

PRINCE HALL'S LETTER BOOK  
BY WM. H. UPTON, P.G.M., WASHINGTON, LOCAL SECRETARY FOR WASHINGTON

ANY UNPUBLISHED DOCUMENT MORE THAN A CENTURY OLD, HAVING ANY RELATION TO MASONRY, CAN HARDLY BE WHOLLY WITHOUT INTEREST TO THE STUDENT OF OUR INSTITUTION; AND THIS SEEMS TO ME ESPECIALLY TRUE OF A DOCUMENT RELATING TO A SUBJECT WHICH GIVES PROMISE OF BEING A CAUSE OF MORE OR LESS DISCORD WITHIN THE CRAFT UNTIL THE VIEWS IN REGARD TO IT NOW ENTERTAINED BY THE VAST MAJORITY OF ~~THE CRAFT~~ AMERICAN MASONS ARE ENTIRELY CHANGED. HENCE I DEEM IT WORTH WHILE TO REPORT THAT ONE OF THE RESULTS OF THE INTEREST IN THE SUBJECT OF MASONRY AMONG THE NEGROES OF AMERICA EXCITED BY THE DECLARATIONS OF THE GRAND LODGE OF WASHINGTON IN 1898 AND 1899, PRACTICALLY RECOGNIZING THE LEGITIMACY OF THAT MASONRY ~~AS~~ FROM AN HISTORICAL STANDPOINT, HAS BEEN THE UNEARTHING OF THREE MANUSCRIPTS, OF CONSIDERABLE ANTIQUITY, WHICH SHED SOME ADDITIONAL LIGHT ON NEGRO MASONRY, AND WHICH IT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS PAPER TO ATTEMPT TO DESCRIBE WITH SUFFICIENT FULLNESS TO PRESERVE THEIR MORE IMPORTANT CONTENTS IN THE NOT IMPROBABLE EVENT THAT THE ORIGINALS AGAIN BECOME LOST.

THESE THREE DOCUMENTS MAY BE DESIGNATED AS (1) MINUTES OF AFRICAN LODGE, BOSTON, 1779-1787; (2) PRINCE HALL'S LETTER BOOK; AND (3) MINUTE BOOK OF AFRICAN LODGE, PHILADELPHIA, 1797-1800. THEY WERE FOUND, WITH A NUMBER OF THE OLD RECORDS OF CELESTIAL LODGE--TO BE MENTIONED HEREAFTER,--IN MAY, 1899, IN THE POSSESSION OF MEMBERS OF THE UOMN T. HILTON LODGE OF LYONS MASSACHUSETTS, A CONSTITUENT OF THE PRINCE HALL GRAND LODGE. NO QUESTION EXISTS AS TO THEIR GENUINENESS. A WORD IN REGARD TO PRINCE HALL AND HIS SODALITY MAY BE ALMOST ESSENTIAL TO MAKE WHAT FOLLOWS INTELLIGIBLE TO READERS TO WHOM NEGRO MASONRY IS A NEW SUBJECT.

#### PRINCE HALL

PRINCE HALL WAS A NEGRO, RESIDING DURING THE LATTER HALF OF HIS LIFE AT BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS. HIS BIRTHPLACE IS UNKNOWN. NEGRO MASONS IN MARYLAND HAVE CLAIMED HIM--ON WHAT AUTHORITY, IF ANY, I KNOW NOT--AS A SON OF THAT COLONY; AND A SINGLE WORD IN ONE OF HIS OWN LETTERS (NO. 21, BELOW) MIGHT LEAD ~~ONE~~ SOME TO LOOK TO ENGLAND FOR HIS NATIVITY. THE DATE OF HIS BIRTH IS EQUALLY UNCERTAIN--1738, 1742 AND 1748 ~~BEING~~ HAVING ALL BEEN MENTIONED AS THE YEAR. OF THESE, THE EARLIEST SEEMS THE BEST AUTHENTICATED, ALTHOUGH JOHN D. CALDWELL, (WHITE) GRAND SECRETARY OF OHIO, APPEARS TO CITE W. S. GARDNER, (WHITE) P.G.M. OF MASSACHUSETTS, AS FIXING THE DATE AS NOVEMBER 9TH, 1742. HE DIED DECEMBER 7TH, 1807.

HE AND FOURTEEN OTHER NEGROES WERE INITIATED, MAY 6TH, 1775, IN AN ARMY LODGE ATTACHED TO ONE OF THE BRITISH REGIMENTS UNDER GENERAL GAGE, STATIONED IN OR NEAR BOSTON. HALL SERVED IN THE AMERICAN ARMY DURING THE WAR FOR INDEPENDENCE, WHICH BEGAN JUST BEFORE HIS INITIATION; BUT HIS MOTHER LODGE, IN THE ARMY OF THE ENEMY, EXEMPLIFIED THE CATHOLICITY OF MASONRY BY ISSUING TO THEIR BLACK BRETHREN--IN ACCORDANCE WITH A NOT UNUSUAL PRACTICE OF THAT DAY (1)--A PERMIT TO MEET AS A LODGE, BUT WITH VERY LIMITED POWERS (SEE ITEM 2 BELOW). UNDER THIS PERMIT, HALL AND HIS FOLLOWERS MET--BUT CONFERRED NO DEGREES--FROM 1776 UNTIL 1787. ~~AS~~ IN THE LATTER YEAR THEY WERE REGULARLY ORGANIZED AS AFRICAN LODGE NO. 459, UNDER A WARRANT GRANTED THEM BY THE GRAND MASTER OF ENGLAND ("MODERNS") IN 1784, BUT NOT RECEIVED UNTIL 1787. AS WE SHALL PRESENTLY SEE, A LODGE WAS ORGANIZED IN PHILADELPHIA IN 1797 BY NEGROES WHO HAD BEEN INITIATED IN ENGLAND AND IRELAND. A THIRD NEGRO LODGE WAS SUBSEQUENTLY FORMED IN PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND--IN ACCORDANCE WITH AN OLD USAGE, THE VALIDITY OF WHICH HAD THEN BUT RECENTLY BEEN AFFIRMED BY THE GRAND LODGE OF SCOTLAND (2)--FOR THE ACCOMMODATION OF MEMBERS OF NO. 459 WHO RESIDED THERE; AND IN 1808 THESE THREE FORMED THE AFRICAN GRAND LODGE, A BODY WHICH IN 1847 CHANGED ITS NAME TO PRINCE HALL GRAND LODGE OF MASSACHUSETTS. FROM THESE SOURCES THE LIGHT OF MASONRY GRADUALLY SPREAD AMONG THE NEGROES, UNTIL NOW THEY HAVE LODGES AND GRAND LODGES IN MOST OF THE STATES, AND IN CANADA AND LIBERIA.



NOTES: (1) EXAMPLES OF THAT PRACTICE ARE GIVEN BY NUMEROUS WRITERS:--BY GOULD IN CHAPTER XXX. OF HIS HISTORY (AMERICAN EDITION IV., 217), AND IN A.Q.C.V. 242; BY McCLENACHAN, HISTORY OF FREEMASONRY IN NEW YORK, I., 152; BY SPETH, A.Q.C. XII, 6.; BY HUGHAN IN THE FREEMASON OF SEPTEMBER 7TH, 1889. ALL THESE ARE COLLECTED IN "A CRITICAL EXAMINATION OF OBJECTIONS TO THE LEGISIMACY OF THE MASONRY EXISTING AMONG THE NEGROES OF AMERICA," BY THE PRESENT WRITER, PRINTED AS A PART OF THE REPORT ON CORRESPONDENCE IN PROCEEDINGS OF THE GRAND LODGE OF WASHINGTON, 1899.

(2) IN 1794 THE GRAND LODGE OF SCOTLAND ADMITTED THE RIGHT OF JOURNEYMAN LODGE NO. 8 "TO GRANT DISPENSATIONS TO OPEN A LODGE IN ANY PLACE WHERE A NUMBER OF THEIR BRETHREN WERE STATIONED, PARTICULARLY IF THE MASTER HIMSELF WERE PRESENT." A.Q.C. I., 14. IT IS NOT LIKELY THAT KNOWLEDGE OF THIS DECISION--SO MUCH TO HIS ADVANTAGE--WOULD FAIL TO REACH SO INQUISITIVE A MASON AS PRINCE HALL, THROUGH HIS FRIENDS IN ST. ANDREW'S LODGE, BOSTON,--A BODY WHICH RETAINED ITS ALLEGIANCE TO THE GRAND LODGE OF SCOTLAND IN DEFIANCE OF THE GRAND LODGE OF MASSACHUSETTS, FORMED IN 1792.

(ART. CONT'D) AFRICAN LODGE NO 459 CONTINUED TO WORK UNTIL AT LEAST AS LATE AS 1846(1); AND I AM CREDIBLY INFORMED THAT THE PRESENT CELESTIAL LODGE, BOSTON, IS REALLY LODGE 459 UNDER ANOTHER NAME, AND THAT BUT ONE BROTHER WHO BELONGED TO THE LODGE BEFORE THE CHANGE OF NAMES STILL SURVIVES, JOHN J. SMITH, AN AGED RESIDENT OF JAMAICA PLAIN. WHY OR WHEN THE CHANGE WAS MADE, I HAVE NOT LEARNED.

