

## CHAPTER IV.

### HIRAM GRAND LODGE.

The reasons for and the preliminary steps taken in the organization of Hiram Grand Lodge are fully set forth in the printed proceedings of the convention and organization of that body. It is the best history to be obtained today and is here given in full.

#### PRELIMINARY STEPS TO GRAND LODGE ORGANIZATION.

---

KEOKUK, IOWA, April 23, 1884.

The brethren of Star Lodge Number 51, and several other brethren of this state met in Star Lodge room, to take into consideration what was best for colored Masons in this State to do to better their condition. After the object of the meeting was stated by Bro. A. Harris, Bro. S. Fox was elected chairman; Bro. A. Johnson, secretary and Bro. A. Harris assistant secretary.

Remarks were made by several brethren as to the importance of some steps being taken at this time for the purpose of bettering Freemasonry. Through the various remarks it was suggested that an Independent Grand Lodge of Iowa ought to be organized for harmonizing the elements.

The subject was taken up by Star Lodge No. 51, when, as a Lodge the following resolution was affirmed:

Resolved, That we, Star Lodge No. 51, pledge ourselves to use all our influence legitimately for the purpose of organizing a Grand Lodge in this State.

After discussion the motion prevailed unanimously.

Bro. M. N. Bell, P. M., and Representative of North Star No. 31, offered the following which was adopted:

WHEREAS, Past and present Master representatives of four Lodges of this State, and letters under seal of two others are here and have

organized themselves into a Convention to consider the best manner of elevating Freemasonry in this state. Therefore, be it

Resolved, That we take such steps as may be necessary and legal for the formation of a regular Grand Lodge for this State under such style and name as may be agreed upon at time of organization.

It was moved that a committee of three be appointed by the chair who shall nominate seven members from the different Lodges for the purpose of making the necessary arrangements for the object in view, viz.: The organization of a Grand Lodge in this state.

The committee retired and shortly after returned and made the following report, which was amended and adopted:

REPORT.

We, your committee on nomination for committee to call a convention with the view of a Grand Lodge organization, beg leave to report the following names:

T. L. Smith and W. A. Dove, Star Lodge No. 51.  
I. N. Daniels, Sims Lodge, No. 50.  
J. E. Todd, North Star, No. 31.  
E. C. Thomas, Mt. Olive, No. 86.  
J. S. Reid, Reed Lodge No. 79.  
A. Clark, Clark Lodge No. 61.

Respectfully submitted,

Miles N. Bell,  
A. Harris,  
J. Sims.  
Committee.

On motion the name of T. L. Smith was erased and A. Harris inserted.

On motion the name of W. A. Dove was erased and that of S. Fox inserted.

On motion the name of John Sims was inserted/<sup>and</sup>that of I. N. Daniel erased.

On motion the name of J. E. Todd was erased and M. N. Bell inserted.

As amended the report was adopted.

On motion the committee was empowered to fill all vacancies.

On motion a vote of thanks was tendered Bro. Amos Johnson, Secretary, for valuable services.

The minutes were read and approved.

On motion the convention adjourned to meet at such time and place as may be agreed upon by committee.

SYKE FOX,

Chairman.

Attest,

AMOS JOHNSON, Secretary.

IOWA GRAND LODGE ORGANIZATION.

Notice, to whom it may Concern:

We, the Regular Lodges and Masons of the State of Iowa, purpose to meet in the city of DES MOINES, IOWA, August 26th, A. D. 1884, in called Convention, at 10 o'clock A. M., in the Masonic Hall of North Star Lodge, No. 31, for the purpose of organizing a Grand Lodge of A. F. & A. M. in and for the State of Iowa.

LODGES.

DELEGATES.

North Star No. 31, Des Moines. . . . .	B. F. Peniston.
Sims, No. 50, Oskaloosa. . . . .	J. D. Bush.
Star, No. 51, Keokuk. . . . .	R. Cryst.
Reed, No. 79, Red Oak. . . . .	J. S. Reid.
Mt. Olive, No. 86, Cedar Rapids. . . . .	O. B. Clare.
Clark, No. 6, Davenport. . . . .	A. Clark.

Centerville Lodge, Centerville. . . . . J. H. Bundy.

Cedar Grove Lodge, Muchachinock. . . . . L. H. Reynolds.

