

# Mount Hermon Lodge 118

A.F & A.M

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 4

## The newsletter

JUNE 2007

### Masonic brotherhood Part 1 : The History of Prince Hall, an American Patriot and Mason

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As Editor of The Newsletter , It is my prerogative to provide you with informative and educational material. Now that being said , I have chosen to write a historical , legal , and personal document on the subject of Prince Hall and Prince Hall Masonry today in America, it will be broken down into three parts, the first starting this month. This is not in any way meant to offend , promote or dissuade any particular Mason , but more for the purpose of education and communication amongst each other as Masons. Sincerely Bother Emmanuel Y Dumigron JW



ree Masonry among Black men began during the War of Independence, when Prince Hall and fourteen other free black men were initiated into Lodge # 441, Irish Constitution, attached to the 38th Regiment of Foot, British Army Garrisoned at Castle Williams (now Fort Independence) Boston Harbor on March 6, 1775. The Master of the Lodge was Sergeant John Batt. Along with Prince Hall, the other

newly made masons were Cyrus Johnson, Bueston Slinger, Prince Rees, John Canton, Peter Freeman, Benjamin Tiler, Duff Ruform, Thomas Santerson, Prince Rayden, Cato Spain, Boston Smith, Peter Best, Forten Howard and Richard Titley. When the British Army left Boston, this Lodge, # 441, granted Prince Hall and his brethren authority to meet as a lodge, to go in procession on Saints John Day, and as a Lodge to bury their dead; but they could not confer degrees nor perform any other Masonic "work". For nine years these brethren, together with others who had received their degrees elsewhere, assembled and enjoyed their limited privileges as Masons. Finally in March 2, 1784, Prince Hall petitioned the Grand Lodge of England, through a Worshipful Master of a subordinate Lodge in London (William Moody of Brotherly Love Lodge # 55) for a warrant or charter. The warrant was granted on September 29, 1784 under the name of African Lodge, # 459 on the register of the Grand Lodge of England by authority of then Grand Master, the Duke of Cumberland, delivered in Boston on April 29, 1787 by Captain James Scott, brother-in-law of John Hancock and Master of the Neptune. Prince Hall was the first Master of the lodge which was organized one week later, May 6, 1787. The warrant to African Lodge # 459 of Boston is the most significant and highly prized document known to the Prince Hall Masonic Fraternity. Through it, Masonic legitimacy among free black men is traced, and on it more than any other factor, rests their case. That charter, which is authenticated and in safekeeping, is believed to be the only original charter issued from the Grand Lodge of England still in the possession of any Lodge in the United States. African Lodge allowed itself to slip into arrears in the late 1790's and was stricken from the rolls after the Union of 1813 although it had attempted correspondence in 1802 and 1806. In 1827, after further unreplied communication, it declared its independence and began to call itself African Grand Lodge # 1. It is interesting to note that when the Massachusetts lodges which were acting as a Provincial Grand Lodge also declared themselves an independent Grand Lodge, and even when the present Grand Lodge of Massachusetts was formed by the amalgamation of the two separate lodges, African Lodge was not invited to take part, even though it held a warrant every bit as valid as the others. The question of extending Masonry arose when Absalom Jones of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania appeared in 1791 in Boston. He was an ordained Episcopal priest and a mason who was interested in establishing a Masonic lodge in Philadelphia. Delegations also traveled from Providence, Rhode Island and New York to establish the African Grand Lodge that year. Prince Hall was appointed Grand Master, serving in this capacity until his death in 1807. Upon his death, Nero Prince became Grand Master. When Nero Prince sailed to Russia in 1808, George Middleton succeeded him. After Middleton, Petrert Lew, Samuel H. Moody and then, John T. Hilton became Grand Master. In 1827, it was Hilton who recommended a Declaration of Independence from the English Grand Lodge. In 1869 a fire destroyed Massachusetts' Grand Lodge headquarters and a number of its priceless records. The charter in its metal tube was in the Grand Lodge chest. The tube saved the charter from the flames, but the intense heat charred the paper. It was at this time that Grand Master S.T. Kendall crawled into the burning building and in peril of his life, saved the charter from complete destruction. Thus a Grand Master's devotion and heroism further consecrated this parchment to us, and added a further detail to its already interesting history. The original Charter # 459 has long since been made secure between heavy plate glass and is kept in a fire-proof vault in a downtown Boston bank. In 1946, the Grand Lodge of England again extended recognition to the Prince Hall Grand Lodge but withdrew it the same year. In 1994, the Grand Lodge of England finally accepted a petition for recognition by Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Massachusetts. "England cited several reasons recognition was withheld," Nicholas B. Locker, Grand Master of Prince Hall from 1992-1994, said in an interview in June 1996. "One was 'territorial boundries,' because the Grand Lodge of England had already recognized the white Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, which shared the same jurisdiction with us. "Another factor was that Prince Hall owed back payment of dues to the Grand Lodge. Back 200 years ago, there were no checks, and often dues for England were put in the hands of sailing ship captains. It was several months before the ships arrived in England, and money was lost.

