iowa.
R. W., John Brooks, Deputy Grand Master, Burlington, Iowa.
R. W., Geo. W. Black, Senior Grand Warden, Des Moines, Iowa.
R. W., M. C. Thomson, Junior Grand Warden, Ottumwa, Iowa.
R. W., Orange Fields, Grand Treasurer, Keokuk, Iowa.
R. W., A. A. Bland, Grand Secretary, Keokuk, Iowa.
W., J. E. Gillam, Grand Lecturer, Keokuk, Iowa.
W., Jas. Higgins, Grand Chaplain, Burlington, Iowa.
W., Geo. Bland, Grand Chaplain, Keokuk, Iowa.
W., G. H. Claggett, Grand Register, Des Moines, Iowa.
W., T. R. Van Pelt, Grand Master of Ceremonies, Council Bluffs, Iowa.
W., C. W. Newton, Grand Marshal, Council Bluffs, Iowa.
W., P. Jackson, Grand Sword Bearer, Council Bluffs, Iowa.
W., F. D. Bland, Grand Standard Bearer, Keokuk, Iowa.
W., John Williams, Senior Grand Deacon, Burlington, Iowa.
W., Zach Taylor, Junior Grand Deacon, Ottumwa, Iowa.
W., H. H. Lewis, Senior Grand Steward, Des Moines, Iowa.
W., Selby Johnson, Junior, Grand Steward, Keokuk, Iowa.
W., W. A. Lain, Grand Pursuivant, Council Bluffs, Iowa.
Brother W. H. Milligan, Grand Tyler, Des Moines, Iowa.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

A. A. Bland, Chairman, G. W. Black, John Brooks.

The Grand Officers being honored and proclaimed in accordance with the time honored usages of the Fraternity, the craft was called from labor to refreshments to call on at 9 o'clock a. m., Wednesday, August 10th.

Wednesday morning August tenth, the Grand Lodge was called from refreshments to labor by the Grand Master; Grand Officers in their several Stations. Prayer by the R. W. Jas. Higgins, Grand Chaplain.

The minutes of the previous session were read and on motion were approved.

The committee on Constitution and By-Laws which was appointed at a previous meeting, reported that they had prepared a Constitution and By-Laws, which on motion were read and adopted by Secretary.

The Junior Warden observed the time, 12 m., and the Grand Lodge was called from labor to refreshments to call on at 2 p. m.

Wednesday, August 10th, 2 p. m. The lodge was called to labor by the Junior Grand Warden, brother T. L. Smith presiding at the altar.

Brother O. Fields on behalf of W. O. Vance, Managing Editor of the Weekly Review, published at New Albany, Indiana, presented the claims of that paper in a neat speech, ending with a resolution to make the "Review" the official organ of this Grand Lodge; on motion brother Field's resolution was approved: We do hereby recommend the Review to the favorable consideration of the craft in this jurisdiction; all official Masonic items sent them will be published gratuitously.

This is a neat little sheet, owned, edited and printed entirely by colored men. Subscription price \$1.00 per year. Agent, A. A. Bland Grand Secretary, Keokuk.

On motion of brother John Brooks it was resolved that all the charter members be, and they are hereby constituted life members of the Grand Lodge, and entitled to one vote each, in the Grand Lodge.

It was moved by brother M. C. Thomson that a vote of thanks of this Grand Lodge be tendered to brother S. H. McCracken of North Star Lodge, Chicago, for the able manner in which he has assisted us in our organiza-

tion. The motion was put and received a unanimous affirmative.

On motion it was resolved that brother Moses Dickson represent us near the Grand Lodge of Missouri.

It was on motion resolved that we request the brethren whose names appear below, to represent this Grand Lodge to the Grand Lodges named, and to ask recognition at their hands.

R. W., brother John G. Jones, near the Grand Lodge of Illinois;
R. W., brother W. H. Parham, near the Grand Lodge of Ohio; R. W., brother H. D. Lett, near the Grand Lodge of Kansas; R. W., brother W. H. Gibson, near the Grand Lodge of Kentucky; R. W., brother A. L. Richmond, near the Grand Lodge of Arkansas; R. W., brother W. T. Plummer, near the Grand Lodge of Ontario.

On motion resolved that the first annual communication of this Grand Lodge be held in the City of Des Moines, on the second Tuesday in July.

Brother G. H. Claggett offered the following: Be it resolved by this Grand Lodge that a vote of thanks is hereby tendered to the W. M. Warden and brethren of York Lodge, No. 1, for their hospitalities extended the officers, members and representatives of this Grand Lodge during our stay in their City.

It was on motion resolved that all Charter Lodges receive their warrants at actual cost price, and that their old warrants be returned to the Grand Lodge of Missouri.

The Grand Secretary was ordered to have printed three hundred copies of the proceedings of this Grand Lodge, to include the business of the convention, and also the Constitution and By-Laws.

The Secretary was also instructed to furnish the several bodies with their warrants in due form, and to procure a seal for the use of the Grand Lodge.

On motion resolved that we accept as our standard of law, Mackey's Masonic Jurisprudence.

It was further resolved that a tax of fifty cents per capita be assessed on all lodges to defray the expenses of the Grand Lodge, and that the W. M. collect and forward the same to the Gran Secretary within thirty days.

The organization of a Grand Lodge for colored Masons for the State of Iowa was a matter that attracted much attention throughout the State and was the subject of much favorable comment among some of the leading newspapers of that day. The following from the Iowa State Register at Des Moines is fully representative of the friendly greeting extended this new organization.

UNIVERSAL MASONRY IN IOWA.

Among the colored men of Iowa the Order of Freemasonry has been growing quite rapidly of late years. For some time lodges have been in operation in this State under the protection and guidance of the Grand Lodge of Missouri. For a few months a movement has been on foot in Iowa, led by a few active spirits in Des Moines, to organize a Grand Lodge for this State, and so make it independent of Missouri dictation and control. Early in the present month a convention of colored Masons was held at Keokuk, at which representatives from five Lodges were present. A Grand Lodge for the State of Iowa was formed with the following Officers: John Page, G. M.; D. J. Brooks, D. G. M.; G. W. Black, S. G. W.; M. C. Thompson, J. G. W.; O. Fields, G. T.; A. A. Bland, G. S.; W. H. Milligan, G. T.