BEFORE PROCEEDING TO DESCRIBE THE THREE DOCUMENTS, I WISH TO ACKNOWLEDGE MY INDEBTEDNESS FOR ALMOST ALL THE MATERIAL FOR THIS PAPER TO W. BRO. FREDERIC S. MONROE, MASTER OF UNION LODGE, NEW BEDFORD, MASS., COMMITTEE ON CORRESPONDENCE OF PRINCE HALL GRAND LODGE, AND ONE OF THE BEST INFORMED AND MOST ACCURATE OF NEW ENGLAND MASONS.

NOTE (1)--THIS WAS FORMERLY DOUBTED, AND WILL STILL BE DENIED BY CONTROVERSIALISTS. BUT THE EVIDENCE PRODUCED BY JACOB NORTON WOULD SEEM TO BE CONCLUSIVE. MOST OF IT IS PRINTED IN PROCEEDINGS, GRAND LODGE OF OHIO (WHITE) 1876, P. 117. ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE ALSO EXISTS.

MINUTES OF AFRICAN LODGE, BOSTON

AS THIS IS THE MOST ANCIENT OF OUR THREE DOCUMENTS, IT MIGHT BE EXPECTED TO BE THE MOST INTERESTING. I REGRET TO SAY THAT IT IS NOT, AND I FEAR IT IS OF LITTLE VALUE. IT CONSISTS OF A FEW TATTERED SHEETS OF PAPER, UPON WHICH ARE WRITTEN ROUGH MINUTES OF AFRICAN LODGE FROM 1779 TO 1787. THEY DO NOT APPEAR TO BE PAGES FROM A MINUTE BOOK, BUT RATHER, ROUGH NOTES FROM WHICH THE MINUTES WERE TO BE WRITTEN UP, TAKEN DOWN UPON SCRAPS TORN FROM AN OLD BLANK BOOK. THEY ARE NOT THE RECORDS DESCRIBED BY BRO. JACOB NORTON SOME YEARS AGO, AS EXAMINED BY HIM. THE INK IS BADLY FADED, THE WRITING VERY POOR AND LARGELY UNDECIPHERABLE, AND THE MATTERS NOTED OF VERY LITTLE INTEREST, OFTEN BEING NO MORE THAN THAT THE LODGE MET AT THE DATE NAMED. THE FOLLOWING ARE SAMPLES OF SOME OF THE MORE COMPLETE ENTRIES:

"BOSTON, NOVEMBER 13, 1787

"THE LODGE NO. 459 HAS MET, WHERE THE BUSINESS WAS CARRIED ON ACCORDING TO THE CONSTITUTION, WHERE THE NEW MEMBERS IS EXPECTED OF JAMES HICKS, PRINCE CLARY, GEO. MILLER, JOSEPH HICKS"

"BOSTON, DECEMBER 13, 1787

"A LIST OF THE BRETHREN THAT HAS PAID TOWARDS THE FEAST OF ST. JOHN'S DAY  
MR. SANDERSON 4 SHILLINGS EACH BROTHER IS TO PAY  
BR. MIDDLETON 4."

TBEN FOLLOW FOURTEEN OTHER NAMES, WITHOUT PREFIXES, WITH "3" OPPOSITE ONE OF THEM, AND "4" OPPOSITE EACH OF THE OTHERS. AMONG THEM ARE HICKS AND GREGORY, AND SANDERSON AGAIN; BUT HALL, FORBES, SPOONER, PRINCE, AND OTHERS WITH WHOM WE SHALL BECOME FAMILIAR, ARE NOT ON THE LIST. OPPOSITE THE NAMES, IS WRITTEN

"PAID FOR THE R. 

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COOKING THEM



## PRINCE HALL'S LETTER BOOK

OUR SECOND DOCUMENT IS OF MUCH GREATER INTEREST. IT IS A RECORD BOOK OF ABOUT 300 FOOLSCAP PAGES, PASTEBOARD BOUND, COVERED WITH SHEEPSKIN, AND LET-TERED ON THE OUTSIDE, "PRINCE HALL'S SERMONS, 1787." IT IS NEARLY FILLED WITH MATTER OF WHICH I SHALL ATTEMPT TO GIVE A DIGEST BELOW, WRITTEN THROUGHOUT IN THE HANDWRITING OF PRINCE HALL, AS A RULE IT IS QUITE LEGIBLE; ON A NUMBER OF PAGES THE INK IS NEARLY BLEACHED OUT, WHILE ON OTHERS IT IS AS BLACK AS WHEN FIRST WRITTEN. THE SPELLING IS OFTEN PHONETIC, THE CAPITALIZATION THAT OF THE LAST CENTURY; AND OF PUNCTUATION OR PARAGRAPHING THERE IS PRACTICALLY NONE. I HAVE SEEN NO ADVANTAGE IN RETAINING THESE PECULIARITIES IN THE EXTRACTS QUOTED BELOW, SAVE IN A FEW INSTANCES. I HAVE INDICATED BY A DOTTED LINE (...) ILLEGIBLE LETTERS AND HAVE PLACED WITH SQUARE BRACKETS ALL WORDS NOT FOUND IN THE ORIGINAL. THE VOLUME IS BADLY SMOKED AND WATER-STAINED, PROBABLY INDICATING THAT IT WENT THROUGH THE FIRE WHICH DESTROYED THE TEMPLE AND SOME OF THE RECORDS OF PRINCE HALL GRAND LODGE IN 1869, (2) AT WHICH TIME GRAND MASTER KENDALL SAVED THE ANCIENT WARRANT OF AFRICAN LODGE--OF WHICH MUCH MORE PRESENTLY,--AT THE RISK OF HIS LIFE, THAT GRAND LODGE POSSESSING NO FIRE-PROOF VAULT, THE VOLUME WAS PROBABLY PASSED FROM ONE GRAND SECRETARY TO ANOTHER UNTIL IT FOUND ITS WAY INTO JOHN T. HILTON LODGE. I WILL NOW GIVE AN EPITOME OF ITS CONTENTS, ARRANGED CHRONOLOGICALLY AND NUMBERED FOR THE SAKE OF CONVENIENCE, WITH OCCASIONAL COMMENTS BUT AVOIDING REMARKS OF A CONTROVERSIAL NATURE SO FAR AS POSSIBLE.

(1) PA PARAGRAPH INSERTED IN THE BOSTON PAPER, VIZ. DRAPER AND FOLSON OF MONDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1782.

"ON FRIDAY, LAST, 27TH, THE FEAST OF ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST, WAS CELEBRATED BY ST. BLACK'S LODGE OF FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS, WHO WENT IN PROCESSION PRECEDED BY A BAND OF MUSIC, DRESSED IN THEIR APRONS AND JEWELS FROM BROTHER G...PIONS UP STATE STREET AND BIRD CORNHILL TO THE HOUSE OF THE RIGHT WORSHIPFUL GRAND MASTER IN WATER STREET, WHERE AN ELEGANT AND SPLENDID ENTERTAINMENT WAS GIVEN UPON THE OCCASION.

"THE MASTER'S ANSWER TO THE ABOVE SKETCH:

"MR. WILLIS.

"SIR: OBSERVING A SKETCH IN MONDAY'S PAPER PAINTED BY MESS. DRAPER AND FOLSON, RELATIVE TO THE CELEBRATION OF THE FEAST OF ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST BY THE AFRICAN LODGE, THE MASTER OF SAID LODGE, BEING POSSESSED OF A CHARITABLE DISPOSITION TO ALL MANKIND, DOES THEREFORE HOPE THE PUBLISHER OF THE SAID SKETCH MEANT TO GIVE A CANDID DESCRIPTION OF THE PROCESSION ETC. THEREFORE WITH DUE SUBMISSION TO THE PUBLIC, OUR TITLE IS NOT ST. BLACK'S LODGE; NEITHER DO WE ASPIRE AFTER HIGH TITLES. BUT OUR ONLY DESIRE IS THAT THE GREAT ARCHITECT OF THE UNIVERSE WOULD DIFFUSE IN OUR HEARTS THE TRUE SPIRIT OF MASONRY, WHICH IS LOVE TO GOD AND UNIVERSAL LOVE TO ALL MANKIND. THESE I HUMBLY CONCEIVE TO BE THE TWO GRAND PILLARS OF MASONRY. INSTEAD OF A SPLENDID ENTERTAINMENT, WE HAD AN AGREEABLE ONE IN BROTHERLY LOVE.

"WITH HUMBLE SUBMISSION TO THE ABOVE PUBLISHERS AND THE PUBLIC, I BEG LEAVE TO SUBSCRIBE MYSELF, YOUR HUMBLE SERVANT.