CONTINUED ON PARGE 3

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STATED MEETING:

1st THURSDAY OF EVERY  
MONTH

FOR FURTHER INFO OR  
EVENTS CHECK WITH OUR  
ONLINE CALENDER

SEE MORE ONLINE

## FROM THE EAST



reetings from the East

Trust this will find you well. Your Lodge is well and doing good. But we do miss you. Hope to see you soon at the Lodge. If you have forgotten how to get into the Lodge we will be happy to refresh you. Since the last time I wrote you we have had a major change in the Lodge. Bro. Mark Rogers, secretary has resigned and Bro. Lance Grunge, treasurer, has agreed to help us by becoming the acting secretary. More about the complete change over next time. A lot of our troubles can be traced to forgetting the basics and fundamentals of life in general and mechanical in particular. I give you a lesson I learned. My wife told me one day her car drove like it had a burned valve. Oh well, I thought, but a short drive convinced me she was right. One mechanic con-

firmed the diagnosis and told me how much it would cost and besides he did not want the job. I took it to a friend of mine and he said he could fix it right now. He installed two hoses and charged me all of five dollars. But what he said, I hope I never forget, too many mechanics overlook the basics. I drove away a happy man. I had a smooth running auto, and it cost me very little. But more than that, I had a revolutionary thought, at least to me, do not forget the basics. And I have used that thought on several occasions. Some of you know where I am going with this and yes, I am. The basics of Masonry. What makes us a Mason and what keeps us a Mason? The promises we made and the obligations we voluntarily assumed, these are basic. Sometimes we may feel if I pay my dues and carry my card I have done my part. That is important and mighty important, but there is much more to be done. Please let us get back to the basics.

'Till next time, I remain Fraternally,

Fred K. Morris, Master.

## FROM THE WEST

Our degree team met again and we are getting better prepared for the next candidate that comes to us. We still have a position or two that needs to be filled, so if you are interested in helping us become a more self sufficient lodge, and do degree work like we all know it can be done, then please join us the second Thursday of the month (in June it will be the 14<sup>th</sup>). The fellowship is great and we all have fun. We look forward to seeing you soon. Brother Mark Bloomfield SW

A rock pile ceases to be a rock pile the moment a single man contemplates it, bearing within him the image of a cathedral.

-Antoine de Saint-Exupery

## FROM THE SOUTH



ear Brethren ,

The teachings of Masonry are plain and simple ; they are intended for men in all the ordinary affairs of life. There is nothing in Masonry to which any man of good intentions cannot subscribe or which he cannot perform. Freemasonry does not dogmatize or teach technical or doctrinal ethics, morals, or religion ; it does not lead to asceticism nor seek to rival any sect in the observance of religious rites or duties. It seeks to keep good men good rather than to make them perfect, and it inculcates only those fundamental truths, which tested by time, have become written on the consciences of men .