The Grand Master, Mr. Page, is a resident of Des Moines, and a bright Mason, and an active and influential man. He is an enthusiast in the order, and has long been prominent in its circles in Iowa. He was the ori-

ginator, and has been the leader of the movement to organize on an Iowa basis. Now such an organization has been effected, and Mr. Page placed at the head of it. He is a good organizer, and will go into the work with great energy and enthusiasm, and no doubt the order will grow rapidly under his Mastership, and prosper finely. There are now eleven colored lodges in Iowa, with a membership of some two hundred and fifty. There is no reason and no excuse, to a reasonable man, why these colored Masons should not fraternize with and their lodges be a part of the common Freemasonry of the State-or the order that takes to itself the whole name of Masonry, as if there were no other. The pride and boast of Masonry are mainly that it is an order universal, and all races and tongues gather under its banner in a common brotherhood and protection. All the literature of Masonry, ancient and modern, is filled with the claim that it is an universal brotherhood, knowing no restriction of race or clime, and speaking to the human heart in a common tongue, and a tongue common to itself. Every Masonic address boasts of this as the great glory of the order, and all Masonic history is rich with the incidents of civilized men finding in barbarous countries protection from brother Masons, who could speak to and recognize them alone in the mystic signs and grips of the universal order. There has been much poetry spun in celebration of the Englishman and the Arab, the Celestial and the Hindoo, the Spaniard and the Indian, the Laplander and the Mexican, all getting together about the alter of the order, and all being brethren and allies at its touch.

That is the poetry of it, and perhaps the fact. But here in America, the black man, who is a brother, if all Masonic pretensions and teachings be not a lie, is excluded from the white man's lodge room, and he is compelled to take the brethren of his own hue and organize what the white

Masons call clandestine lodges in order to be Masons at all. It would seem since the foolish prejudice about the black man has been stricken down in politics, and his brotherhood there recognized, that it is high time this order, which boasts so much of the universality of its brotherhood and its heart, shall show that all its pretensions are not hypocritical and hollow. Meantime godspeed the lodges of Prince Hall and the black men."

With the actual organization of a Grand Lodge in the State, it was hoped that the strong opposition to such a move that had been developed by Past Grand Master Clark and supported by the Grand Lodge of Missouri, would cease, and that the remaining lodges in the State would see the wisdom of movement, surrender their charters to the Grand Lodge of Missouri and join the Iowa Grand Lodge. But such a happy solution was not to obtain. The Grand Lodge of Missouri refused to recognize African Grand lodge as a sovereign Grand Lodge and not only held onto its five lodges that had declined to take a part in the organization of African Grand Lodge, but continued to exercise jurisdiction over Iowa territory and to organize new lodges in the State.

At the 1882 meeting of the Grand Lodge of Missouri, Grand Master Willis N. Brent took "jurisdictional notice" of the organization of African Grand Lodge in his annual address and presented the matter to his Grand Lodge in the following statement:

"AFRICAN GRAND LODGE.

Just prior (August 10th 1881,) to the opening of your last session, this body claims to have effected an organization in this city. The history of the movement up to that time was reported to you at the last session, and may be found in the published proceedings under the topic 'York Lodge.' This body has addressed me several communications request-

ing recognition and exchange of representatives. All such proposals have been respectfully declined. They are zealously knocking at the doors of all colored Grand Lodges, asking fraternal acknowledgment. Illinois has unwittingly extended the hand of fraternal greeting, while the Grand Lodge of Ohio more conservatively, and understanding the comity which is the bond between all regular Grand Lodges, declined to consider a proposal until the Grand Lodge for Missouri is consulted. Smarting under their supposed affront, this young organization has during the year been aggressive, and at times repugnant. Every effort has been made, and all means known to cunning and chicanery to alienate our Lodges in Iowa, Minnesota and Nebraska, from their allegiance. My instructions to deputies in Iowa have been explicit, and had no 'uncertain sound.' The position of this Grand Lodge does not admit of any misconception. We held that the allegiance of Lodges is voluntary, and may be terminated at any time while they remain just and perfect, by their own deliberate action. It has not been our purpose to obstruct or impede any movement looking to the formation of a regular Grand Lodge of colored Masons in the State of Iowa. We have sought only to ascertain the wishes of the Masons of the State, and whenever a convention which is the spontaneous movement of our brethren for a new Grand Lodge is held, we shall be the first to hail and welcome it as the legitimate offspring of our own loins.

In this connection you are called upon to make the formal declaration of the position and policy of this Grand Lodge, respecting the body in question, and toward all Grand Lodges which may deem it their duty and privilege to extend their recognition to it.

You are invited to incorporate in your statement of reasons for

withholding recognition of that body, as a regular and perfect Grand Lodge, the following considerations:

(1) The insubordination, and disability from censure under which York Lodge rested when it participated in the formation of that body.

(2) That of the twelve Lodges invited to participate in the deliberations of that formation eight were opposed to it.

(3) That at the convention prior to the formation, held at Ottumwa, for the same purpose, of the twelve Lodges represented, and participating, eight voted to and did adjourn the convention, sine die.

(4) That if there be more than three Lodges previously existing in any State or Territory where it is desired to establish a Grand Lodge, the concurrence of the majority of all of them is necessary to the legal formation of the new Grand Lodge.

(5) That an actual majority of Lodges holding allegiance to this Grand Lodge existed at the time of said formation, and that a majority of such actually exists to-day, and craves permission to continue such allegiance."

This statement/^{was}referred by the Committee on Grand Master's Address to the Committee on Jurisprudence, as was also the following report of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence:

"To M. W. Grand Lodge for the State of Missouri, and its Jurisdiction:

You were pleased to refer us the commission and letters of Bro. Moses Dickson, authorizing him to serve as the representative of an organization pretending to be a Grand Lodge, under the title of the "African Grand Lodge of Iowa."