Committee on Call: Bro's. A. Harris, M. N. Bell, S. Fox, E. C.

Thomas, J. Sims, J. S. Reid, A. Clark.

---

CONVENTION PROCEEDINGS.

---

Proceedings of the Convention of Masons of the State of Iowa, and formation of "The M. W. Hiram Grand Lodge of the State of Iowa. Held in Masonic Hall, North Star Lodge No. 31, in East Des Moines, Iowa, August 26, 1884.

Pursuant to a regular call issued as per arrangement made on the 23d day of April, 1884, a convention of the following Lodges being present, viz.: Clark, No. 6, Davenport, Iowa, North Star, No. 31, Des Moines, Iowa, Sims, No. 50, Oskaloosa, Iowa, Star, No. 51, Keokuk, Iowa, Mt. Olive, No. 86, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Cedar Grove No. \_\_, Muchachinock, Iowa, formerly members of the M. W. Grand Lodge of Missouri, etc., met in the Hall of North Star Lodge, No. 31, in the city of Des Moines, Iowa, at 10 o'clock, A. M., for the purpose of considering the expediency of organizing a Grand Lodge for the State of Iowa and its jurisdiction.

Bro. A. Harris, of Keokuk, Iowa, called the convention to order and nominated Bro. Alexander Clark as chairman, who was elected.

On motion of Bro. J. Sims, Bro. Amos Johnson was chosen as Secretary.

Bro. Alexander Clark on taking the chair, made a brief address showing our status as Masons and urged calmness in discussion and action.

On motion a committee of seven, (7) was appointed to enroll those entitled to vote on all questions before this body. Committee: Bros. J. Sims, R. Cryst, A. A. Pierce, J. Jimerson, J. D. Bush, B. F. Peniston and M. N. Bell. The committee on their return made the following report which on motion was adopted:

REPORT.

Your committee beg leave to report the following representatives from Lodges and Past officers entitled to vote on all subjects before this body.

Clark, No. 6-Alexander Clark, W. M.

North Star, No. 31- B. F. Peniston, W. M., Robt. Webster, Sr. W.,  
Wm. Smith, Jr. W.

Sims, No. 50- J. D. Bush, W. M.; Henry Kitchen, Jr. W.

Star, No. 51- Richard Cryst, W. M.; C. Bates, J. W.

Reid, No. 79- A. F. Bird, Sr. W.

Mt. Olive, No. 86, A. A. Pierce, W. M.; O. B. Clare, Sr. W.

Cedar Grove, No. \_\_, Joseph Jimerson, proxy.

Past Grand Officers of the M. W. Grand Lodge of Missouri- Alexander Clark, P. G. M., P. D. G. M., P. G. Tr., P. G. Sec'y.; Alfred Harris, P. G. Sr. Warden; John Sims, P. G. Sr. Warden; L. H. Reynolds, P. G. Sr. Warden; C. S. Gormer, P. G. Jr. Warden.

Past Masters- Jno. Sims, T. H. M. Benton, A. Harris, S. Fox, C. S. Gormer, E. C. Thomas, O. B. Clare, Jos. Jimerson, S. B. Smith, L. H. Reynolds, J. E. Todd, M. N. Bell, W. H. H. Brown, A. Johnson.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN SIMS,

J. D. BUSH,

A. A. PIERCE,

RICHARD CRYST,  
B. F. PENISTON,  
JOSEPH JIMERSON,  
M. N. BELL,

Committee.

The committee also reported Bro. W. F. Wilkinson, P. G. Jr. Warden and a P. M. of Illinois, and recommended that he be allowed a seat. It was so ordered and adopted.

On motion of Bro. John Sims it was ordered that we proceed to form by organization a Grand Lodge for the State of Iowa and its jurisdiction.

On motion a committee of seven (7) was raised on constitution. Committee elected, A. Clark, Jno. Sims, Alfred Harris, M. N. Bell, Joseph Jimerson, A. A. Pierce and A. Johnson.

On motion it was ordered that the Secretary furnish the city press with the proceedings.

On motion the convention adjourned until 2 P. M.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The convention convened as per adjournment. Officers in their places.

Minutes of the morning session read and approved.

The committee on Constitution reported a Constitution, which on motion was adopted as a whole. (See same.)

It was on motion ordered that we now proceed as a committee of the whole to organize the M. W. Hiram Grand Lodge for the State of Iowa and its Masonic jurisdiction and elect its officers for the ensuing Masonic year.

