

HISTORY OF HIRAM OF TYRE GRAND LODGE

HIRAM OF TYRE GRAND LODGE IS AFFILIATED WITH THE UNITED SUPREME COUNCIL OF ANCIENT ACCEPTED SCOTTISH RITE MASONS.

In 1850, Deputy St. Larine was sent to America by the Supreme Council of France. He was given the authority to introduce Ancient Scottish Rite Masonry to Negroes in America, which resulted in the organizing of King David Supreme Council in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. St. Larine offered Negroes legitimate Masonry. Some Negroes embraced the concept, and others because of their high positions in Prince Hall set out to fight the legitimate Ancient Free and Accepted Scottish Rite Masons. In 1894, the King David Supreme Council united with the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons in Washington, D. C. and the United Supreme Council was established and on October 17th" Brother John G. Jones was elected head of the United Supreme Council. The United Supreme Council still exists today. The Ill. Brother Otis F. Clopton is the current Most Puissant Sovereign Grand Commander; he was the Past Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Hiram of Tyre Grand Lodge.

The legitimate origin and history of Hiram of Tyre Grand Lodge of California, started with a desire of Brother John G. Jones, and Brother H.C. Scott to become a regular Masonic order. No subordinate lodge can issue a warrant to form another subordinate lodge. A legitimate and regular Grand Lodge must have at least three subordinate lodges warranted by a Grand Lodge. All others are considered irregular lodges, and Clandestine.

H.C. Scott was employed by the U.S. Government Department in 1895, during this time Scott formed an acquaintance with the Rumanian (Romanian) Diplomat plenipotentiary, who was a high-ranking mason. After proper negotiations and the submission of an approved petition, the Grand Lodge of Romania (Romania) issued charters to King Solomon Lodge #1, Hiram Abiff Lodge #2, Jerusalem Lodge #3, and Joppa Lodge # 4. These Lodges assembled in convention, and formed the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Washington D. C., and was incorporated by an Act of Congress in 1895. Prior to this time, no Negroes had received more than one charter from a white Grand Lodge.

John G. Jones was the Most Puissant Sovereign Grand Commander of the United Supreme Council, and Grand Master of St. John Grand Lodge of the State Illinois. Brother W. S. Linn a personal friend of John G. Jones moved from the State of Illinois to Sacramento, California in 1908, but he could not adjust to the Sacramento weather, so he moved to Los Angeles, California. Brother Linn did not find any Scottish Rite Lodges in California, therefore, he set out to organize one. First he wrote to his friend and Brother John G. Jones for a commission or dispensation to organize Scottish Rite Lodges in California under the St. John Grand Lodge of Illinois.

While waiting for the commission, Brother Linn became acquainted with Brother S.S. Irvin, one with high Masonic ability who had worked with Brother G. I. Mitchell, of Texas. They worked and assembled a number of good men including Brother J. C. Williams, Brother W. F. W. Robinson, Brother Henry Burton, Brother William McKnight, Brother J.W. Wesley, Brother William Thomas, Captain Hawkins, Brother C. A. Butler, Brother Eugene Tyler, Brother Simon Battey, Brother W. J. Henderson and others.

When Brother Linn received his Commission he organized and set up the first Scottish Rite Club in California on May 10, 1909. Brother Linn received and chartered the first Colored Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Scottish Rite Masons in the State of California known as the W. S. Linn Lodge Number 1 (A.F. & A. M.)

Brother R. J. Fletcher a Past Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Sovereign Grand Lodge of California had some problems or concerns in his jurisdiction. When Brother Dr. R. J. Fletcher was informed of Brother W. S. Linn's Masonic accomplishments; Dr. Fletcher traveled from Sacramento to Los Angeles, and met with Brother W. S. Linn, and Brother S. S. Irvin. When Brother R. J. Fletcher returned to Sacramento, California Brother Fletcher along with some more Brothers in Sacramento organized Excelsior Lodge No. 2.