PRINCE HALL

MASTER OF AFRICAN LODGE No. 1  
DEDICATED TO ST. JOHN.

THIS WAS BEFORE THE WARRANT WAS GRANTED, AND WHILE THE LODGE WAS MEETING UNDER THE "PERMIT" MENTIONED IN THE LETTER FOLLOWING:

(2) PRINCE HALL TO WILLIAM MOODY, OF LONDON, DATED MARCH 2ND, 1784

ADDRESSED TO "MR. MOODY," "MOST WORSHIPFUL SIR," THANKS HIM AND "THE WARDENS AND REST OF THE BRETHREN OF YOUR LODGE" FOR "KINDNESS TO MY BRETHREN WHEN IN A STRANGE LAND." "DEAR BROTHER WE HOPE THAT YOU WILL NOT RECEIVE NO BROTHER OF OUR LODGE WITHOUT HIS WARRANT, AND SIGNED IN MANNER AND FORM AS 288 B<sup>o</sup> RECD."

"DEAR BROTHER I WOULD INFORM YOU THAT THIS LODGE HATH BEEN FOUNDED ABOUT EIGHT YEARS AND WE HAVE HAD ONLY A PERMIT TO WALK ON ST. JOHN'S DAY AND TO BUR 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



#2 PH LTR BOOK CONT'D

THOUGHT IT BEST TO SEND TO THE FOUNTAIN FROM WHENCE WE RECEIVED THE LIGHT, FOR A WARRANT: AND NOW DEAR BR. WE MUST MAKE YOU OUR ADVOCATE AT THE GRAND LODGE, HOPING YOU WILL BE SO GOOD (IN OUR NAME AND STEAD) TO LAY THIS BEFORE 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 FELLOWMEN, ALTHOUGH POOR YET SINCERE BRETHREN OF THE CRAFT."

NOTE (2)--"ABOUT FOUR WEEKS AGO I MET J.T. HEARD, AND I ASKED HIM WHETHER HE REMEMBERED HAVING SEEN THE AFRICAN LODGE RECORDS IN 1869, AND ALSO WHETHER HE REMEMBERED ASKING ME TO FURNISH HIM WITH A SYNOPSIS OF SAID RECORDS, AND WHETHER THESE RECORDS DID NOT COVER THE PERIOD OF THE ALLEGED DORMANCY OF THE LODGE? HE SAID THAT HE SAW THE RECORDS, THAT THEY WERE BADLY WRITTEN, AND THAT HAYDEN GAVE HIM A SYNOPSIS OF THEM. WHEN I TOLD HIM THAT THE RECORDS WERE BURNT IN 1869, HE SAID, "I AM SORRY I GAVE THAT SYNOPSIS BACK TO HAYDEN." JACOB NORTON TO CALDWELL (OCTOBER, 1876); PROCEEDINGS (WHITE) GRAND LODGE OF OHIO, 1876, P.118.

HAYDEN WAS GRAND MASTER OR P.G.M. OF PRINCE HALL GRAND LODGE. HEARD, P.G.M. OF THE (WHITE) GRAND LODGE OF MASSACHUSETTS, WAS CHAIRMAN OF THAT COMMISSION WHICH, IN 1869, REFUSED TO PASS ON THE MERITS OF THE PETITION OF LEWIS HAYDEN AND OTHERS, WHICH ASKED FOR RECOGNITION OF THEIR "EQUAL MASONIC MANHOOD BY WHATEVER MEANS THE MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE MAY SUGGEST." PROCEEDINGS (WHITE) GRAND LODGE OF MASSACHUSETTS, 1869, 134 ET SEQ.; CRITICAL EXAMINATION (AT SUPRA) PAR. 80.

## TEXTCONT'D:

THE LETTER IS PRINTED IN FULL, WITH SOME SLIGHT ERRORS, IN MY "CRITICAL EXAMINATION" AND ELSEWHERE. ITS DATE, WHICH HAS BEEN PRINTED SOMETIMES AS "MARCH 1," "MARCH 6," AND "MARCH 7," IS "BOSTON, MARCH 2, 1784." CALDWELL SUPPOSED IT WAS ADDRESSED TO THE GRAND SECRETARY; AND THE MASSACHUSETTS WRITERS (WHITE) SAY IT ACCOMPANIED THE PETITION FOR A WARRANT. THE "PERMIT" MENTIONED OR AS WE SHOULD NOW SAY "DISPENSATION," WAS DOUBTLESS FROM THE MILITARY LODGE, IN WHICH THESE BRETHREN HAD BEEN INITIATED, AND RESTRICTED THEIR POWERS. THE WORD "B<sup>R</sup>EC'D" IS PLAINLY WRITTEN. I HAVE TAKEN IT FOR AN ERROR FOR "D<sup>R</sup>EC'D" = "DIRECTED"--THINKING IT LIKELY THAT MOODY, WHEN AIDING SOME OF THESE BRETHREN WHEN STRANDED IN LONDON, HAD TOLD THEM THAT THEY OUGHT TO HAVE DIPLOMAS OR CERTIFICATES, PROPERLY SIGNED, AND HAD "DIRESTED" THEM HOW TO SIGN; BUT A MORE CAPABLE BROTHER SUGGESTS TO READ, "BROTHER RECEIVED." SOME ACCOUNT OF MOODY'S LODGE CONNECTION IS GIVEN UNDER NOS. 6 AND 11 BELOW.

(3) PRINCE SPOONER TO HALL, LONDON, APRIL 8TH, 1784 (RECTE 1785)

CALLS ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT THE WARRANT FOR AFRICAN LODGE WAS LYING IN THE GRAND SECRETARY'S OFFICE. "BROTHER GREGORY HATH BEEN FOR THE CHARTER OF OUR LODGE" BUT HAD NOT TAKEN IT AWAY.

THE WRITER THINKS "IT WILL BE A DISCREDIT TO US," IF THEY FAIL TO PAY THE FEES AND TAKE IT AWAY.

SPOONER WAS AT THE TIME A MEMBER OF AFRICAN LODGE. THE WARRANT ISSUED, BY THE PREMIER GRAND LODGE OF THE WORLD, TO PRINCE HALL AND OTHERS AS "AFRICAN LODGE NO. 459," BEARS DATE 20TH SEPTEMBER, 1784, AND IS IN THE POSSESSION OF PRINCE HALL GRAND LODGE. IT HAS BEEN OFTEN PRINTED.

(4) HALL TO SPOONER. NOT DATED

REGRETS DELAY IN TAKING OUT WARRANT; WOULD HAVE SENT THE MONEY BEFORE, IF WRITTEN TO. "BUT AS I KNEW THERE WERE ON THE SPOT THREE BROTHERS, I HAD NOT THE LEAST THOUGHT BUT THAT THEY WOULD HAVE PAID FOR IT." WAS SENT BY MR. HARTFIELD 6-0-8, WHICH "WITH YOUR OWN PART, WILL PAY FOR THE WHOLE CHARGES OF THE CHARTER." THE LODGE SEND THEIR HEARTY THANKS TO MR. MOODY.



#2-PHLT Bk. CONTO.

(5) HALL TO ----- (EVIDENTLY H.R.H. HENRY FREDERICK, DUKE OF CUMBERLAND, GRAND MASTER.) DATED "-----12TH, 1785."

THANKS HIM HIM FOR GRANTING THE WARRANT, AND DECLARES THAT THAT ACT WILL MAKE MANIFEST, NOT ONLY "TO US, BUT TO THE WHOLE WORLD THAT THE TRUE SPIRIT OF MASONRY HATH ITS FOUNDATION FROM THE SPIRIT OF OUR EVER BLESSED GRAND MASTER JESUS CHRIST, WHO THOUGH HE IS STYLED KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS, YET IS NOT ASHAMED TO CALL AND TO OWN THE MEANEST (WHOM MEN CALL MEAN), IF SINCERE, HIS BELOVED BRETHREN OF THE FRATERNITY." "I SHALL IN ALL MY LECTURES ENDEAVOR TO ADVANCE THE THINGS AS, BY THE BLESSING OF GOD, MAY REDOUND TO THE HONOUR OF THE CRAFT, AND ALSO USE THAT DISCIPLINE IN THE LODGE AS SHALL MAKE THE GUILTY TREMBLE, AND AT THE SAME TIME ESTABLISH THE TRUE HONEST BROTHER."

(6) MOODY TO "THE RIGHT WORSHIPFUL MASTER, WARDENS AND BRETHREN OF THE AFRICAN LODGE, BOSTON, NEW ENGLAND." JUNE 21ST, 1785.