The various stations were filled and invocation at throne of Grace offered by Bro. E. C. Thomas, Grand Chaplain.

The following brethren were appointed as tellers; Bros. Todd, Clare and Benton.

On motion Bro. A. Clark was nominated and elected by acclamation M. W. Grand Master; Bro. John Sims, P. G. Sr. Warden was appointed to cast the unanimous vote of the Grand Lodge. The tellers reported the same. He was accordingly duly declared elected M. W. Grand Master.

The election proceeded, the tellers reporting the results, declarations duly made and the following Grand officers were elected;

For deputy Grand Master, Alfred Harris.  
Grand Sr. Warden, A. A. Pierce.  
Grand Jr. Warden, Joseph Jimerson.  
Grand Treasurer, John Sims.  
Grand Secretary, Miles N. Bell.

Grand Lodge called from labor to refreshment until 7:30 P. M.

#### EVENING SESSION.

The M. W. Hiram Grand Lodge called from refreshment to labor at 7:30, P. M. G. M. (A. Clark) presiding.

Prayer by the Grand Chaplain, Bro. E. C. Thomas.

Minutes of afternoon session read and approved.

The following places were put in nomination for holding the next communication: Keokuk, Cedar Rapids and Des Moines, Iowa. Keokuk, Iowa, was selected as the place.

On motion a warrant was granted to Cedar Grove Lodge at Muchachinock.

On motion the Secretary was authorized to procure all things necessary for his office as soon as possible.

On motion it was ordered that the subordinate Lodges secure the

warrants under the M. W. Hiram Grand Lodge for seven and one-half dollars (\$7.50).

It was decided that all Masons, from the so-called African Grand Lodge be healed on their applying for membership.

Bros. A. Harris offered the following resolution which was adopted.

Resolved, That each subordinate Lodge pay into the hands of the Grand Secretary six (6) dollars for the purpose of purchasing Grand Lodge Jewels, at least three (3) months before the meeting of the Grand Lodge.

It was moved and so ordered that a vote of thanks be and is hereby tendered to the officers and members of North Star Lodge No. 31, for the grand manner in which they have entertained the members of the Grand Lodges; also to Bro. Amos Johnson for the efficient manner in which he has discharged the duties of the secretary during the sessions.

At this stage of the proceedings at the request of the Grand Lodge, Bro. Amos Johnson, assisted by Bro. J. D. Bush installed the following Grand Officers in due and ample form:

Elected and Appointed Officers of the M. W. Hiram Grand Lodge for Iowa, of A. F. & A. M. for the Masonic Year, A. D., 1884-85.

Alexander Clark, Muscatine, Ia., M. W. G. M.  
A. Harris, Keokuk, Ia., R. W. D. G. M.  
A. A. Pierce, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, G. S. W.  
Jos. Jimerson, Muchachinock, Iowa, G. J. W.  
J. Sims, Oskaloosa, Iowa, G. Treasurer.  
M. N. Bell, East Des Moines, Iowa, G. Secretary.  
J. D. Bush, Oskaloosa, Iowa, W. G. R.  
L. H. Reynolds, Muchachinock, Iowa, G. L.  
Rev. W. A. Dove, Keokuk, Iowa, G. C.  
Rev. George Chambers, Davenport, Iowa, G. C.  
Rev. E. C. Thomas, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, G. C.  
B. F. Peniston, Des Moines, Iowa, G. M. C.  
T. H. M. Benton, Sigourney, Iowa, G. Marshall.  
S. Fox, Keokuk, Iowa, G. Sword Bearer.  
J. S. Reid, Red Oak, Iowa, G. Standard Bearer.

O. B. Clare, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, G. S. D.  
R. Cryst, Hamilton, Ill., G. J. D.  
J. E. Todd, Des Moines, Iowa, G. S. S.  
J. G. A. Williams, Red Oak, Iowa, G. P.  
C. S. Gomer, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, G. Tyler.

Committee on Foreign Correspondence, M. N. Bell, L. H. Reynolds,  
J. D. Bush.

No further business appearing for consideration, the Grand Master, assisted by his Grand Officers, proceeded to close the M. W. Grand Lodge in ample form, to meet on the Fourth Tuesday in July, 1885, in the city of Keokuk, Iowa, at 10 o'clock A. M.