We have had the same under consideration, and beg to report as follows:

The appointment of Grand Representative, implies the existence of a body competent and qualified to perform such office. In this particular case, we find the organization in question to be composed exclusively of Subordinate Lodges, under the jurisdiction of the M. W. Grand Lodge of Missouri. It is true, that the form of returning warrants has been observed in several cases. That the manner in which the consent of some of these Lodges was obtained is rather questionable, and particularly in the case of York Lodge, No. 8, whose act was in open and flagrant violation of her duty to this Grand Lodge, and she was exceptionally incompetent to act, in consequence of being under censure of this Grand Body. They claim that all the forms necessary were complied with by the convention, in the formation of this Body. This may be true, but that would not of itself give legality to the organization, if the constituent elements composing the Convention were not qualified to enter into such an agreement.

The theory upon which they base their claims to recognition is that which concedes the right of three or more Subordinate Lodges to meet in convention and form a Grand Lodge. This idea is in harmony with that entertained by the white Grand Lodges, to which is added that of exclusive territorial jurisdiction. This theory, no doubt, was derived from the circumstances attending the organization of the first Grand Lodge, by Lodges, and the American idea of "exclusive jurisdiction" originated in the demand for some rule that would protect the general interests of the craft and at the same time secure to the individual grand bodies the benefit of their local regulations.

Political bias may have suggested this arrangement, but let that be as it may, it is unquestionably this theory that has given color to

the opinions of those who are endeavoring to justify their course in the formation of this body. And yet, as a matter of fact, Grand Lodges of our race do not believe in this theory, but, on the other hand, have repudiated the principle. This being the case, the opposite opinion can only be approved. Admitting this to be the alternative, and afterwards conceding the right of three or more Subordinate Lodges to meet in convention, and, without qualifications or conditions warranting such a movement, to organize a Grand Lodge, the concession of such a right would place Masonry in an unstable condition, open avenues for designing men to disintegrate every Grand Lodge in the country. Such is the situation, we find, by the absence of some established and approved principle of action consistent and in keeping with the true welfare of the fraternity among our people. We are forced, from the very nature of things, to look to one class to supply material for our Subordinate Lodges, and we should realize the importance as we believe the responsibility resting upon us to see that only proper material is admitted into the fraternity, is fully understood and appreciated, to favor some principle just and equitable in all its bearings that will answer in all respects our needs and secure the perpetuity of the institution in its purity. Grand Lodges should only be established when there are grounds for reasonable belief that the welfare of the order in that particular locality would be promoted, and the environment should be such as to give promise of substantial support without hazarding its character by the introduction of an inferior class of members or compromising its reputation by the employment of questionable means for increasing its membership. In the case under consideration you may understand the necessity for a Grand Lodge in that State, when it is well known that the total membership of the Lodges in Iowa is not sufficient to make three

healthy Lodges upon a basis that would render possible the full and complete enjoyment of the real advantages to accrue in the event of the correct management and direction of affairs; and this, too, in the presence of the fact that the total colored population of the State is less than one-half of that of the city of St. Louis, with the disadvantage of not having any reasonable grounds to think that there will be any addition made to its present number from any source than that of the natural increase.

We, therefore, in view of these circumstances, recommend the return of the letters to M. W. Bro. Dickson, and that the following resolutions be adopted:

Whereas, In view of the important interests of Freemasonry involved in the relinquishment of charters or warrants of Subordinate Lodges, it becomes necessary, as a means of security and essential as a rule for our present and future government, that the sentiments of this Most Worshipful Grand Lodge be expressed in a definite and unequivocal manner, therefore be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the GRAND LODGE OF MISSOURI and its Masonic jurisdiction, that warrants or charters of Subordinate Lodges shall only be voluntarily surrendered in accordance with the following conditions:

Formal notice of such intention shall be made at a stated meeting of the Lodge and a vote thereon taken to ascertain the opinion of the membership as to the propriety of submitting the proposition for final action, and if approved by a majority of those present, the Worshipful Master shall order the Secretary of the Lodge to summon each and every member in good standing to attend the next stated convention of the Lodge, then and there to take final action upon the proposition, which

shall in every case be definitely stated and clearly set forth in the note of summons.

The legality of the action of the Lodge shall be contingent upon an affirmative vote of such a majority of the members summoned as shall not be opposed by a minority equal to or greater than seven.

Resolved, That the consideration of all applications for recognition and the exchange of representatives from bodies purporting to be Grand Lodges shall be preceded by a thorough and complete investigation of the character of the petitioners, the result of which shall show that all the forms and usages of the fraternity necessary to be observed in the organization of Grand Lodges have been complied with in this particular case, and also that the body contains within itself all the elements and essential qualities of sovereignty, and that the local surroundings are such as to furnish grounds for the belief that real and substantial good will result to the craft from its labors.

The above is fraternally submitted.

ROBT. O. SMITH, Chairman."

The Committee on Jurisprudence approved these reports in the following report:

"To the M. W. Grand Lodge for the State of Missouri and Jurisdiction:

We, your committee to whom was referred the report of the Committee on Foreign Correspondence, on the so-called 'African Grand Lodge of Iowa,' beg most respectfully to report that we have carefully examined said report and find it to be in accord with sound and logical Masonic law and comity, and in harmony with the best interests of Craft Masonry, etc.

(1) We recommend that this Grand Lodge respectfully request all grand bodies who are in fraternal relation with us to refuse recognition of the so-called African Grand Lodge of Iowa.

(2) And we would recommend that all members desiring to be true and loyal, be requested to return to their allegiance, and that the Grand Master enable them so to do by permitting them to associate themselves with the loyal Lodges that are, and have remained, loyal to the Grand Lodge of Missouri."

This was the official reply of the Grand Lodge of Missouri to the prayer of African Grand Lodge for recognition. It left no doubt as to what its attitude would be towards the new organization. It had, however, underestimated the strength and caliber of Iowa Masons and had failed to recognize the fact that a Grand Lodge can function and succeed in its own territory without recognition from any other Grand Lodge. History shows that several white Grand Lodges, as well as colored, have been able to do so.

African Grand Lodge, however, was not to be in this situation. It received recognition from two of the leading Grand Lodges as soon as a request for such had been placed before them. Illinois and Ohio recognized African Grand Lodge as a sovereign Grand Lodge the first week it was organized. That African Grand Lodge continued and was successful the record of its annual proceedings clearly shows.