Sincerely Brother Emmanuel Dumigron JW

#### The Six Mistakes of Man : Cicero 30 B.C

- 1: The delusion that individual advancement is made by crushing others ;
- 2: The tendency to worry about things that cannot be changed or corrected
- 3: Insisting that a thing is impossible because we cannot accomplish it ;
- 4: Refusing to set aside trivial preferences
- 5: Neglecting development and refinement of the mind and not acquiring the habit of reading and study
- 6: Attempting to compel other persons to believe and live as we do

## THE HISTORAN CORNER

The Antients Grand Lodge in England, formed in 1751, allowed a wide range of rituals to be worked, whilst the Grand Lodge of England, then colloquially known as the Moderns frowned on anything beyond the three Speculative degrees of Craft Masonry, viz. the Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft and Master Mason. Following the merger of the two Grand Lodges in 1813 it was agreed that Pure Antient Masonry consisted of these three degrees and no more, although by semantic wordplay that agreement immediately went on to admit at least three others. The period from 1740 to 1813 saw a host of Masonic rites emerge, as there were brethren for whom the Grand Lodge system was insufficient. These new rituals enlarged the scope of Masonry and encompassed many elaborations, some of which included elements which had previously been practiced within the craft. Many rites proved to be transient and died out (some being no more than a written record without evidence of having been practiced), but some proved more resilient and survived through amalgamation. Different Masonic jurisdictions vary in their relationships with appendant bodies, if at all. Some offer formal recognition, while others consider them wholly outside of Freemasonry. This leads to some such bodies not being universally considered as appendant bodies, but rather separate organizations that happen to require Masonic affiliation for membership.

**The Grand College of Rites** is a [Masonic](#) organization dedicated to the collection and publication of various ritual texts from both Masonic ritual not currently used in the United States, and non-Masonic rituals used by other fraternities and societies of a ritualistic nature who generally keep their rituals private. The Grand College of Rites has as one of its stated purposes the prevention, within the larger community of [Freemasonry](#), of the revival or usage of any rituals that are not currently in use in the United States. In addition to archiving rituals not currently in use in the USA, printing such rituals, and making them available to its members for study, the Grand College claims sole authority and jurisdiction over these rituals in the United States.

## SECRETARY'S DESK

I'll start with several reminders for upcoming events that all the brothers are encouraged to attend. First, there will be a District 39 School of Instruction on June 23<sup>rd</sup> at Vance Lodge #293. Breakfast will be served at 8AM followed up instruction beginning at 8:30AM. This is an excellent opportunity for both officers and new brothers to improve themselves and learn. Also, on the same day, and for those who do not plan on attending the School of Instruction, the Masonic Home for Children at Oxford will be celebrating St. John's Day with a parade and many events. A number of brothers at the May Stated expressed the opinion that this event is a wonderful and "must do" for all North Carolina Masons. Mark your calendars! Finally, please give some special thought to engaging special friends and neighbors who may be interested in learning more about Freemasonry. It does appear that more people are seeking to add further meaning and enriching their personal lives. Contact any officer and we will make sure there will be someone available to answer questions and provide the individual with a petition if they so desire. You would be providing them a great service. Finally-finally, give us a call if you need a ride to the Lodge. Dinners are great, the company joyful and the meetings active.

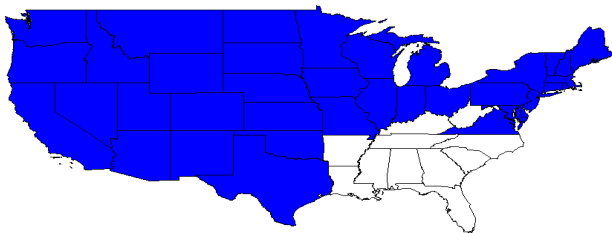
## THE TREASURER'S COVE

A reminder for any brother who needs partial or full assistance, you must contact, by any means available, the master, an officer or any brother concerning their needs. Our resources to provide financial assistance are available, but limited. Also, the deadline for submitting applications for scholarships is June 15, 2007.