ALEXANDER CLARK, G. M.

Muscatine, Iowa.

Miles N. BELL, Grand Secretary."

There is no doubt that the organization of Hiram Grand Lodge was advised and encouraged by the Grand Lodge of Missouri. At the first opportunity, which was the annual session of 1885, it gave it fraternal recognition and whole-hearted support, as is shown by the following letter published in the Western Herald of October 31, 1885:

"Mr. Editor:- Information has reached me that the status of Hiram Grand Lodge has been questioned, and that irresponsible parties have industriously circulated a report that the M. W. Grand Lodge of Missouri has refused to recognize Hiram Grand Lodge of Iowa. You will do the craft of this jurisdiction a special favor to publicly announce through the columns of your paper for the benefit of the Iowa Masons that such is not the truth, and that Missouri heartily acknowledges the sovereignty of "Hiram Grand Lodge," and we extend to them our deepest sympathy in their struggle for the right.

With fraternal regards, I beg leave to remain

Yours truly,  
J. H. PELHAM, G. M."

There was some uncertainty at the time this letter was published as to the exact action of the Grand Lodge of Missouri, due, perhaps, to the report made by the Committee having that matter in charge; but this letter from the Grand Master settled all dispute on that question.

Hiram Grand Lodge at once began a spirited campaign for recognition among the leading Grand Lodges of the country. It made its strongest appeal to the Grand Lodge of Illinois and not only asked for recognition by that Grand Body, but also demanded that Illinois withdraw its recognition of African Grand Lodge, and in this action was supported by the Grand Lodge of Missouri. The contest was carried to the floor of the Illinois Grand Lodge at its annual session in Springfield in October, 1885, and is reported in the official proceedings for that year. It is interesting reading and shows the strong feeling that had been aroused in the minds of both sides. Some parts of this report are to be found in the report of Foreign Correspondence in the Proceedings of African Grand Lodge for 1886. The Illinois proceedings for 1885 contain the following:

"On the 2d day of the meeting of the Grand Lodge, the following distinguished brethren were reported. Brother A. A. Bland, Most Worshipful Grand Master of the African Grand Lodge of Iowa, and Brother Alexander Clark, Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Missouri and present Grand Master of Hiram Grand Lodge of Iowa, and Brother Amos Johnson, Past Grand Lecturer of Missouri. Brother A. Clark, Grand Master of Hiram Grand Lodge of Iowa, presented the following communication:

"We, the Most Worshipful Hiram Grand Lodge A. F. & A. M. of Iowa, U.

S., send greetings, fraternity, unity and love, with a desire to cultivate a more harmonious union, do by these presents pray your Grand Lodge the interchange of representatives, to the end of a more fraternal relation between the two Grand Bodies, your Grand Lodge and that of ours. And for the above purpose have this day and date appointed R. W. Bro. John G. Jones as our representative near your Grand Lodge, trusting that your Grand Lodge will reciprocate by the appointment of a representative near our Grand Lodge."

It was moved by Bro. R. E. Moore that the communication be received and referred to the Committee on Foreign Correspondence. The motion to refer was opposed by Bro. John G. Jones. It was moved by Bro. T. W. Jones that the motion of Bro. Moore be laid upon the table. Motion carried. Bro. J. G. Gross moved that the communication from Hiram Grand Lodge be received and that Grand Master A. A. Bland of African Grand Lodge of Iowa, and Bro. A. Clark of Hiram Grand Lodge of Iowa, both being present, should be heard upon the matter of recognition in open Grand Lodge. Motion carried. Bro. Clark was introduced and at length explained the organization of the two Grand Lodges, and severely condemned African Grand Lodge and Bro. Bland. Bro. R. E. Moore, representative of African Grand Lodge, objected to the severe criticism of Bro. Clark. Bro. Clark replied to Bro. Moore's objections, in part, as follows:

"I have been requested by telegram from M. W. Bro. Robert Pelham to represent him before the Grand Lodge of Illinois in behalf of Hiram Grand Lodge of Iowa, and, in obedience to his request, I am here. Not for the purpose alone of asking this Most Worshipful Grand Lodge to exchange representatives with Hiram Grand Lodge, but to say to you that you should withdraw your representative from African Grand Lodge of Iowa, and to say to the two Grand Lodges to return home and settle their own affairs. I do

not believe that the Grand Lodge of Illinois can afford to lose the recognition of two or three thousand Masons on one side, as represented by the Grand Lodge of Missouri, for two or three hundred on the other side, as represented by the African Grand Lodge of Iowa; nor should you be influenced to hold to African Grand Lodge for the sake of holding the few charters and commandaries located in the State of Iowa belonging to the Grand Chapter and Grand Commandary of Illinois."