Judging by the actions taken by these Brothers to form two (2) Lodges (Excelsior #2 and Eureka #3, was split from Alpine) under dispensation after the meeting in Los Angeles, California. It is apparent that there were agreements between these Brothers to form a Scottish Rite Grand Lodge in California. Brother W. S. Linn had already been given the authority to set up Ancient Free and Accepted Scottish Rite Lodges when he was appointed Commissioner of the State by Grand Master John G. Jones. Grand Master Jones believed that if the Lodges were properly formed then all lodges should be recognized as being regular Masons. The last two Lodges were also warranted by the St. John Grand Lodge, from the State of Illinois. This met the requirement of three warranted Subordinate Lodges to form a regular Grand Lodge.

On December 5, 1909 the W. S. Linn Lodge was divided into two Lodges, The W. S. Linn Lodge was renamed Alpine Lodge No. 1. The other Lodge was named Eureka Lodge No. 3. Both Lodges still exist today. The officers of Alpine No.1 were Brother J. C. Williamson, Right Worshipful Master; Brother Eugene Tyler, Senior Warden; and Brother W. F. W. Robinson, Junior Warden. Eureka Lodge No. 3's officers were Brother C. A. Butler, Right Worshipful Master; Brother J. W. Wesley, Senior Warden; and Brother W. J. Henderson, Junior Warden.

February 1, 1910 Court case No. 2007 was heard by Chief Justice Shepard of the Court of Appeals of Washington, D. C. The United States of America Court of Appeals rendered that because H. C., Scott, John G. Jones, and others had received proper charters from the White Grand Lodge of Romania that this made them the only regular and legal Colored Grand of Washington D. C. This Court action was to settle a long, and bitterly contested law-suit that had been in Court nearly four years between the two (Colored Grand Lodges) W. H. Grimshaw Grand Master of Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Washington D. C. vs. H. C. Scott Grand Master of regular and legal Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. Masons of Washington D. C. The Court ruled in favor of H. C. Scott. The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge A.F. and A.M. Scottish Rite Masons of which H. C. Scott was Grand Master and was incorporated under the laws of Washington D. C. and all sister Grand Lodges and subordinates are legally recognized.

A former decision that was rendered by Judge Wright on November 11, 1908 against H. C. Scott was reversed and set aside by Justice Shepard of the Court of Appeals. Therefore, all Lodges receiving Charters from John G. Jones, and others named in that case are legitimate Grand Lodges.

After the above court decision rendered by Justice Shepard on the 26 day of May 1910, Alpine Lodge No 1, from Los Angeles, California; Excelsior Lodge No 2, from Sacramento, California; and Eureka Lodge No 3, from Los Angeles, California convened in Sacramento, California to establish a Grand Lodge. Officers were elected: Brother R. J. Fletcher, Most Worshipful Grand

Master from Excelsior Lodge No 2; Brother W. S. Linn, Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master from Alpine Lodge No 1; Brother D. R. Young, Right Worshipful Grand Senior Warden Excelsior Lodge No 2; Brother C. A. Butler, Right Worshipful Grand Junior Warden from Eureka Lodge No 3; and Brother Charles G. Flood, Right Worshipful Grand Secretary from Excelsior Lodge No 2.

This Grand Lodge was incorporated June 3, 1910 under the name Most Worshipful R. J. Fletcher Grand Lodge A. F. & A. M. Scottish Rite. During this period it was common to Name a Grand Lodge after its first Grand Master, and this sometime leads others to believe he is the one that started the Grand Lodge. Brother W. S. Linn had already started and incorporated the A. F. & A. M. Scottish Rite movement in California before 1910.

Grand Master John G. Jones attended the November 4, 1912 International Masonic Congress held in Luxembourg Germany. The Ill. J. Junk 33° the Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Grand Jurisdiction of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg presided. Grand Master Jones reported that the International Masonic Congress unanimously adopted a resolution of recognition and identified the following Colored Grand Lodges as regular and legal Masons of the United States.