WRITTEN IN THE THIRD PERSON, QUITE FORMALLY, NOT TO SAY STIFFLY, REQUESTING THEM TO TAKE UP THE "CONSTITUTION" BEFORE NOVEMBER, HE HAVING OBTAINED IT FOR THEM "IN CONSEQUENCE OF A LETTER FROM THE ABOVE LODGE, SIGNED BY THE THEN MASTER, PRINCE HALL, AND THE REST OF THE OFFICERS." "THE EXPENSE IS 5 GUINEAS AND A HALF, VIZ, 4 FOR THE CONSTITUTION, 1 FOR THE ENROLLMENT IN THE LIST OF LODGES, AND ONE HALF FOR THE UNDER SECRETARY." (1)---(NOTE 1---THIS DEMONSTRATES THAT A SURMISE MADE BY ME IN A FOOTN TE AT P.115 OF THE CRITICAL EXAMINATION WAS ERRONEOUS.

SIGNED, "WILLIAM MOODY, No. 4 HANWAY STREET, NEAR OXFORD STREET, NEAR SOHO, "BROTHERLY LOVE LODGE."

BROTHER LOVE LODGE APPEARS ON THE LISTS, 1781-1791, AS No. <sup>55</sup>~~88~~ LODGE OF BROTHERLY LOVE, KING'S HEAD TAV. HOLBORN, WHICH GOULD ("THE FOUR OLD LODGES," 69) APPEARS TO IDENTIFY WITH THE LODGE GIVEN ON COLE'S ENGRAVED LIST OF 1770 AS "71 THE STAR, COLEMAN ST." CONSTITUTED "DEC. 21, 1736."

(7) HALL TO MOODY, AUGUST 12TH, 1785

ACKNOWLEDGES RECEIPT OF No. 6 "BY THE HANDS OF CAPTAIN WASHINGTON;" THANKS HIM WARMLY FOR GETTING THE "CONSTITUTION;" REGRETS GREGORY'S NEGLIGENCE; EXPLAINS THAT GREGORY HAD AGREED TO ATTEND TO IT, "AND SO MADE OURSELVES EASY" UNTIL SPOONER NOTIFIED THEM OF THE NEGLECT; "IMMEDIATELY I CALLED THE LODGE TOGETHER AND COLLECTED TWENTY DOLLARS, AND CAPTAIN SCOTT WAS TO SAIL SOON, I HAD NOT TIME TO GET BUT A FEW TOGETHER AND (WAS) OBLIGED TO SEND ONLY ... WITH ORDER FOR OUR BROTHER SPOONER TO PAY WHATEVER MORE MIGHT BE DUE TO THE SECRETARY, BUT AS HE HAS COME AWAY BEFORE CAPTAIN SCOTT ARRIVED," ASKS MOODY TO SEND THE WARRANT AND PROMISES TO REMIT "IF MR. HATFIELD DOETH NOT PAY YOU." SIGNED "PRINCE HALL.

MASTER OF THE AFRICAN LODGE

AT THE GOLDEN FLEECE IN WATER STREET, BOSTON."

SPOONER, GREGORY AND OTHERS WERE PROBABLY MARINERS, SAILING BACK AND FORTH BETWEEN BOSTON AND LONDON. IN HIS "CORRESPONDENCE REPORT FOR ~~1828~~ 1873, LEWIS HAYDEN PRINTED A LETTER FROM HALL TO MOODY, OF THE SAME DATE, RELATING TO THE SAME SUBJECT AND OF THE SAME GENERAL IMPORT; BUT EVIDENTLY NOT A VERSION OF THIS LETTER.

(8) NOVEMBER 26TH, 1786. MEMORIAL TO HIS EXCELLENCY JAMES BOWDOIN, (GOVERNOR OF MASSACHUSETTS).

OFFERING THE SERVICES OF THE MEMBERS OF AFRICAN LODGE AS A MILITARY FORCE TO AID IN SUPPRESSING INSURRECTION GROWING OUT OF THE SHAY REBELLION. "SHAY'S REBELLION" IS A WELL KNOWN INCIDENT IN AMERICAN HISTORY.



ITEM 2-PHLB CONTD

(9) HALL TO MOODY, DECEMBER 16TH, 1786.

STATES THAT CAPT. SCOTT WILL ADVANCE THE MONEY "SENT BY ME IN HIS SHIP TWO YEARS AGO BY HIS STEWARD HARTFIELD "AND ANYTHING MORE THAT MIGHT BE NECESSARY, AND ASKS MOODY TO EXPLAIN THE MATTER TO THE GRAND LODGE. "SIR, I WOULD BE GLAD IF YOU WOULD PROCURE ME THE LAST CONSTITUTION AND THE MASON'S MNONEKE."

"LAST CONSTITUTION," I TAKE TO MEAN THE LAST EDITION OF THE BOOK OF CONSTITUTIONS; BUT OTHERS MIGHT READ "LOST CONSTITUTION" AND THINK THE WARRANT WAS MEANT. THE LETTERS OF THE WORD "MNONEKE" SEEM CLEAR: QUAERE, WAS "MNEMONICS" INTENDED.

(10) MOODY TO HALL. GOLDEN SQUARE, LONDON ....23RD, 1786

"I RECEIVED YOUR KIND LETTER AND AM MUCH OBLIGED TO YOU FOR SENDING ME THAT MONEY; BUT I HAVE NOT GOT IT YET." CAPT. SCOTT HAS GONE TO BOSTON. "THE LAST TIME I SAW MR. HARTFIELD I ASKED HIM IF HE SAW ANY BODY BELONGING TO US AND HE SOLD ME NO." "YOU DESIRED ME TO ASK MRS. HARTFIELD TO ADVANCE ME SOME MONEY, BUT SHE TOLD ME SHE HAD NO ORDERS TO DO IT. I HAVE SENT YOU AN ALMANAC "MY WIFE JOINS ME IN LOVE TO YOU."

THE MENTION OF MRS. HARTFIELD INDICATES THE EXISTENCE OF ANOTHER LETTER, OF WHICH WE HAVE NO TRACE.

(11) MOODY TO HALL. MARCH 10TH, 1787.

MONEY RECEIVED; CHARTER TAKEN FROM GRAND LODGE AND DELIVERED TO CAPT. SCOTT. MOODY HAD HAD BOOK OF CONSTITUTIONS BOUND, INSTEAD OF SENDING IN SHEETS; SOME GOOD ADVICE AS TO HOW TO CONDUCT HIS LODGE. "I HAVE SENT YOU AN EXCELLENT BOOK WHICH I HAVE TAKEN A DEAL OF TIME ~~TO~~ IN PERUSING AND ~~REVEN~~ FIND IT A VERY USEFUL BOOK AS IT CONTAINS MANY VERY USEFUL REMARKS AND INFORMATION. THEREFORE I SEND IT TO YOU FOR YOUR PERUSAL AND ACCEPTANCE." COMMENDS HIS SPECIAL ATTENTION TO THE "FOUR CARDINAL VIRTUES," TEMPERANCE, FORTITUDE, PRUDENCE AND JUSTICE; "WITH THE THREE RELIGIOUS VIRTUES, FAITH, HOPE AND CHARITY, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE GRAND PRINCIPLE ON WHICH MASONRY IS FOUNDED, BROTHERLY LOVE, FRIENDSHIP AND TRUTH."

SIGNED WILLIAM MOODY

PRESENT MASTER OF THE PERSEVERENCE LODGE  
HELD AT THE FLEECE, NEW PALACE YARD,  
WESTMINSTERS.

N.B. I HAVE THE PLEASURE TO INFORM YOU THAT HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS, THE PRINCE OF WALES, HAS BEEN INITIATED INTO MASONRY AT THE BRITCHER LODGE, PELL MELL."

THE "EXCELLENT BOOK" MAY HAVE BEEN PRESTON'S "ILLUSTRATIONS" OR CALCOTT'S "CANDID DISQUISITION"; BUT MAY IT NOT BE THAT WE HAVE A CAREFULLY VEILED ALLUSION--AND IF SO, ONE OF OUR EARLIEST--TO A "CYPHER KEY" OF THE "SECRET WORK"? THE CLASSIFICATION OF THE VARIOUS "VIRTUES" AND THE USE OF "FRIENDSHIP" WHERE WE NOW HAVE "RELIEF" ARE INTERESTING. HALL EVIDENTLY HAD TROUBLE IN BEADING THE HANDWRITING OF MOODY, WHO DOUBTLESS WROTE, "PERSEVERENCE LODGE, HELD AT THE FLEECE, NEW PALACE YARD, WESTMINS." AND PROBABLY ~~WESTMINSTERS~~ "BRITISHERS" LODGE." GOULD TELLS US (HISTORY, AM ED. III, ~~xxx~~ 235) THAT THE PRINCE OF WALES WAS INITIATED "AT A SPECIAL LODGE AT THE STAR AND GARTER, PALL MALL, FEBRUARY 6TH, 1787."

THIS LODGE IS MENTIONED IN THE LISTS, 1781-1791, AS NO. "29 BRITANNIC LODGE STAR AND GARTER, PALL MALL." PERSEVERENCE LODGE IS GIVEN ON THE SAME LISTS AS NO. "398 L. OF PERSEVERENCE, GOLDEN FLEECE, PALACE YARD," DATING FROM 1776, AND IS EVIDENTLY THE LODGE FORMED MAY 7TH, 1776, STYLED ON THE 1778 LIST, NO. "492 ~~KING'S ARMS L., NEW, SURREY.~~"

(12) HALL, IN THE "COLUMBIAN CENTINEL," NEWSPAPER, OF BOSTON OF MAY 2ND, 1787 "BY CAPTAIN SCOTT, FROM LONDON, CAME THE CHARTER" ETC.