It now being the hour of 5:30 the Grand Lodge was called off. The Grand Master instructed, it being the sense of the Grand Lodge, that the matter would be taken up for further consideration at 11:00 the following day.

At the morning session Thursday, the Iowa matter was then called up. It was moved by Bro. John Gross that one hour be given to the hearing of arguments,- fifteen minutes each for Bro. Clark and Jones, representing Hiram Grand Lodge, and fifteen minutes each for Bro. Bland, Grand Master of African Grand Lodge of Iowa, and R. E. Jones, representative of African Grand Lodge at the Grand Lodge of Illinois. Motion carried.

"Bro. Clark arose and stated that:

The object of his visit to the Grand Lodge is to lay before this honorable body the status of the two Grand Lodges in Iowa. He then proceeded to read a carefully prepared paper, treating the subject in a very clever manner, and reiterated what he had previously stated: that the African Grand Lodge was organized with less than half of the lodges located in the State of Iowa, and that several attempts had been made to organize before they succeeded; and when they organized he was in the city of London attending the Ecumenical Council; he had prayed the brethren before leaving this country to not take action in such organization until his return. He charged that some of the brethren who took part in the organization of

African Grand Lodge were expelled from the Grand Lodge of Missouri. He said: now I will say to you, brethren, that the brethren of Iowa who compose Hiram Grand Lodge, elected your humble servant to the high position of Grand Master against my own desire; but believing that we are right, and for the good of the craft, we ask an exchange of representatives."

"Bro. A. A. Bland, M. W. Grand Master of African Grand Lodge, said:

That he would not take up the time of the Grand Lodge in rehearsing what had often been stated to this Grand Lodge in the past four years, but would deny what had been said by the previous speaker in regard to the illegal organization of African Grand Lodge; and I am prepared to prove, if necessary, that all was done that is required by law or custom in the organization of Grand Lodges. It is true that several attempts were made before we succeeded in organizing the Grand Lodge; but the cause of our failure is due to the very unmasonic practice resorted to by Bro. Clark and a few others who were associated with him. But when he started for London we had him in a boat. We then succeeded in forming African Grand Lodge in peace and harmony."

"I shall leave our interest in this matter with the Grand Representative of African Grand Lodge, Bro. R. E. Moore, to present our objection to the recognition of the so-called Hiram Grand Lodge by the M. W. Grand Lodge of Illinois."

"Bro. J. G. Jones whose name appeared in the application of Bro. Clark as the brother he had appointed to represent Hiram Grand Lodge, said:

That he had been named as the representative of Hiram Grand Lodge to the Grand Lodge of Illinois, and I believe that the Grand Lodge which I represent is the legal Grand Lodge of Iowa and jurisdiction. And I will prove beyond a reasonable doubt to any set of men who claim to be Masons, that African Grand Lodge should not any longer be recognized by this

Grand Lodge."

"Continuing his remarks, when referring to a lodge called J. G. Jones Lodge, located at Council Bluffs, Bro. D. W. Dempey, asked Bro. Jones several questions and elicited answers which were complete contradictions to what he (Jones) had stated to the Grand Lodge in reference to the part that Jones Lodge had taken in the organization of African Grand Lodge, and Bro. Demcy stated that Bro. Jones had told him these things himself, but states it very differently to the Grand Lodge. At this point Bro. Jones used very obnoxious language to Bro. Bland, which a number of the brethren of the Grand Lodge objected to, and also objected to his speaking any longer upon the subject."

"The M. W. Grand Master seated Bro. Jones, and required of him to make an apology to the Grand Lodge for the language used."

"Bro. Jones then asked the pardon of the Grand Lodge for his hasty remarks and resumed his seat."