FIRST ANNUAL COMMUNICATION.

DES MOINES, IOWA, JULY 11, 12, 13, 1882.

BRO. JOHN PAGE, M. W. GRAND MASTER; BRO. A. A. BLAND, R. W.

GRAND SECRETARY.

In accordance with the provisions of the Constitution, the Most Worshipful African Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons met in its First

Annual Communication, in the hall of North Star Lodge, No. 2, in the city of Des Moines. The M. W. Grand Master, John Page, called the brethren to order at 10 o'clock A. M. The Grand Chaplain, Rev. Bro. Higgins, officiated at the altar, and an address of welcome was delivered by Bro. J. H. Shepard, W. M., of North Star Lodge, No. 2. A constitutional number of lodges being present, the Grand Lodge was opened in ample form by Grand Master John Page. The roll call of officers showed that all the Grand Officers, both elective and appointive, were present and in their stations.

The Committee on Credentials reported the following lodges represented:

York Lodge, No. 1, Keokuk, J. E. Gillam, W. M.
North Star Lodge, No. 2, Des Moines, J. H. Shepard, W. M.
Sumner Lodge, No. 3, Burlington, James Higgins, W. M.
Golden Star Lodge, No. 4, Ottumwa, Zachariah Taylor, proxy.
J. K. Hilyard, No. 6, Minneapolis, Minnesota, John Page, proxy.

M. W. Grand Master John Page read his annual address, which was referred to the Committee on Grand Master's Address. Among other things he said:

"Brethren of the Most Worshipful African Grand Lodge of Iowa. We have met in this, our first annual communication according to the order at the close of the last session. And I, as your Grand Master, feel that I have occasion to congratulate you not only upon this brilliant assembly of Masons; but also upon the additional facts, that it is the outgrowth of that peace, harmony and vigor that permeate every portion of the Craft in our jurisdiction."

"There is not the least sign of faltering on the part of any one; or of going back into that condition which to say the least of it was unproductive of a single act of permanent good. I shall not attempt to

make a lengthy address to you, neither do I think it called for; you are as well aware as I am that the brethren of the Most Worshipful African Grand Lodge, have been kept thoroughly informed of its transactions and necessities. Our number is small, but let us return thanks to the Supreme Ruler of the Universe, that the close of the year finds our ranks unbroken by the visitations of the Angel of Time."

"Since last we met, the Craft throughout our country have been called to mourn the loss of the highest official in the land; and we in common with the rest, lift our voice in lamentation that the mighty Garfield should have become the victim of a miserable assassin."

Under the head of "Official Business", he stated:

"I visited John G. Jones Lodge, No. 5, at Council Bluffs, Iowa, and installed their officers. About April 1st, I received a communication from J. K. Hilyard Lodge, at Minneapolis, Minnesota, expressing their intention of severing their connection with the Grand Lodge of Missouri; and desiring to come under the jurisdiction of Iowa. I replied at once, expressing my willingness to grant a dispensation until the sitting of the Grand Lodge. This I subsequently did under date of April 15, 1882; and in due time received their old warrant, which I have since sent to the Grand Lodge of Missouri. I recommend that they be warranted and receive their number in order."

He called attention to the invasion of their jurisdiction by the Grand Lodge of Missouri, and recommended that there be a special committee appointed to draft resolutions looking to the settlement of the trouble between the Grand Lodge of Missouri and the Grand Lodge of Iowa.

On December 15, 1881, he issued a special dispensation to open a new lodge at Albia, Monroe County, Iowa, and appointed the following of-

ficers: Allen Winn, W. M.; Taylor Duke, S. W.; R. Heugh, J. W.

He made the following recommendations: "That the Grand Lodge have a Code of by-laws published for the government of subordinate lodges in the jurisdiction. That African Grand Lodge of Iowa be incorporated at its earliest convenience. That the lodges in this jurisdiction form themselves into a protective association for their mutual relief and benefit."

These two last recommendations were laid over for consideration at the next meeting of the Grand Lodge.

The special committee appointed to investigate the matter of invasion of territory by the Grand Lodge of Missouri, made the following report:

GRAND LODGE OF IOWA)
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GRAND LODGE OF MISSOURI.)

WHEREAS, The Most Worshipful African Grand Lodge for the State of Iowa, was organized August 9th, 1881, in accordance with the laws governing the organization of Grand Lodges, and

WHEREAS, Due notice of the formation of the M. W. African Grand Lodge of Iowa, was given to the M. W. G. L. of Missouri, through P. G. M. Moses Dickson, who was appointed by the M. W. African Grand Lodge to represent us near the Grand Lodge of Missouri.

We find from the proceedings of the M. W. G. L. of Missouri (see page 45), that at the afternoon session of the first day, August 16th, 1881, Moses Dickson did present his letters as representative of this Grand Lodge, which letters were received and referred to the committee on foreign correspondence.

We further find that at the morning session of the third day, August 18th, (see page 59), the committee on Grand Master's address re-

commended that the Grand Lodge expel Austin Bland and Orange Fields, which recommendation was approved.

After a thorough investigation we find from the records of proceedings that the said Austin Bland and Orange Fields were in good standing, there appearing no charges in either subordinate or Grand Lodge against them.

We further find that our jurisdiction has been invaded, and a new lodge set up in the State by the D. D. G. M., of the twenty-third District of the Grand Lodge of Missouri. The Grand Lodge of Missouri also continues to hold some warranted lodges in this jurisdiction.

We claim the actions of the Grand Lodge of Missouri to be illegal, basing our claims on the fundamental principles of Masonry as laid down by Mackey, (see pages 558 to 565 and 421 to 425).

We, therefore recommend that this whole matter be referred to a special committee, said committee be empowered to employ counsel to defend the rights of the African Grand Lodge of Iowa.

G. W. BLACK,
J. E. GILLAM,
H. H. LEWIS,

Committee.

The reports of the Secretary and Treasurer, which tallied, showed amount received \$149.50, paid out \$122.25, leaving a balance of \$27.25.