Grand Lodge of Florida, Brother S. P. Pratt, Grand Master; Grand Lodge of Illinois, Brother John G. Jones, Grand Master; Grand Lodge of Alabama, Brother J. H. Magher, Grand Master; Grand Lodge of New York, Brother J. J. Burnell, Grand Master; Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia, Brother H. C. Scott, Grand Master; Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, Brother H. T. Breadus, Grand Master; Grand Lodge of California, Brother R. J. Fletcher, Grand Master; Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, Brother J. C. White, Grand Master; Grand Lodge of Texas, Brother Charles Mitchell, Grand Master; Grand Lodge of Arkansas, Brother R. Amos, Grand Master; Grand Lodge of Tennessee, Brother J. W. E. Reed, Grand Master; Grand Lodge of Louisiana Brother George C. Williams, Grand Master; Grand Lodge of Mississippi Brother James F. Fagon, Grand Master; and Grand Lodge of New Jersey, Brother L. Gordon, Grand Master.

At the 1913 Annual Communications held in Fresno, California, the name was changed from the Most Worshipful R. J. Fletcher Grand Lodge to the Most Worshipful Hiram of Tyre Grand Lodge of California A. F. & A. M. The corporate name change was filed with the State of California on July 16, 1917.

In 1951 under the leadership of the late Past Lieutenant Sovereign Grand Commander of the United Supreme Council, and Most Worshipful Grand Master Brother C. B. Tarrance of Hiram of Tyre Grand Lodge was issued a Charter from the August S.O.M.A., which states it is duly inscribed as a legal and regular Body before the World Masonic Parliament and is entitled to all privileges attached to that condition signed and sealed this 3rd day of August in the year 1951.

Since May 26, 1910, The Most Worshipful Hiram of Tyre Grand Lodge has practiced diversity, and has accepted brothers of all races including White Brothers. In 1927 The Most Worshipful Hiram of Tyre Grand Lodge issued a warrant to Ezra lodge No. 11, located in Stockton, California Brother R. S. Domingo was the Right Worshipful Master. This Lodge was all Filipino Brothers and remained intact for over 51 years. In the late seventies Ezra Lodge No. 11 merged with Raisin Center Lodge No. 5 in Fresno, California, Past Grand Master Elvey Perkins was the Right Worshipful Master during the time of this merger. One of Raisin Center Lodge No. 5s, Past Masters was a Caucasian Brother.

From the beginning Hiram of Tyre Grand Lodge has practiced the continuous acts of charity and humanitarianism, which is its purpose. This is done with increased vigor while upholding the principles and tenets of the Masonic order showing love and charity toward all mankind; as we are commissioned to do by our Supreme Architect of the Universe, who made it clear in the form of a question: How can you say you love me and hate your Brother.

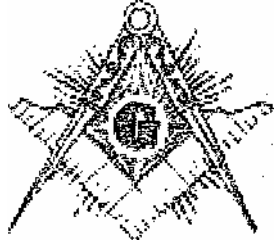
This document is submitted with Love, and without malice toward anyone. It is important to keep our records straight so that the members of The Most Worshipful Hiram of Tyre Grand Lodge, and Masons from other jurisdictions and friends may know that we stand on a solid foundation of legitimate origin and legal Freemasonry, also know that we accept all Freemasons regardless to origin as long as there is a belief in a Supreme Ruler of the Universe.

Grand Masters and grand Secretaries of the Most Worshipful Hiram of Tyre Grand Lodge .(A.F.& A.M. California Incorporated in the State of California in the year 1910.