THE ARTICLE IS PRINTED IN FULL IN THE "CRITICAL EXAMINATION," AND ELSEWHERE. AFRICAN LODGE WAS ORGANIZED UNDER THE WARRANT, MAY 6TH, 1787.



ITEM 2, PHLBK CONTD.

(13) HALL TO WILLIAM WHITE, ESQ., GRAND SECRETARY, LONDON, MAY 17TH, 1787  
 ACKNOWLEDGES WITH THANKS RECEIPT OF "THE CONSTITUTION, TOGETHER WITH YOUR RECEIPT FOR PAYMENTS FOR IT"; EXPLAINS WHY WHITE DID NOT RECEIVE THE MONEY SENT TWO YEARS BEFORE, "AND WE HAVE LOST THE WHOLE OF IT"; PROMISES "TO SEND A COPY OF OUR BY-LAWS AND A LIST OF THE LODGE" TO THE GRAND MASTER; "AND BY THE GRACE OF GOD I SHALL ENDEAVOUR TO FULFILL ALL THAT IS REQUIRED OF ME IN THE CHARTER, AND AS I SHALL MAKE THE CONSTITUTION MY GUIDE, I HOPE WE SHALL ADORN OUR PROFESSION AS MASONS."

(14) HALL TO "ROWLAND HOLT, ESQR., DE G.M. OF THE GRAND LODGE OF ENGLAND."  
 MAY 17TH, 1787.

SIMILAR T No. 13. "I HAVE SENT YOU A COPY OF OUR BYLAWS, TOGETHER WITH LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE LODGE. WE SHALL ALWAYS BE WILLING TO CONTRIBUTE SO FAR AS IN US LIES TO THAT LAUDABLE CUSTOM AMONG ...MASONS FROM THE FOUNDATION INHERES THEREOF."

THIS LAST APPARENTLY REFERS TO THE GRAND CHARITY FUND, TO WHICH AFRICAN LODGE SENT CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED IN NOV. 1787; NOV. 1789; APRIL, 1792; NOV. 1793; AND NOV. 1797; BESIDES OTHERS APPARENTLY NOT RECEIVED.  
 I AM NOT AWARE THAT ANY OTHER NEW ENGLAND LODGE EVER CONTRIBUTED TO IT AT ALL SEE NO. 30 BELOW.

(15) HALL TO MOODY. MAY 18TH, 1787.

ACKNOWLEDGES RECEIPT OF LETTER, "TOGETHER WITH THE CONSTITUTION AND CALENDAR FOR THE LODGE, AND THE BOOK YOU SENT ME," WHICH LEST HE FOUND "VERY INSTRUCTIVE." "DEAR BROTHER, NOTHING COULD GIVE ME AND THE LODGE MORE PLEASURE THAN WHEN WE OPEN<sup>d</sup> THE CONSTITUTION TO FIND SO GRAND A PIECE OF TRUE WORKMANSHIP THEREON, WHICH WE HAVE SHOWN TO SOME MASTERS OF OTHER LODGES HERE, WH CH ALL AGREE WITH US IN GIVING PRAISE TO THE WORKMAN THEREOF. BUT THE CONTENTS THEREOF AND THE PRECEPTS THEREIN CONTAINED SHALL BE OUR CHIEF STUDY AND GUIDE"

A VERY MANLY AND GRATEFUL LETTER OF THANKS FOR MOODY'S GREAT KINDNESSES TO THE WRITER, "THOUGH A STRANGER." "ALL THE ACCOUNT I CAN GIVE FOR IT IS THAT YOU ARE A SINCERE AND TRUE BROTHER MASON." THE BOOK MENTIONED WAS DOUBTLESS NORTHOUCK'S EDITION OF THE "CONSTITUTIONS," PUBLISHED IN 1784.

(16) PETITION TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF MASSACHUSETTS.  
 OCTOBER, 17TH, 1787.

ASKS THEM TO PROVIDE MEANS FOR THE EDUCATION OF COLOURED CHILDREN.

(17) HALL TO MOODY. MAY(SIC?)RECTE NOVEMBER) 17TH, 1787. UNSIGNED.

SENDS REGARDS ETC. "I SENT YOU A LETTER AND A SMALL TRIFLE IN (CARE) CAPT. SCOTT, BUT DON'T KNOW WHETHER YOU RECEIVED THEM OR NO, FOR IT IS HARD TRUSTING WHEN ONE HATH SEEN ONCE BIT. THEN MR. HARTFIELD TOLD ME THAT HE DELIVERED TO YOU YOURSELF." INTENDS TO "KEEP THE FEAST" ON ST. JOHN'S DAY NEXT AND TO SEND MONEY TO THE GRAND CHARITY "BY THE FIRST SAFE HANDS."

THIS IS BUT A BRAGMENT OF A LETTER. FROM NO. 19 ~~WHEN~~ NOVEMBER WOULD APPEAR TO BE THE TRUE DATE.

(18) HALL TO (CAPT) JAMES SCOTT. AUGUST 2ND, 1788.

SENDS HIM \$10 AND CERTAIN LETTERS, TO BE DELIVERED TO "MR. WHITE.?"

(19) HALL TO MOODY. AUGUST 23RD, 1788

SIMILAR T NO. 17. "I SENT YOU A LETTER NOVEMBER LAST...AND ALSO ACQUAINTED YOU THAT I SENT YOU A SMALL PRESENT."

(2) HALL TO "THE HONOURABLE, THE SELECT MEN OF THE TOWN OF BOSTON."  
 JUNE 2ND, 1789.

"A NUMBER OF FREE BLACKS OF THE TOWN OF BOSTON," AS WE HAVE NOT ANY PLACE OF WORSHIP, AND AS WE DO CELEBRATE THE 24TH OF THE MONTH IN AS SERIOUS A MANNER AS WE CAN," AND "AS ALMIGHTY GOD IN HIS GOODNESS HATH SENT A PREACHER AMONG US, AND HE IS WILLING TO PREACH TO US A SERMON ON THAT DAY," ASK THE USE OF THE HALL TO PREACH IN ON THAT DAY, FOR THIS TIME ONLY, AS WE SHALL REQUEST



ITEM 2 CONTD. PHLB.

(20 CONTD)

NOT REQUEST IT OF YOUR HONOURS AGAIN."

"THE HALL" WAS PROBABLY FANEUIL HALL; THE PREACHER, BRO. MARRANT MENTIONED BELOW.

(21) HALL TO HOLT, DEP. G.M., JUNE 4TH, 1789 NOT SIGNED  
 REPORTS "RECEIVED INTO THE LODGE SINCE AUGUST TWO MEMBERS, NAMELY, JOHN BEAN AND JOHN MARRANT, A BLACK MINISTER FROM HOME BUT LAST FROM BRACHTOWN, NOVA SCOTIA." WILL CONTRIBUTE TO GRAND CHARITY ON ST. JOHN'S DAY.  
 HALL'S USE OF THE WORD "HOME" IS INTERESTING.

(22) HALL TO WHITE, JUNE 4TH, 1789, NOT SIGNED  
 HAS RECEIVED NO ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE \$10 SENT THE GRAND CHARITY BY CAPT. SCOTT.

(23) A SERMON BY JOHN MARRANT.

UNDATED, BUT DOUBTLESS PREACHED BEFORE THE LODGE JUNE 24TH, 1789. IT WAS REVISED BY HALL, BEFORE BEING COPIED. THE INK IS SO FADED AS TO RENDER THE SERMON PRACTICALLY ILLEGIBLE, BUT IT SEEMS TO CONTAIN NOTHING OF SPECIAL HISTORICAL INTEREST.

(24) "SOME REMARKS ON MR. JOHN EDWARDS COMPLETE HISTORY OR SUMMARY OF ALL THE DISPENSATIONS AND METHODS OF RELIGION FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE WORLD TO THE CONSUMMATION OF ALL THINGS."

EDWARDS' WORK WAS IN TWO VOLUMES. HALL'S ABSTRACT FILLS SOME 35 PAGES.

(25) "THE LIVES OF SOME OF THE FATHERS AND LEARNED AND FAMOUS DIVINES IN THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH FROM OUR LORD AND SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST."

TERTULIAN, CYPRIAN, ORIGEN, AUGUSTINE, CHRYSOSTOM, GREGORY AND OTHERS ARE MENTIONED. MARRANT'S SERMON WAS EVIDENTLY GREATLY INDEBTED TO THESE LIVES.

(26) HALL TO WHITE, NOVEMBER 9TH, 1789, A FRAGMENT, UNSIGNED.  
 COMPLAINS THAT HE HAS NO ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF LETTERS SENT, OR OF \$10 SENT TO THE GRAND CHARITY IN AUGUST, 1788.