Warrants were issued to J. K. Hilyard Lodge, No. 6, Minneapolis, Minnesota, and to Garfield Lodge, No. 7, at Albia, Iowa.

The following were elected officers for the ensuing year:

M. W., John L. Brooks, Burlington, Grand Master.
R. W., J. H. Shepard, Des Moines, Deputy Grand Master.
R. W., J. E. Gillam, Keokuk, Senior Grand Warden.
R. W., Zach. Taylor, Ottumwa, Junior Grand Warden.
R. W., Orange Fields, Keokuk, Grand Treasurer.
R. W., A. A. Bland, Keokuk, Grand Secretary.

The next place of meeting, Burlington, Iowa, second Tuesday in July,
A. D. 1883, A. L. 5883.

SECOND ANNUAL COMMUNICATION.

BURLINGTON, IOWA, JULY 10, 11, 12, 1883.

BRO. JOHN L. BROOKS, GRAND MASTER; BRO. A. A. BLAND, GRAND
SECRETARY.

In accordance with the provision of the constitution, the Most Worshipful African Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons, convened in its second annual communication, in the hall of Sumner Lodge, No. 3, Burlington, Iowa, and was opened in the third degree of Masonry, at 10 o'clock A. M., the Most Worshipful Grand Master, J. L. Brooks, in the East.

Roll call of officers showed all the grand officers present and in their stations.

The Committee on Credentials reported the following lodges present:

York Lodge, No. 1, Keokuk, J. E. Gillam, W. Master.
North Star Lodge, No. 2, Des Moines, W. T. Ewing, W. Master.
Sumner Lodge, No. 3, Burlington, N. Cortwright, W. Master.
Golden Star Lodge, No. 4, Ottumwa, Enoch Shaw, W. Master.
J. K. Hilyard Lodge, No. 6, Minneapolis, Minnesota, S. H. Martin,
W. Master.
Garfield Lodge, No. 7, Albia, A. Winn, W. Master.
Newton Lodge, No. 8, Newton, E. W. Vaughn, W. Master.

The Grand Master in his annual address complimented the Craft upon the progress being made, reporting peace and harmony existing throughout the jurisdiction. That Missouri still insisted in invading the jurisdiction and establishing lodges. That a communication was received from new Lodge at Newton, asking for a warrant. This lodge had been dispensed by the Grand Lodge of Missouri, but before receiving a warrant had renounced allegiance to Missouri and asked for recognition in African Grand Lodge, and, on their petition, a warrant was granted as Newton Lodge, No. 8.

The financial report showed amount received \$132.35, paid out \$128.65, leaving a balance on hand of \$3.70.

On motion of Geo. W. Black, the names of all charter members are printed in this proceeding and appear as follows:

John Page,	T. R. VanPelt,
John Brooks,	C. W. Newton,
Geo. W. Black,	P. Jackson,
J. H. Shepard,	F. D. Bland,
Orange Fields,	John Williams,
A. A. Bland,	Zach. Taylor,
J. E. Gillam,	H. H. Lewis,
James Higgins,	S. Johnson,
George Bland,	W. A. Layne,
G. H. Cleggett,	W. H. Milligan,

W. T. Ewing.

It is doubtful whether that list is exactly correct. One name, at least, does not appear in the list, that of M. O. Thompson, who was present at the organization, took part in its proceedings and was elected Junior Grand Warden. It is true that Mr. Thompson was afterwards expelled from Masonry. And the list contains the name of W. T. Ewing, a member of North Star Lodge, who, according to the record, was only a floor member of North Star Lodge, No. 2, and was not eligible to a seat in the convention which organized African Grand Lodge.

The following were elected to office for the ensuing year:

J. H. Shepard, M. W. Grand Master.
J. E. Gillam, R. W. Deputy Grand Master.
S. H. Martin, R. W. Senior Grand Warden.
James Higgins, R. W. Junior Grand Warden.
Orange Fields, R. W. Grand Treasurer.
G. H. Cleggett, R. W. Grand Secretary.

On the third day the Grand Lodge was formed in procession at 5 P. M. by the Grand Marshal, and paraded the principal streets, back to the hall of Sumner Lodge, No. 3, and from thence to Union Hall, where the Grand

Officers were publicly installed by Past Grand Master John L. Brooks.
The Grand Lodge closed to meet at Ottumwa, Iowa, the second Tuesday in
July, A. D. 1884, A. L. 5884.

THIRD ANNUAL COMMUNICATION.

THIRD ANNUAL COMMUNICATION.

OTTUMWA, IOWA, JULY 8, 9, 10, 1884.

M. W. J. H. SHEPHARD, Grand Master.
R. W. G. H. CLEGGETT, Secretary.

In accordance with the provisions of the constitution, the Most Worshipful African Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons convened in its third annual communication in the hall of Golden Star Lodge, No. 4, Ottumwa, Iowa, and was opened in the third degree of Masonry at 10:00 A. M., the Most Worshipful Grand Master J. H. Cleggett in the East. The blessings of Heaven were invoked by the Worthy Grand Chaplain Edward Williams.

On roll call all the grand officers answered to their names and repaired to their several stations. The Grand Master appointed the usual committees.

At the afternoon session the Committee on Credentials presented the following report:

York Lodge, No. 1, F. D. Bland.
North Star Lodge, No. 2, W. T. Ewing.
Sunner Lodge, No. 3, J. L. Brooks.
Golden Star Lodge, No. 4, B. J. Fuller.
J. K. Hilyard Lodge, No. 6, J. K. Hilyard.
Garfield Lodge, No. 7, Allen Winn.
Newton Lodge, No. 8, Lewis Mayes.
Lincoln Lodge U. D., S. H. McCracken.
King Solomon Lodge U. D., J. E. Shepperdson.
Eastern Star Lodge U. D., H. W. Gray.

Grand Master Sheppard then delivered his annual address and as it is one of the best so far delivered before this Grand Lodge it is given here in full.

"Brethren, and Members of the Most Worshipful African Grand Lodge of Iowa:

It is with feelings of great pleasure that I greet you on this our third annual communication. We meet again to exchange those friendly greet-

ings which so strongly cement us together, and to review the work of the year and take counsel for the future. So let us return thanks to the Grand Master of the Universe that we are permitted to meet around this our sacred altar.