Hiram of Tyre Grand Masters

<i>Brother J. Ffletcher</i>	<i>1910—1913</i>
<i>Brother D. R. Young</i>	<i>1913 -----1914</i>
<i>Brother Edward Jones</i>	<i>1914 ---- 1916</i>
<i>Brother James g. Scales</i>	<i>1916—1919</i>
<i>Brother J. W. Westly</i>	<i>1919 ---- 1921</i>
<i>Brother Ollie W. Wolfskill</i>	<i>1921 ---- 1922</i>
<i>Brother L. P. Lea</i>	<i>1922 ---- 1931</i>
<i>Brother N.H Jones</i>	<i>1931 ---- 1933</i>
<i>Brother W.H Robinson</i>	<i>1933 ---- 1935</i>
<i>Brother £. P. Lea</i>	<i>1935—1939</i>
<i>Brother C. B. Tarrance</i>	<i>1939 ---- 1955</i>
<i>Brother Ira L. Knox</i>	<i>1955—1960</i>
<i>Brother Samuel L. Hannibal</i>	<i>1960 ---- 1961</i>
<i>Brother Robert L. Johnson</i>	<i>1961 ---- 1991</i>
<i>Brother Horace K Dismuke</i>	<i>1991 ---- 1993</i>
<i>Brother Otis F. Clopton</i>	<i>1993 ---- 2001</i>
<i>Brother James Page Jr.</i>	<i>2001—2004</i>
<i>Brother Elvey Perkins Jr.</i>	<i>2004 ---- 2007</i>
<i>Brother Hobert £. Smith</i>	<i>2008</i>



Most Worshipful Hiram of Tyre grand Lodge
Right Worshipful Grand Secretaries

Brother Charles G. Flood 1910—1913

Brother R. J. <Fletcher 1914—1916 (past grand Master

Brother Meaddows 1916—1921

Brother Clemon 1921—1931

Brother W F.W. Robinson 1931—1935

Brother Frank Jingles 1935—1954

Brother Samuel L. Hannibal 33° 1954—1961 Past grand Master

Brother Thomas Gardener 33 ° 1961— Honorary Past Grand Master

This History was researched, edited, and compiled By Hiram of Tyre
Grand Lodge Past Grand Master Brother Elvey Perkins 33 °.

Bibliography

Records, minutes, materials, court cases, documents and Books were obtained from many sources. The following (Brothers provided the most pertinent information relevant to the Most 'Worshipful Hiram of Tyre Grand Lodge.

Ill. Rev. Brother G. C. Williams 33 ° Most Puissant Sovereign Grand Commander of the United Supreme Council, appointed By Ill. Brother John G. Jones to write the origin and history of grand Lodges of the John G. Jones order and persuasion, in the United States. In 1954 Ill. Rev. Brother G C. Williams 33 ° was made Grand Master Emeritus of the Most Worshipful Hiram of Tyre Grand Lodge.

Ill. Brother C. B. Tarrance 3 3 ° Lieutenant Sovereign Grand Commander of the United Supreme Council under the Ill. Rev. Brother G. C . Williams 33 ° Most Puissant Sovereign Grand Command, and Most Worshipful grand Master of the Most Worshipful Hiram of Tyre Grand Lodge.

Ill. Brother Ollie Spencer 33° United Supreme Council Historian.

Ill. Brother Lonnie Bell Sr. 33° District Deputy Grand Master, and Brother John G. Jones Researcher from the State of Illinois.

Ill. Brother Thomas Gardener 33 ° Right "Worshipful Grand Secretary of the Most Worshipful Hiram of Tyre Grand Lodge.

Brother William F. Payne Sr. member of Alpine Lodge No.1 wrote a Brief history of Hiram of Tyre Grand Lodge Starting with the origin, and inception of Alpine Lodge No. 1.

Brother James Willis Past Master of Raisin Center Lodge No. 5. Grand Lodge History.

Ill. William C. Lewis 33 ° Right Worshipful Grand Historian of the Most Worshipful Hiram of Tyre Grand Lodge.

Ill. Brother Austin Simon 33 ° Honorary Past Grand Master, and past Chairman of Trustee Board, submitted verification of the legal case.

Ill. (Donald Pinner 33° Past Deputy Grand Master of the Maryland Grand Lodge, attended and verified the existence of the World Masonic Parliament S.O.M.A.

Washington D.C Court of Appeals case No. 2007 from February 1, 1910.