### Masonic brotherhood Part 1 - continued from page 1

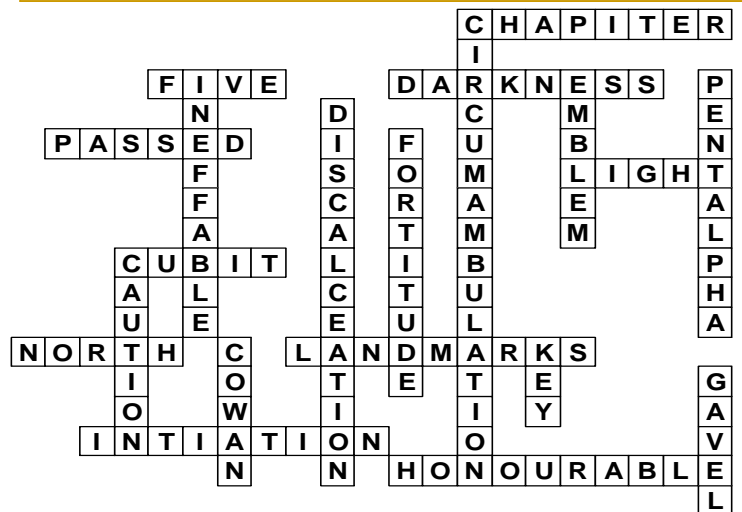
So it wasn't possible to say for sure that Prince Hall paid all his dues."The ties were arranged to be formalized in June 1996. In its 212 years, the Prince Hall Grand Lodge has spawned over 44 other Grand Lodges. The subordinate lodges receive recognition once their grand lodges are recognized. Today, the Prince Hall fraternity has over 4,500 lodges worldwide, forming 44 independent jurisdictions with a membership of over 300,000 masons whereby any good hearted man who is worthy and well qualified, can seek more light in masonry.

40 US Grand Lodges (including Alaska, Hawaii, & D.C.) - 78% - have voted in favor of Prince Hall Masonry Recognition map based on information available to Paul M. Bessel as of December 1, 2006

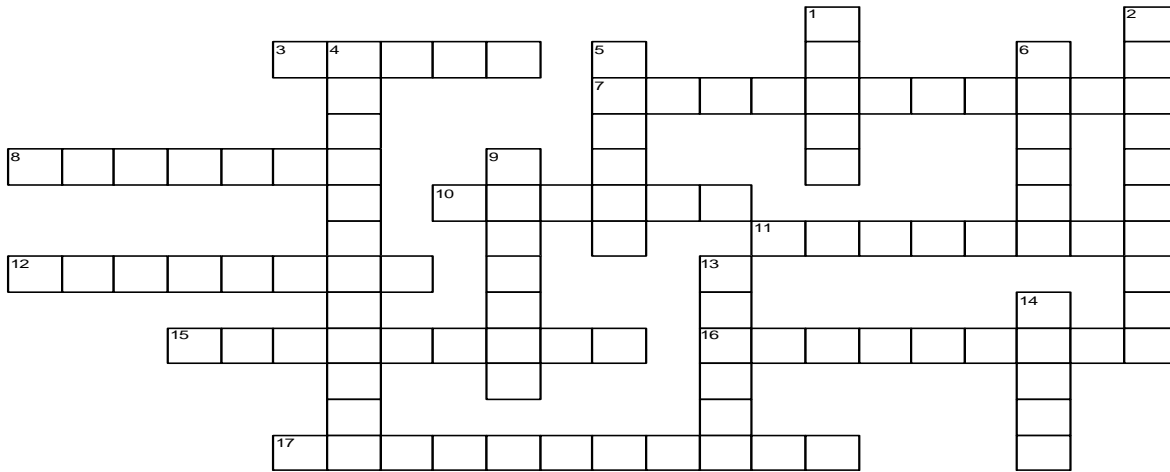
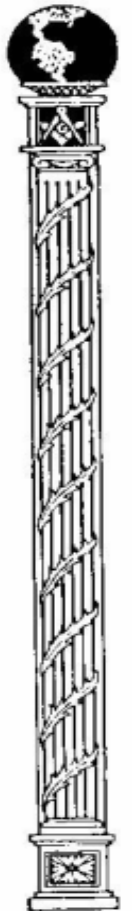


40 US Grand Lodges - 78% have voted in favor of Prince Hall Recognition

### Answers : May crossword puzzle



Forgiveness does not change the past, but it does enlarge the future.



www.CrosswordWeaver.com

**ACROSS**

- 3** an emblem of equality
- 7** the process of recognition
- 8** cardinal virtue in the EA degree
- 10** from opening to close the lodge is said to be
- 11** hebrew word for skull
- 12** let none enter who is ignorant of
- 15** also known as FC
- 16** cardinal virtue in the EA degree
- 17** prerequisite for advancement

**DOWN**

- 1** maybe lost in sight
- 2** title given to the degree of fellowcraft
- 4** one that listen
- 5** surveillance over a lodge
- 6** a private seal
- 9** lodges should be open with
- 13** symbolical death of the mysteries
- 14** liberal art and science inculcated in the FC degree

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