How important it is for you to calmly consider the work which may be presented to you for your careful consideration. The working tools of our order have been actively employed since we last met, and our labors have been crowned with success. Peace has prevailed within our circle with very few exceptions. I am delighted to congratulate this our young Grand Lodge on the harmonious relations we hold with other Grand Lodges. We have exchanged minutes and other courtesies with all the Grand Lodges in the United States, with few exceptions, and I trust that the brotherly love and friendly sympathy which we have established will grow stronger and stronger as we approach the City of our God.

INVASION.

I am very sorry to say that our mother Grand Lodge, Missouri, still defies us, and continues to invade our territory, and is still setting up lodges and encouraging their members in every way to keep up a feeling hostile to every interest for the good of Masonry in the State, regardless of our brotherly appeals to her.

Our delegate attended the convention that was called at Cincinnati August 10th, to make arrangements for the celebration of the one hundredth anniversary of Masonry among colored men. He will make you a full report.

DISPENSATION.

July 13th, assisted by Past Grand Master Brooks and other Grand Officers, I organized a lodge at Mount Pleasant, to be known as Lincoln Lodge.

October 11th I organized a lodge at Chariton, to be known as King Solomon Lodge.

April 1st, assisted by Grand Officers, I organized a lodge at Marshalltown, to be known as Eastern Star Lodge.

They having complied with the rules and regulations of this Grand Lodge, I would recommend them to you for warrants.

MASONIC RELIEF AND BENEFIT.

I would invite your attention to the advantages to be derived from the formation of a Masonic relief association. We should not forget to prepare for those who are so near and dear to us when we are no more. I have not yet formulated any plans, but something of the kind should engage your earnest attention. I would suggest that a committee be appointed to devise plans and report at our next annual meeting, and that the subject be put before all the lodges, and that each representative be instructed to bring the opinion of his lodge, so that in the near future we may have a relief plan adopted.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

I would recommend that you take some action at this session in regard to incorporating our Grand Lodge, or make such other necessary arrangements as will insure its completion in the near future.

I would recommend that you have a code of By-Laws gotten up and printed, for the government of our subordinate lodges.

I further recommend that you have the Constitution and By-Laws of this Grand Lodge reprinted with this year's proceedings, as we have none to supply our increasing demand.

CONCLUSION.

Brethren, I cannot retire from the responsibilities of my high office without again expressing to you my grateful appreciation of the very

great honor which you have conferred upon me, and for this distinguishing mark of your confidence and esteem I thank you; also for the courtesy and aid which you have cheerfully accorded me in the discharge of my official duties, and for your patience and kind consideration of my inexperience and shortcomings. As we rest from our labors in the soft light of the setting sun, our thoughts may be upon the present, or perhaps drop into a reverie of the past; but most naturally our minds are on the future. If we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.

The sun of my official career is in the west, and rapidly sinking towards the horizon, and you turn your eyes to welcome the dawn of a new day. May he on whom your choice shall fall as my successor, bring to the fulfillment of his honorable trust all needed wisdom and fidelity; may the sun of his official course rise with fairest promise on our beloved institution, and may it pursue its way through an unclouded sky.

Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions ye have been taught. Be at peace among yourselves; warn them that are unruly; comfort the feeble minded; support the weak; feed the hungry; see that none render evil for evil unto any man, but ever follow that which is good among yourselves and all men.

May the Lord of peace ever dwell with you, now and forever.

Yours fraternally,

J. H. Shepard, Grand Master."

The following lodges were granted warrants:

Lincoln Lodge, No. 8, Mt. Pleasant, Iowa.
King Solomon Lodge, No. 9, Chariton, Iowa.
Eastern Star Lodge, No. 10, Marshalltown, Iowa.

Bro. A. A. Bland made a report as delegate to Cincinnati, as follows:

To the M. W. African Grand Lodge:

We, your delegates, who were appointed at the last annual session, held at Burlington, July 10, 11 and 12, 1883, to represent this Grand Lodge at the centennial convention, wish to submit our report.

In accordance with the notice we were present at the opening of the convention at Cincinnati, Friday, August 10th, at noon, and presented our credentials to the proper committee, and were duly accredited as members of the convention.

We herewith submit the printed proceedings of said convention, together with the printed programme of the centennial celebration, and will state that our relations with the various grand bodies represented at the convention were of the most pleasant character.

Respectfully submitted,

A. A. Bland,
J. K. Hilyard,
Committee.

PROGRAMME

OF

MASONIC CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

At Philadelphia, Pennsylvania,

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, September 29th and 30th, and October 1st, 1884.

FIRST DAY.

Parade of Symbolic Masonry at 9 A. M.

At 12 M., oration by S. M. Clark, M.W.G.M. of Ohio, at Industrial Hall.

At 8 P. M., Public reception at Horticultural Hall, tendered by the Ladies Centennial Commission to the M. W. G. L. and other grand bodies of the state of Pennsylvania and visiting bodies.

SECOND DAY.

Parade of Capitular Masonry at 2 P. M.

Grand Banquet in the evening at Horticultural Hall, with Carter A. Stewart, of the District of Columbia, as Master of Ceremonies.

THIRD DAY.

Parade of Knights Templar at 10 A. M., to be followed by competitive drill. Grand ball at Industrial Hall at night.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

Receipts \$181.25; disbursements \$144.30, leaving balance of \$48.75.

In accordance with the recommendation of the Grand Master the following committees were appointed:

On Insurance and Masonic Relief: J. K. Hilyard, E. W. Vaughn, James Higgins, J. Sterrett, and J. E. Gillam.

On Incorporation: John Page, J. H. Cleggett, and H. A. Lewis.

The following brothers were appointed custodians: John L. Brooks, William M. Coalson, James Higgins, G. W. Black, and John Page.

While the writer has been informed that this Grand Lodge took out Articles of Incorporation, there is no mention of such in the official proceedings of the Grand Lodge.