"Bro. R. E. Moore addressing the Grand Lodge said:

As the representative of African Grand Lodge of Iowa, I regret very much indeed that this matter should be brought before this Grand Lodge in the manner that it has. Yesterday, when the paper was presented, I endeavored to have it referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations. But so anxious was the brother who was named as representative for Hiram Grand Lodge, and several others in it, to have their interest represented, that they preferred to violate the law of the Grand Lodge rather than to miss the chance of forcing an issue upon a matter that should demand a careful consideration by a committee before being discussed in the grand body and, as the representative of African Grand Lodge of Iowa, which has been received and so acknowledged by this Grand Lodge, I am now compelled to speak against any attempt to recognize the so-called Hiram Grand Lodge of Iowa."

"If such should be done, you then place this Most Worshipful Grand Lodge on record as an exponent of concurrent jurisdiction in every State where Grand Lodges are already organized, which I oppose, believing it to be contrary to Masonic polity, and very dangerous to the peace and prosperity of Masonry throughout this great country. The plan that has been laid out by the brethren who have brought this matter before us is a slick one."

"The M. W. G. M. of Missouri by telegraph requested the silver tongued orator of Mo., Bro. Amos Johnson, to come here to represent him and the Grand Lodge of Mo., a very doubtful proceeding indeed on the part of the Grand Master of Mo. You will remember how Bro. Johnson almost electrified us with his eloquence. And well should you remember how he insulted us with his broad insinuations of what would be the attitude of the Grand Lodge of Mo., if we refused recognition to Hiram Grand Lodge. There may perhaps in such a thought some recollections be; recollections of the time when a few men like himself, compelled those less boisterous than themselves to humbly bow at their command. Proudly did he tell us that we should not hold to African Grand Lodge for the sake of a few chapters and commanders in the State of Iowa, who belonged to the Grand Chapter and Grand Commandery of Illinois. If he voiced the sentiment of the Grand Lodge of Mo. when he said, 'that the Grand Lodge of Illinois could not afford to hold on to the two or three hundred Masons belonging to African Grand Lodge and lose the recognition of the three thousand five hundred or four thousand Masons belonging to the Grand Lodge of Mo. and Hiram Grand Lodge of Iowa.' I now answer by saying that we are thankful for the information, and instead of holding on to two or three hundred we are holding on to the principle that is involved in the matter, and are now supported by some fifteen or twenty thousand colored Masons in this country,

and by the nineteen grand lodges that have exchanged representatives with African Grand Lodge. When our ears were being tickled by our imported brother, I felt like saying to him as did Hamlet to the ghost of Banquo, 'Avant! and quit our sight; let the earth hide you; your bones are marrowless, your blood is cold; there is no speculation in those eyes that glare upon us so! Hence, horrible shadows of unreal mockery; hence!'"

"Since the brethren who dragged this matter before this Grand Lodge have been so bold in defending their position, I am not at all inclined to be silent in regard to the matter for I have some recollection of the work done by or under the authority of the brother who claims to be Grand Master of the so-called Hiram Grand Lodge. Right here I wish to ask Bro. Clark if he is acquainted with S. B. Walker, W. Ingreham, A. Curry, Chas. Smith, Barber and Thompson. And is it not a fact that these men lived in the cities of Rock/<sup>Island</sup>and Moline in this state. (Bro. Clark said that he knew the men, and believed that some of them lived in Illinois.)"

"I will say that all of the above named live in the places named, and under your authority, and you being present at the time, did take these men from the jurisdiction of King Solomon Lodge, No. 20, of Moline, Ill., a lodge under the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge, across the river to the city of Burlington, Iowa, and there conferred upon them the three degrees of Masonry, which was done under the jurisdiction of the so-called Hiram Grand Lodge, and today these men are members of the Clark Lodge of Burlington."

"This work was done against the protest of King Solomon Lodge of Moline; and by that act you almost destroyed that lodge, and today you stand up in this Grand Lodge and ask that this Grand Lodge exchange representatives with your Hiram Grand Lodge. As Masons, we know of a Hiram

Abiff, but must decline the honor of knowing Hiram of Iowa, under such unsavory circumstances."

"To the plea, 'Withdraw your representatives from African Grand Lodge, and let the two grand lodges of Iowa settle their own difference,' I will say: as a sovereign Grand Lodge we do not ask to be dictated to, nor will we attempt to dictate to any sovereign Grand Lodge what they should do. If that be your theory, go home and settle it, and may God inspire you all to do so without any interference on our part. And if that should be accomplished you will then be doing what is required of you as men and Masons."