PRINTED IN FULL, FROM A COPY FURNISHED BY THE GRAND SECRETARY OF ENGLAND, IN THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE (WHITE) GRAND LODGE OF MASSACHUSETTS FOR 1869. FROM THAT VERSION IT APPEARS THAT HE HAD SENT COPIES OF THE SERMON "PREACHED ON ST. JOHN'S DAY BY OUR BROTHER JOHN MARRANT." ONLY THE FIRST PART OF THE LETTER APPEARS IN THE LETTER BOOK, AND IT DIFFERS SLIGHTLY FROM THE PRINTED VERSION.

(27) HALL TO LADY HUNTINGDON, NOT DATED.

CONVEYS HER HIS "HUMBLE THANKS" FOR THE LABOURS OF JOHN MARRANT, "WHOM YOU UNDER GOD, HATH RAISED UP TO BE A FAITHFUL LABOURER" ETC.; PRAISES MARRANT'S ZEAL "SINCE HE HATH BEEN AMONGST US, WHICH HATH BEEN ONE YEAR." "WE THE MEMBERS OF AFRICAN LODGE, HAVE MADE HIM A MEMBER OF THAT HONOURABLE SOCIETY, AND CHAPLAIN OF THE SAME, WHICH WILL BE A GREAT HELP TO HIM IN HIS TRAVELS, AND MAY DO A GREAT DEAL OF GOOD TO SOCIETY." MENTIONS THAT MARRANT IS ABOUT TO "RETURN TO YOU."

SELINA, COUNTESS OF HUNTINGDON, BORN 1707, WAS HEAD OF A SECT OF CALVINISTIC METHODISTS WHO BECAME KNOWN AS "THE COUNTESS OF HUNTINGDON'S CONNECTION." I HAVE AN IMPRESSION THAT SHE WAS RELATED TO WILLIAM SHIRLEY, MENTIONED IN NO. 3.

(28) MASONIC CERTIFICATE "BOSTON, FEBRUARY 16, 1792

"AND THE LIGHT SHINETH IN DARKNESS AND THE DARKNESS COMPREHENDETH NOT." BRO. JOHN DODD HAVING REQUESTED A "CERTIFICATE," WE RECOMMEND HIM, AS WE FOUND HIM A TRUE AND LAWFUL BROTHER MASTER MASON, AND HIS BEHAVIOUR WITH US WAS ORDERLY (AND) DECENT." DATED "AT THE SIGN OF THE GOLDEN (FLEECE) IN WATER STREET, BOSTON." SIGNED, "PRINCE HALL, G.M.

CYRUS FORBES, S.G.W.

GEORGE MIDDLETON, J.G.W.

APPEARS TO BE IN A FORM IN COMMON USE--EXCEPT AS TO THE TITLES OF THE OFFICERS AT THAT DAY. THE USE OF THOSE TITLES IS SUGGESTIVE, ESPECIALLY AS THIS WAS



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#28 CONTD.

SOME MONTHS BEFORE THE ORGANIZATION OF THE PRESENT (WHITE) GRAND LODGE OF MASSACHUSETTS, WITH THOSE ALLEGED "EXCLUSIVE TERRITORIAL JURISDICTION"--ASSERTED, FOR THE FIRST TIME, BEING LONG SUBSEQUENTLY--THE EXISTENCE OF "NEGRO MASONRY" IS SAID TO CONFLICT;--THEREBY RENDERING ITSELF, IT IS SAID, "CLANDESTINE." COMPARE HALL'S MENTION OF "THE GRAND LODGE" IN NO. 35 BELOW.

(29) A CHARGE TO AFRICAN LODGE.

UNDATED: BUT IN NO. 31 HALL INDICATES THAT HE DELIVERED IT AT CHARLESTOWN, JUNE 25TH, 1792, PROBABLY IN CONNECTION WITH A ST. JOHN'S DAY OUTING, FROM THE NUMBER OF COPIES WHICH HE DISTRIBUTED, WE MIGHT ALMOST INFER THAT IT WAS PRINTED.

(30) WHITE TO HALL. AUGUST 20TH, 1792

SENDS PRINTED PROCEEDINGS OF THE GRAND LODGE AND CALENDAR FOR THE YEAR; ACKNOWLEDGES RECEIPT OF SERMON AND OF THE LODGE'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE GRAND CHARITY, 24, NOV. 1787, AND 18, APRIL, 1792; AND ASKS IF CERTAIN LODGES ARE STILL "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."

PRINTED IN FULL IN THE "CRITICAL EXAMINATION," AND ELSEWHERE.

(31) HALL TO "THE GRAND SECRETARY." UNDATED.

ACKNOWLEDGES RECEIPT OF NO. 30; AND REPORTS ON ALL THE LODGES INQUIRED ABOUT. "THE LODGE NO. 88 HATH JOINED THE ABOVE LODGE (NO. 42) EVER SINCE THE DEATH OF THEIR GRAND MASTER, HENRY PRICE ESQ., FOR HE IS LONG SINCE DEAD, A WORTHY MASON." THE LODGE NO. 142 DO KEEP THE SAME (I.E. A "REGULAR LODGE,") AS SOME OF THEM HATH VISITED OUR LODGE, AND HEARD IT FROM THEIR OWN MOUTHS." I HAVE SENT YOU A CHARGE I DELIVERED AT CHARLESTOWN ON THE 3TH OF JUNE LAST."

PRINTED IN FULL IN THE "CRITICAL EXAMINATION," AND ELSEWHERE. HENRY PRICE WAS THE BROTHER WHO ESTABLISHED THE FIRST LODGE IN BOSTON, IN 1733. HE DIED IN 1780. MENTION OF OTHER WHITE VISITORS WILL BE FOUND IN OUR THIRD MANUSCRIPT

AS THIS LETTER COULD NOT HAVE BEEN WRITTEN EARLIER THAN SEPTEMBER, 1792, IT SEEMS SINGULAR THAT NO MENTION IS MADE OF THE FACT THAT THE MASSACHUSETTS LODGES REPORTED ON ("MODERN") HAD UNITED WITH THE LOCAL GRAND LODGE OF "ANCIENT MASONS" IN FORMING, IN THE PRECEDING MARCH, THE PRESENT GRAND LODGE OF MASSACHUSETTS. NO ALLUSION TO THE "ANCIENTS" OR TO ANY FRICTION WITH WHITE BRETHREN OCCURS IN THE BOOK, EXCEPT A SARCASTIC REFERENCE IN NO. 12 TO "A CERTAIN MEMBER OF THE FRATERNITY" WHO HAD FACETIOUSLY "OFFERED THE SO GENEROUS REWARD IN THIS PAPER, SOME TIME SINCE, FOR THE CHARTER, SUPPOSED TO BE LOST.

(32) HALL TO THE SELECTMEN OF THE TOWN OF BOSTON. OCTOBER 4, 1796.

ASKING FOR A SCHOOL HOUSE FOR COLOURED CHILDREN.

(33) HALL TO WHITE. JANUARY 20TH, 1797. NOT SIGNED.

HOPES WHITE RECEIVED THE CHARGES SENT WITH NO. 31, AND \$6, SENT "BY MY TRUSTY BROTHER HECTOR LEWES." ENCLOSES A LIST (NOT COPIED INTO THE BOOK) OF BRETHREN "ENTERED INTO THIS LODGE SINCE 1792."

"WE SEND THESE BY OUR LOVING BROTHER PENDIS WHO... VISITING BR. WITH US EVER SINCE HE HATH BEEN HERE, AND BEHAVE LIKE A WORTHY BROTHER."

1797

(34. (PETER MANTORE) TO HALL. COPY NOT SIGNED. "PHILADELPHIA, 2ND MARCH, 1797  
MR. HALL, MASTER OF THE AFRICAN LODGE

DEAR BROTHER OF THE AFRICAN LODGE IN BOSTON:  
"WE CONGRATULATE YOU ALL IN THE NAME OF THE MOST HOLY AND ADORABLE TRINITY, FATHER, SON AND HOLY GHOST FOR A DISPENSATION A WARRANT FOR AFRICAN LODGE. WE, IN PHILADELPHIA, ARE ALL READY FOR TO GO WORK. WE HAVE ALL BUT A WARRANT. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ WE HAVE ALL BEEN TRY'D BY FIVE ROYAL ARCH MASONS. THE WHITE MASONS HERE SAY THAT THEY ARE AFRAID TO GRANT US A WARRANT FOR FEAR THE BLACK



ITEM 2, PHLBK  
#34 CONT'D

MEN LIVING IN VIRGINIA WOULD GET TO BE FREE MASONS, TOO. BUT WE HAD RATHER BE UNDER OUR DEAR BRETHREN IN BOSTON THAN THE PENNSYLVANIA LODGE, FOR IF WE ARE UNDER YOU, THEN WE SHALL ALWAYS BE READY TO ASSIST ANY OF YOU.