The following officers were elected:

M. W. Grand Master, A. A. Bland.
R. W. Deputy Grand Master, J. K. Hilyard.
R. W. Senior Grand Warden, S. H. McCracken.
R. W. Junior Grand Warden, William Coalson.
R. W. Grand Treasurer, Orange Field.
R. W. Grand Secretary, G. H. Cleggett.

The next place of meeting,- J. K. Hilyard Lodge, No. 6, at Minneapolis, Minnesota.

FOURTH ANNUAL COMMUNICATION.

ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA, JULY 14, 15, 16, 1885.

BRO. A. A. BLAND, M. W. GRAND MASTER; BRO. G. H. CLEGGETT, R. W.
GRAND SECRETARY.

In accordance with the provisions of the Constitution, the Most Worshipful African Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons convened in its Fourth Annual Communication in the hall of Pioneer Lodge, No. 12, St. Paul, Minnesota, having been changed from Minneapolis by order of the M. W. Grand Master and consent of the subordinate lodges, and was opened in the third degree of Masonry, at 10 o'clock A. M., by the Most Worshipful Grand Master A. A. Bland in the East, the Worthy Grand Chaplain, Bro. Hudson Woods, presided at the altar.

The Committee on Credentials reported the following lodges represented:

York Lodge, No. 1, Nathan Waller.
North Star Lodge, No. 2, H. H. Lewis.
Sunner Lodge, No. 3, Lewis Washington.
Golden Star Lodge, No. 4, E. L. Shaw.
J. K. Hilyard Lodge, No. 6, E. H. Hamilton.
Garfield Lodge, No. 7, Allen Winn.
Newton Lodge, No. 8, E. W. Vaughn.
Lincoln Lodge, No. 9, James Higgins, proxy.
King Solomon Lodge, No. 10, H. E. Shpperson.
Eastern Star Lodge, No. 11, H. W. Gray.
Pioneer Lodge, No. 12, Geo. B. Williams.
Decatur Lodge U. D., Sioux City.

The address of Grand Master Bland was largely composed of matters pertaining to the organization of Hiram Grand Lodge in the State of Iowa, of which he said:

"Just at the beginning of this administration there was formed a second organization, styling itself the M. W. Hiram Grand Lodge. This new body, the Hiram G. L., was formed August 26, 1884, in the city of Des Moines. Bro. Cleggett, our efficient Grand Secretary, informed me at once of the new organization. On the first of September I went to

Des Moines, and called together the Wardens, Secretary and Committee on Correspondence, to try and arrange for the protection of the interests of the Most Worshipful African Grand Lodge against the intrusion of the new organization. This was a hard task for me at once. My first action was to issue notices to the subordinate lodges under the M. W. A. G. L., informing them of the unmasonic actions of lodges that had formerly been working under the M. W. G. L. of Missouri.

NOTICE.

To the Worshipful Masters, Wardens and Brethren of the Subordinate Lodges working under the Most Worshipful African Grand Lodge of Iowa, and its Masonic Jurisdiction:

I, Austin A. Bland, M. W. G. M. of Masons in and for the above named Grand Lodge, do hereby issue the following edict, to-wit:

All Masons who are members of any subordinate lodge under the M. W. A. G. L. for the State of Iowa, shall, as soon as notice of the issue of this instrument is made known to them, refrain from all Masonic recognition or affiliation with any Mason or body of Masons working under a spurious body styling themselves the M. W. Hiram Grand Lodge of the State of Iowa.

Any Mason who disregards the above edict insults the dignity of the Most Worshipful African Grand Lodge.

I also notified all other Grand Lodges of the actions of this new body in the enclosed circular:

NOTICE.

To all Grand Lodges:

The Most Worshipful African Grand Lodge of Iowa asks your honorable body to withhold any recognition of a body of Masons styling themselves the M. W. Hiram Grand Lodge of Iowa, for the following reasons:

1. Since the organization of the M. W. A. G. L. of Iowa, the four warranted lodges in Iowa that were working under Missouri have been of-

ferred an exchange of warrants at actual cost.

2. These Lodges called a convention to organize a second Grand Lodge in Iowa. We met in the convention and offered every inducement for them to unite with us, but the effort was defeated by a few men who want to be leaders, headed by Alexander Clark, P. G. M., of Missouri.

3. The second Grand Lodge in a State, especially one the size of Iowa, has always been detrimental to the interests of Masonry, and a disgrace to the craft. Missouri has withdrawn her warrants from these lodges, and so far our trouble has ceased. This new organization will add another trouble, to be settled by Grand Lodges.

Therefore we pray you to withhold recognition. The accompanying circular shows the terms we now offer them, also the proofs of our legality.

Signed: A. A. BLAND,
GRAND MASTER.

NOTICE.

To All Whom It May Concern:

Whereas the few lodges in Iowa that held warrants under the M. W. African Grand Lodge of Missouri have surrendered their warrants to that Grand Body, and instead of taking out warrants under the M. W. African Grand Lodge of Iowa, they have called together some of the dissatisfied parties and pretended to set up a Grand Lodge. Now this means nothing more nor less than to keep up a masonic quarrel. The M. W. A. G. L. regrets very much to be a participant in such a disgraceful controversy, especially with those that we should be on the most friendly terms with.

This new body claims that the M. W. A. G. L. was not regularly organized, and resort to newspaper advertisements of the same. This is a disgrace to all colored Masons.

We submitted the question of our legality to the Grand Lodges of the

United States. The case has been thoroughly investigated and we declared legal by some of the strongest Grand Lodges in the United States. The Grand Lodges of the following States have given the M. W. A. F. L. full recognition, viz: Alabama, Arkansas, District of Columbia, Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Kansas, Mississippi, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Tennessee and Ontario.

This will show to any fair-minded man that these dissatisfied parties can do nothing but keep up a quarrel and retard the progress of colored Masonry in the State of Iowa. We do not believe that Missouri herself will indorse their action.

To all Masons or bodies of Masons in the jurisdiction of Iowa, who are not working under the M. W. A. G. L., we extend the following protection:

I, Austin A. Bland, M. W. Grand Master of Masons for the State of Iowa and its jurisdiction, will issue certificates of demit to all individual Master Masons who are in good standing as Masons, that they may petition any lodge (under the M. W. A. G. L.) for membership.