"'Help rebuild the temple,' and not try to tear it down, kill the workmen or ruin their character, as was attempted to do before this Grand Lodge by one of the speakers."

"I will conclude by saying to the members of this Grand Lodge never be it said of you that you willingly surrendered your Masonic principle as men and Masons, merely to satisfy the insatiable lust of a few brethren in Iowa for dominion in that jurisdiction over the legitimate Grand Lodge in that State, to whom Illinois was the first to exchange representatives with, and has since been followed by eighteen other Grand Lodges. Trusting sincerely in your honesty and fair dealing, I am willing for you to settle this matter by your vote."

"Bro. Jas. Hollinger then offered the following resolution:

RESOLVED, That we deem it inexpedient for this Grand Lodge, to withdraw our representative from African Grand Lodge or to grant an exchange of representatives with the so-called Hiram Grand Lodge."

"The above resolution was unanimously adopted."

FIRST ANNUAL COMMUNICATION.

KEOKUK, IOWA, JULY 28, 29, 30, 1885.

M. W. ALEXANDER CLARK, Grand Master.  
R. W. MILES N. BELL, Grand Secretary.

In conformity with the provisions of its constructions the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Iowa, assembled in the hall of Star Lodge Number 5, Keokuk, Iowa, in its first annual communication, the Fourth Tuesday (28th day) in July, A. L. 5885, A. D. 1885.

Most Worshipful Alexander Clark, Grand Master, called the Grand Lodge to order at 10 o'clock A. M. Invocation at throne of Grace by Grand Chaplain, Rev. E. C. Thomas.

Bro. P. M., S. Fox, in a few well chosen words welcomed the Grand Lodge to the hall and hospitality of Star Lodge Number 5. Grand Master A. Clark accepted, on behalf of the Grand Lodge.

#### ROLL CALL OF GRAND OFFICERS.

Grand Officers present:

M. W. Grand Master, Alexander Clark.  
R. W. Grand Sr. Warden, A. A. Pierce.  
R. W. Grand Jr. Warden, Jos. Jimmerson.  
R. W. Grand Treasurer, John Sims.  
R. W. Grand Secretary, M. N. Bell.  
W. Grand Registrar, J. D. Bush.  
W. G. L., Rev. L. H. Reynolds.  
W. Grand Chaplain, Rev. E. C. Thomas.  
W. Grand S. Bearer, S. Fox.  
W. Grand J. D., R. Krys.  
W. Grand Tyler, C. S. Gormer.

#### CALL OF LODGES.

Represented as follows:

North Star Lodge No. 1.	.	.	.	.	M. N. Bell, Proxy.
Sims Lodge, No. 2.	.	.	.	.	J. D. Bush, W. M.
Mount Olive Lodge, No. 3.	.	.	.	.	A. A. Pierce, W. M.
Cedar Grove Lodge, No. 4.	.	.	.	.	L. H. Reynolds, W. M.
Star Lodge, No. 5,	.	.	.	.	J. W. Smith, W. M.
Clark Lodge, No. 6.	..	.	.	.	Alex. Clark, W. M.
Reed Lodge, No. 7.	.	.	.	.	A. F. Bird, W.2M.

More than the constitutional number of lodges being present, the Grand Master, assisted by the Grand Officers, proceeded to open the M. W. Hiram Grand Lodge on the third rank of Masonry. Committee on credentials appointed--M. N. Bell, Jos. Jimmerson, and N. Dorsett.

Committee on Credentials Report, further as follows:

We find the following brethren, representatives, present and entitled to seats and votes in this Grand Lodge:

North Star Lodge No. 1, M. N. Bell, Proxy.  
Sims Lodge, No. 2, J. D. Bush, W. M.  
Mount Olive Lodge, No. 3, A. A. Pierce, W. M.  
Cedar Grove Lodge, No. 4, L. H. Reynolds, W. M.  
Star Lodge, No. 5, J. W. Smith, W. M.  
Clark Lodge, No. 6, Alex. Clark, W. M.  
Reed Lodge, No. 7, A. F. Bird, W. M.

Past Grand Officers present:

Past. G. Master, Present, Alexander Clark. P. G. S. W., J. Sims, L. H. Reynolds, C. S. Gormer. P. G. J. W., J. Jimmerson. P. G. Treasurer, J. Sims. P. G. Sec., A. Clark and all the Past Masters present.