"MEN THERE ARE ELEVEN OF (US) BLACK(S), FIVE OF WHICH ARE M. MASONS. PLEASE TO SEND THE WARRANT BY ONE OF THE BRETHREN OF THE LODGE, AND DIRECT HIM TO THE REV. A. JONES, MINISTER OF THE AFRICAN CHURCH, AND THE CHARGES SHALL BE PAID AND THE MONEY WILL BE READY. BY THIS CERTIFICATE YOU WILL FIND SOME OF OUR NAMES."

(CERTIFICATE?)

"PETER MANTORE, ... WHO IS AT PRESENT MASTER OF THE WHOLE WHO ALSO WITHSTOOD THE AMAZING TRIAL AND AFTER A STRICT EXAMINATION, WITH ... AND CONSEQUENTLY ... AND A SUPER EXCELLENT AND WAS ARCHED AND ROYAL ARCHED KNIGHT TEMPLAR OF IRELAND, CARRICKFURGUS LODGE, TRUE BLUES, NO 253.

"PETER BECKMAN, JONATHAN HARDING, JOHN DAVIS, RICHARD VENABLE, WHICH ARE ALL MASTER MS. THESE FIVE ARE ANTIEN YORCK MASONS. Q. BUTLER, C. BROWN, S. PETERSON, J. TUCKER, W. DUKINS, ... WHICH WERE IN LONDON IN THE ... LODGE NO. 22, WILLIAM SHIRLEYLORD ...

"JOHN HARDING  
RICHARD M. ..."

IT HAS BEEN STATED THAT THE INITIATIONS OF NEARLY IF NOT QUITE ALL OF THE BRETHREN NAMED IN THIS CERTIFICATE HAVE BEEN FOUND RECORDED IN ENGLAND AND IRELAND. IT IS TO BE HOPED THAT DR. CRAWLEY OR SOME OTHER BROTHER WILL GIVE US AN ACCOUNT OF "CARRICKFURGUS LODGE, TRUE BLUES, NO. 253" OF WHICH I HAVE NO FURTHER KNOWLEDGE. AMONG THE MODERNS, THE NUMBER 22 WAS BORNE FROM 1770 TO 1780 BY A LODGE AT STOCKTON-UPON TEES, IN DURHAM; FROM 1781 TO 1791 BY "OLD KING'S ARMS LODGE, FREEMASONS' TAVERN, GREAT QUEEN STREET," LONDON; AND AFTER APRIL, 1792 BY "ST. ALBAN'S LODGE, THOMAS'S TAVERN, DOVER STREET, PICCADILLY. BUT I TAKE IT THAT THE EXPRESSION "ANTIEN YORCK MASONS" INDICATES THAT LODGE NO. 22 OF THE "ATHOLL" MASONS WAS MEANT, TO WIT THE LODGE NO. 22 CONSTITUTED AT LONDON 1753" (SEE GOULD'S "THE ATHOLL LODGES," ?) THE CARE WITH WHICH THE WARRANT WAS TO BE SENT IS WORTHY OF NOTICE--A BROTHER WAS TO MAKE THE FORMIDABLE JOURNEY FROM BOSTON TO PHILADELPHIA TO DELIVER IT. HE WOULD THUS HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO FURTHER "TRY" THE APPLICANTS, IF HE WISHED--A PRECAUTION NOT UNCOMMONLY NEGLECTED ON THOSE DAYS. ALSO, OBSERVE THE SUPERIOR POSITION WHICH THESE REGULAR MASONS CONCEDED TO AFRICAN LODGE--OR MOTHER LODGE OR BRAND LODGE, AS YOU WILL; THEY WERE TO BE "UNDER" THEIR BOSTON BRETHREN, AND CLASSED THE LATTER WITH "THE PENNSYLVANIA (GRAND) LODGE."

(35) HALL TO MANTORE  
"MR. PETER MANTORE,

"BOSTON, MARCH 22D, 1797

"SIR:--I RECEIVED YOUR LETTER OF THE 2 WHICH INFORMS ME THAT THERE ARE A NUMBER OF BLACKS IN YOUR CITY WHO HAVE RECEIVED THE LIGHT OF MASONRY, AND I HOPE THEY GOT IT IN A JUST AND LAWFUL MANNER. IF SO, DEAR BROTHER, WE ARE WILLING TO GET YOU AT WORK UNDER OUR CHARTER AND LODGE NO. 459, FROM LONDON; UNDER THAT AUTHORITY, AND BY THE NAME OF THE AFRICAN LODGE, WE HEREBY AND HERIN GIVE YOU LICENSE TO ASSEMBLE AND WORK AS AFORESAID, UNDER THAT DENOMINATION AS IN THE SIGHT AND FEAR OF GOD. I WOULD ADVISE YOU NOT TO TAKE ANY IN AT PRESENT TILL YOUR OFFICERS AND YOUR MASTER BE IN(STALLED) IN THE GRAND LODGE, WHICH WE ARE WILLING TO (DO) WHEN HE THINKS CONVENIENT, AND HE MAY RECEIVE A FULL WARRANT INSTEAD OF A PERMIT."

ANOTHER EYE MIGHT READ "HERESY AND HEREON", INSTEAD OF "HEREIN". OUR THIRD MANUSCRIPT RELATES TO THIS NEW LODGE. PRINCE HALL'S REFERENCE TO A "GRAND LODGE" IN WHICH HE WOULD INSTALL OFFICERS, IS NOTEWORTHY; ALSO, HIS APPARENT CONFIDENCE IN HIS POWER TO GRANT "A FULL WARRANT." THERE IS A TRACE OF SOME ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENCE, SOMEWHAT LATER, OF WHICH I HAVE NO FULL MEMORANDUM TO THE EFFECT THAT THE PHILADELPHIA BRETHREN BECAME DISSATISFIED "WITH THE WRITING OF THE WARRANT AND THE BADNESS OF THE PARCHMENT," AND WANTED ONE MORE HANDSOMELY ENGRAVED. TO THIS HALL REPLIED THAT IF THEY WOULD HAVE ONE PREPARED HE WOULD SIGN IT.



WZEXXZ#X#X ITEM 2-- HLBK CONTD  
#35 CONTD.

INASMUCH AS IT HAS BEEN ASSUMED AND ASSERTED THAT GRANTING THIS "LICENSE" WAS AN "INVASION" OF THE "EXCLUSIVE TERRITORIAL JURISDICTION OF THE GRAND LODGE OF PENNSYLVANIA," IT MAY BE WELL TO NOTE THAT--ASSUMING THAT SUCH A THING AS EXCLUSIVE TERRITORIAL JURISDICTION EXISTED AT THAT DAY, WHICH I DO NOT THINK ANY MASONIC SCHOLAR WILL ADMIT TO HAVE BEEN THE CASE,--THERE WERE NO LODGES OR GRAND LODGE IN PENNSYLVANIA AT THAT TIME WHICH THE GRAND LODGE OF ENGLAND--OF WHICH PRINCE HALL WAS FOR TWENTY YEARS A MEMBER--ADMITTED TO BE "REGULAR" BODIES. THE "REGULAR" LODGES OF FRANKLIN'S TIME, HAD ALL DIED OUT AND THE LODGES AND GRAND LODGE OF PENNSYLVANIA WERE MERE "ANTIEN" BODIES WHICH PRINCE HALL AND ALL "REGULAR MASONS" WERE BY THE BOOK OF CONSTITUTIONS FORBIDDEN TO "OWN AS FAIR BRETHREN" OR TO RECOGNIZE AS "REGULARLY FORMED." AS TO PRINCE HALL'S AUTHORITY TO ISSUE THIS "LICENSE," SEE THE CRITICAL EXAMINATION," PARS. 49-58.

(36) HALL TO WHITE, MAY 20TH, 1798. NOT SIGNED.

REPORTS THAT BRO. DAVES, BY WHOM HE HAD SENT \$6. "DELIVERED TO (THE BY) MY AFRICAN BRETHREN ON THE 24 OF JUNE, TOGETHER WITH A SMALL SUM OF MONEY AS A CHARITY TO THE GRAD FUND," HAD "DIED ON HIS VOYAGE TO LONDON LAST WINTER." ACCORDINGLY HALL SENDS THE MONEY AGAIN. HAS NOT HEARD FROM WHITE SINCE HALL'S LETTER OF JAN. 20, "179-." (No. 33) GIVES LIST OF SIXTEEN PERSONS "ENTERED INTO THIS LODGE SINCE '92."

(37) HALL TO--(EVIDENTLY WHITE, G.S.)--JUNE 15TH, 1802. NOT SIGNED.