Also, I will exchange warrants or dispensations with any lodge that held warrant or dispensation under the M. W. A. G. L. of Missouri. All Masons or bodies of Masons concerned can avail themselves of this opportunity by making application to me at my office, No. 1029 High Street, Keokuk, Iowa.

Signed: A. A. BLAND,

September 2, 1884.

Grand Master.

Up to the present date I have not heard of a single Grand Lodge that has recognized the Hiram Grand Lodge as a legal body. They began their work trying to strengthen themselves by weakening us. They have made propositions to our subordinates to surrender their warrants to the

M. W. A. Grand Lodge and to take out warrants under the new (Hiram) grand lodge. Their attempts in this direction have been just as unsuccessful as were their efforts to gain recognition.

This, my brethren, has been the state of affairs during the past year, and has been the chief cause of there being no new lodges formed under dispensation, but we have added considerable strength to the old lodges, and for this we are glad. And right here let me return many thanks to the W. M.'s of subordinates, and to the Grand Officers for their assistance; but must make special mention of the prompt action of Bro. G. H. Cleggett, G. S., and H. H. Lewis, of the Committee on Correspondence.

In concluding his address, he made the following statement:

"In conclusion of my recommendations I wish to make a statement. There has been a conference held by the Grand Secretaries of the A. G. L. and the body styling itself the Hiram Grand Lodge, and a number of the officers and members of the two Grand bodies, having for its object the uniting of all the lodges in the State into one Grand Lodge. The result of this conference was that the matter was referred to the two Grand Masters, viz: Alex Clark and myself, and we requested to devise a plan of a union. I communicated at once with Bro. A. Clark, but we failed to agree upon a plan. I therefore refer the entire matter, together with all papers of correspondence, to this Grand Lodge for their consideration, with the recommendation that this Grand Lodge devise some plan whereby all subordinate lodges on both sides may have a voice in saying how and when this union shall be effected."

The financial report shows amount received \$229.00, amount paid out \$147.15, balance \$74.85.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:

A. A. Bland, M. W. Grand Master.
J. K. Hilyard, R. W. Deputy Grand Master.
W. T. Ewing, R. W. Senior Grand Warden.
J. G. Sterrett, R. W. Junior Grand Warden.
H. H. Lewis, R. W. Grand Treasurer.
G. H. Cleggett, R. W. Grand Secretary.

The Grand Lodge was closed to meet in Keokuk, Iowa, the second Tuesday in July, A. D. 1886, A. L. 5886.

FIFTH ANNUAL COMMUNICATION.

KEOKUK, IOWA, JULY 13, 14, 15, 1886.

BRO. A. A. BLAND, GRAND MASTER; BRO. GEO. W. CLEGGETT,
GRAND SECRETARY.

The Most Worshipful African Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons convened in its Fifth Annual Communication, in the hall of York Lodge, No. 1, Keokuk, Iowa, and was opened in due form in the third degree of Masonry, at 10 o'clock A. M., Most Worshipful Grand Master, A. A. Bland, presiding. Prayer was offered by the Grand Chaplain, L. H. Reynolds. All but two of the Grand Officers were present and in their stations.

The Committee on Credentials reported the following lodges represented:

York Lodge, No. 1, N. Waller.
North Star Lodge, No. 2, G. W. Black.
Golden Star Lodge, No. 4, Sylvester Lee.
J. K. Hilyard Lodge, No. 6, J. K. Hilyard.
Garfield Lodge, No. 7, A. A. Bland, proxy.
Newton Lodge, No. 8, L. Mayes.
Lincoln Lodge, No. 9, S. H. McCracken.
King Solomon Lodge, No. 10, R. H. Taylor.
Eastern Star Lodge, No. 11, A. A. Bland, proxy.
Pioneer Lodge, No. 12, J. K. Hilyard.
Decatur Lodge, No. 13, F. Howell.

The Grand Master in his address again refers to their internal troubles. He says:

"I, as your servant, have worked hard to unite those lodges that have been led astray, by designing men. My anxiety for the settlement is so

great that I have allowed myself to resort to every means at my command to obtain peace. I have spent time and money to meet some of those that pretend to be officers of the body styled the Hiram Grand Lodge and they do not hesitate to tell us that they have no recognition and don't want any; also that they will make any man who applies to them regardless alike of his money principles or character. This state of affairs I deplore as being most hurtful to us, as for them, they have nothing to lose. I have now come to the conclusion that it is time to quit persuading these men, for they dare not be honest and let even their own followers know the facts as they exist, else would they be left without a subordinate lodge; but many thanks to the enlightened Grand Lodges of our country, many of whom have examined the status of our Grand Lodge, and the Hiram and the Grand Lodge of Missouri are receiving from them their just deserts."

The financial statement shows total amount received \$206.00, amount paid out \$157.63, balance in treasury \$48.17.

The following were elected to office for the ensuing year:

J. H. Cleggett, M. W. Grand Master.
Orange Fields, R. W. Deputy Grand Master.
J. E. Shepperson, R. W. Senior Grand Warden.
E. W. Vaughan, R. W. Junior Grand Warden.
H. H. Lewis, R. W. Grand Treasurer.
J. E. Gillam, R. W. Grand Secretary.

At this session the election for Grand Master was very close and the result may, or may not, have had some bearing upon the situation in Iowa Masonry. The candidates were G. H. Cleggett of North Star Lodge, No. 2, and J. K. Hilyard, of Pioneer Lodge, No. 12, St. Paul, Minnesota, and the result of the ballot was, Cleggett 51, Hilyard 50. Just why at this time Iowa Masons felt like going outside of the State of Iowa for a leader, when it required the presence of an Iowa man who could be on the scene at all times of the trouble. It proved afterwards that Bro. Cleggett's election as Grand Master of African Grand Lodge made it possible for the

two Grand Lodges to unite and form the United Grand Lodge.

The next annual communication was voted to be held in Des Moines on the second Tuesday in July, A. D. 1887, A. L. 5886.

The record of that meeting will be given in the chapter on the "Organization of the United Grand Lodge."