The Grand Master in his annual address spoke feelingly of the assassination of Present James A. Garfield. His address was principally devoted to the correspondence which had passed between him and Grand Master A. A. Bland of African Grand Lodge, looking toward a union of the two Grand Lodges. This entire correspondence will be found under the chapter entitled "United Grand Lodge of Iowa."

The Grand Treasurer's report showed cash on hand, \$135.75. Paid out on order of the Grand Secretary, \$52.78. Balance on hand, \$82.97.

The Grand Lodge formed in grand procession and marched to Gibson's Opera House where the Grand Officers were installed by R. W. \_\_\_\_\_ Johnson, Grand Lecturer of the Grand Lodge of Missouri. The Grand Lodge then marched back to the hall where the Grand Master announced the appointive officers and the same were duly installed. After which the Grand Master

declared the business of the Grand Lodge finished and, assisted by the Grand Officers, closed in due and ample form the Most Worshipful Hiram Grand Lodge, to meet in Oskaloosa, Iowa, the 4th Tuesday in July A. D., 1886, at 10 o'clock A. M.

#### SECOND ANNUAL COMMUNICATION.

OSKALOOSA, IOWA, JULY \_\_\_\_\_

M. W. ALEXANDER CLARK, Grand Master.  
R. W. MILES N. BELL, Grand Secretary.

Hiram Grand Lodge did not print the proceedings of this communication. The only record in existence, so far as the writer knows, is that contained in the Oskaloosa weekly Herald for that week, a portion of which is here given.

#### INSTALLATION CEREMONIES.

The election of officers occurred on Wednesday, and the following were chosen and appointed:

#### ELECTED OFFICERS.

Alexander Clark, Muscatine, M. W. G. M.  
A. A. Pierce, Cedar Rapids, R. W. D. G. M.  
J. Jameson, Oskaloosa, R. W. G. S. W.  
A. F. Bird, Red Oak, R. W. G. J. W.  
John Sims, Oskaloosa, R. W. G. T.  
M. N. Bell, Des Moines, R. W. G. S.

#### APPOINTED OFFICERS.

O. B. Clary, Cedar Rapids, W. G. R.  
S. Fox, Keokuk, W. G. L.  
W. A. Dove, Keokuk, W. G. C.  
D. W. Anderson, Keokuk, W. G. C.  
E. C. Thomas, Cedar Rapids, W. G. C.  
J. Morris, Des Moines, W. G. M. C.  
T. H. M. Benton, Sigourney, W. G. M.  
T. J. Marshall, Oskaloosa, W. G. S. B.  
J. Q. A. Williams, Red Oak, W. G. S. B.  
R. S. Brown, Muchakinoock, W. G. S. D.  
H. Kitchley, Muscatine, W. G. J. D.  
I. N. Daniels, Oskaloosa, W. G. S. S.  
J. E. Todd, Des Moines, W. G. J. S.  
C. Davis, Keokuk, W. G. P.  
C. S. Gormer, Cedar Rapids, W. G. T.

Committee on foreign correspondence: M. N. Bell, Des Moines; A. J. Harris, Keokuk; A. Clark, Muscatine.

District Deputy Grand Masters; J. Jameson, Oskaloosa, Second district; A. J. Harris, Keokuk, First district.

On Thursday evening the installation ceremonies occurred in public at the hall of Sims Lodge. Three hall rooms were used for the occasion and the crowd present was large, and comprised the very best elements of our colored population, both local and State. It was a very happy and enjoyable time for all present- and for some a hall was provided where the giddy dance was had.

The next meeting of the Grand Lodge will be at Cedar Rapids, on the fourth Tuesday in July, 1887. Before adjourning on Thursday evening the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That the thanks of the M. W. Hiram Grand Lodge be and are tendered to the Oskaloosa Herald for their kindness in publishing our daily proceedings.

A resolution was also adopted thanking the colored people of Oskaloosa for the generous hospitality that had been bestowed on the delegates. They left the city greatly impressed with the fact that our colored people are whole-souled and that when they undertake to do anything of this sort, they never fail to make it a success. In behalf of the delegates it is to be said that they came like hard-working men, quietly and without ostentation; they took hold of their work in a business-like way, and laid plans for the future success of the organization.