"THROUGH THE BLESSING OF ALMIGHTY GOD," IS "YET IN THE LAND OF THE LIVING" AND THEREFORE SENDS "AN ACCOUNT OF MY BRETHREN OF THE AFRICAN LODGE, WHICH THE GRAND LODGE HATH HIGHLY HONORED ME TO TAKE THE CHARGE, AND HAVE BY THE BLESSING OF GOD ENDEAVORED TO FULFILL MY OBLIGATIONS AND THE GREAT TRUST YOU HAVE REPOSED ~~IN~~ IN ME." I HAVE SENT A NUMBER OF LETTERS TO THE GRAND LODGE AND MONEY FOR THE GRAND CHARITY, AND BY FAITHFUL BRETHREN, AS I THOUGHT, BUT I HAVE NOT RECEIVED ONE LETTER FROM THE GRAND LODGE FOR THIS FIVE YEARS, WHICH I THOUGHT SOMEWHAT STRANGE AT FIRST; BUT WHEN I HEARD SO MANY WERE TAKEN BY THE FRENCH, I THOUGHT OTHERWISE, AND PRUDENT NOT TO SEND." NOW, HOWEVER, WITH A "HAPPY PEACE SETTLED, I HOPE TO HEAR FROM THE GRAND LODGE AND SEND TO THEM. GIVES NAMES OF EIGHT BRETHREN "LOST BY DEATH SINCE MY LAST LETTER," AND EIGHTEEN "ENTERED SINCE 1797."

(38) MEMORANDUM. AUGUST 16TH, 1806. NOT SIGNED.

"A ~~RE~~ COPY OF A LETTER SENT BY BRO. NERO PRINCE TO LONDON, DIRECTED TO WILLIAM WHITE IN LONDON, SHOWING THAT AFTER MANY LETTERS SENT FROM THE AFRICAN LODGE AND MONEY F R SUNDRY... HAVE NOT RECEIVED AN ANSWER TO THE SAME FROM THE YEAR 1796, WITH ACCOUNT OF THE MEMBERS ENTERED FROM THAT TIME TO THIS DATE, ETC."

THIS ENDS OUR MANUSCRIPT, WITH A MELANCHOLY PICTURE OF THE WAY THE GRAND SECRETARY'S OFFICE WAS CONDUCTED AT THAT TIME, AND A MORE PLEASANT ~~WAS~~ ONE, OF THE FAITHFUL OLD MASON MAKING LODGE RETURNS TO THE LAST. PRINCE HALL DIED SIXTEEN MONTHS LATER. NERO PRINCE SUCCEEDED HIM AS MASTER OF AFRICAN LODGE. THE ~~XXXX~~ LETTER ABOVE MENTIONED IS NOT COPIED INTO THE BOOK.

### III. MINUTE BOOK OF AFRICAN LODGE, PHILADELPHIA

OUR THIRD MANUSCRIPT IS THE MINUTE BOOK OF THE LODGE MENTIONED IN NOS. 34 AND 35 ABOVE. IT IS LETTERED ON THE OUTSIDE "AFRICAN LODGE 459", IS IN MUCH BETTER STATE OF PRESERVATION THAN HALL'S LETTER BOOK, AND CONTAINS MINUTES OF MEETINGS FROM DECEMBER 27TH, 1797, TO FEBRUARY 15TH, 1800. IN THE BEGINNING THE RECORD IS A MARVEL OF NEATNESS, BUT WITH A CHANGE OF SECRETARIES THIS FEATURE DISAPPEARS. THE FOLLOWING IS AN EXACT TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES OF THE FIRST MEETING:



#3--CONTD.

"MINUTES OF THE AFRICAN LODGE, No. 459.

"CLOSED.

DECEMBER 27TH, 1797--THE "AFRICAN LODGE NO. OPEND IN DUE ORDR ORDER AND FORM ON THE FIRST STEP OF MASONRY, THE REVD ABSALOM JONES, MASTER; JAMES FORTEN, SENIOR WARDEN; WM. HARDING, JUNIOR WARDEN; R. VENABLE, SEN. DEACON; JOHN DAVIS, JUN. DEACON; PETER RICHMOND, SECRETARY; AND ~~XXXXXXXX~~ ~~XXXXX~~ JONATHAN HARDING, TREASURER.

"BROTHER JONES DELIVERED A FINE PRAYER AND AN EXCELLENT SERMON ALLUDING TO THE FOUNDATIONS OF MASONRY AND THE ADVANTAGE THEREOF, ALSO GAVE US A SHORT LECTURE AND THEN CALLD OFF TO REFRESHMENT, AFTER REFRESHING OURSELVES IN AT THE LODGE ROOM WENT TO JOHN COATES'S WHERE WE DINNED VERY AGREEABLY.

"AFTER DINNER RETURNED TO THE LODGE ROOM, CALLD ON, THEN AN INSTALLATION AND ~~XXXXX~~ TOOK PLACE AND FOLLOWING OFFICERS WERE INSTALLED VIZ.

PETER RICHMOND, W. MASTER	WILLIAM HARDING, SECRETARY
GEORGE BAMFIELD, SEN. WARDEN	JONATHAN HARDING, TREASURER
<del>XXXXX HENRIXXXXX</del>	JOHN COATES, SENIOR DEACON
HENRY WILTSHIRE, JUN. WARDEN	WILLIAM McDONNAL, JUNIOR DEACON.

"RESOLVED THAT SECRETARY AND TREASURER SHOULD BRING THEIR BOOK SETTLED AGAINST THE NEXT LODGE NIGHT.

MEMBERS PRESENT THE 27TH:

"REVD ABSALOM JONES	RICHARD GRAY	JOHN DAVIS	ROBERT VENABLE
GEORGE BAMFIELD	WM. McDONNAL	WM F. BUSH	JOHN COATES
MATTHEW BLACK	JAMES FORTEN	SAMUEL SAVAL	
JOHN FINDLY	PETER RICHMOND	WM. HARDING, JUN.	
<del>XXXX</del>	PETER LEVECK	JOHN CHURCH	
JONATHAN HARDING	HENRY WILTSHIRE	WM. STEVENSON	
DANIEL SAMPSON	NICHOLAS MARKS	THOMAS ROSS	

THE NEXT ENTRY BEGINS--

"DECEM 30TH STATED LODGE." "LODGE OPEND IN HARMONY ON SECOND STEP, ALL THE NEW TOOK THEIR PLACES EX ACCEPT BAMFIELD AND McDONNAL. BR. A. JONES STOOD SENIOR WARDEN FOR THAT EVENING."

UNDER DATE, NOVEMBER 26TH, 1798, WE READ:

"BROTHER BAMPHIELD (MOVED) THAT OUR LODGE SHOULD BE CALLD HEREAFTER MOSES AFRICAN LODGE OF PBILADELPHIA, CARRIED."

YET AT NO SUBSEQUENT PLACE IN THE RECORD DOES THE NAME "MOSES" OCCUR IN CONNECTION WITHIN THAT OF THE LODGE. THE PRESENCE OF VISITORS--PRESUMABLY WHITE BR THREN, BUT OF WHAT JURISDICTIONS I HAVE NOT FACILITIES AT HAND FOR INVESTIGATING--IS NOTED AS FOLLOWS: THE RECORD OF "MONDAY NIGHT, OCTOBER 28TH, 1799," SHOWS THE PRESENCE OF SEVENTEEN OFFICERS AND MEMBERS, FOLLOWED BY :

"HIRAM LEVENSTEIN LODGE NO. 88	DAVID S. RAPAX NO. 3
SAMUEL PASSY LODGE 87	THOMAS GREENEN NO 19."
JOHN WHITE LODGE 87	

"WEDNESDAY NIGHT, DECEMBER 4TH, 1799," THE LODGE WAS VISITED BY "JOHN COX LODGE NO. 9." "SUNDAY NIGHT," EVIDENTLY DECEMBER 22ND, 1799, WE FIND AS A "VISITING BROTHER" THE NAME OF "JOSEPH SPRINGER, MASTERS LODGE NO. 92."

THE FOLLOWING RECORD OF A MASONIC COMMEMORATION OF GEORGE WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY IS THE EARLIEST THAT HAS COME TO MY KNOWLEDGE:

FEBRUARY 10TH, 1800, "B. LEVINSTINE MADE A MOTION THAT IT WAS CONSISTEN THE BRB BRE. SHOULD WALK ON THE 22D OF FEBRUARY AND THAT THERE SHOULD BE RXX ...ON A COMMITTY,...APPOINTED TO WAITE ON THE FRIENDLY SOCIETY AND THE HUMAN SOCIETY, AND GIVE THEM AN INVITATION TO WALK WITH US IN PROCESSION."

FEBRUARY 15TH, 1800,..."B. HARDING AND B. LEVENSTINE BROUGHT IN THE REPORTS OF THE TWO SOCIETIES WHIOT THAT WERE WERE PERFECTLY AGREED TO WALK IN PROCESSION WHICH GAVE GREAT SATISFACTION."

ON MOTION IT WAS VOTED THAT, "THE OLDEST SOCIETY WALK FIRST, AND THE JUNIOR SOCIETY NEXT AND THE MASON SOCIETY LAST" AND COMMITTEES WERE APPOINTED TO ARRANGE WITH THE OTHER TWO SOCIETIES AS TO THE ORDER OF MARCH."



