



MOST WORSHIPFUL

Hiram of Tyre

GRAND LODGE AF&AM INC. SCOTTISH RITE

HISTORY OF THE M.W. 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 Roumanian (Romanian) Diplomat Plenipotentiary, who was a high-ranking Mason. After proper negotiations and the submission of an approved petition, the Grand Lodge of Roumania (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 C. 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 setup 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 setup 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 Lodge 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 Junior Warden from Eureka Lodge N. 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 sometimes 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 111 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.



***Grand Masters & Grand Secretaries of the
Most Worshipful Hiram of Tyre Grand Lodge of California
Incorporated in the State of California in the year 1910***

Most Worshipful Grand Masters

<i>Brother R.J. Fletcher</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. Wesley</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 L.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 – 2008</i>
<i>Brother Thomas Gardener - Honorary</i>	<i>2006</i>
<i>Brother Austin Simon - Honorary</i>	<i>2006</i>
<i>Brother Hobert L. Smith</i>	<i>2008 – 2012</i>
<i>Brother Michael Myles</i>	<i>2012 – 2013</i>
<i>Brother Ronald Adams</i>	<i>2013 – 2017</i>
<i>Brother Aaron W. Murphy</i>	<i>2017 – 2018</i>
<i>Brother Norman R. Ward</i>	<i>2018 – 2023</i>
<i>Brother Harold Jones</i>	<i>2023 – Present</i>

Right Worshipful Grand Secretaries

<i>Brother Charles G. Flood</i>	<i>1910 – 1913</i>
<i>Brother R.J. Fletcher</i>	<i>1914 – 1916 Past Master</i>
<i>Brother Meaddows</i>	<i>1916 – 1921</i>
<i>Brother Clemon</i>	<i>1921 – 1931</i>
<i>Brother W.T.W. Robinson</i>	<i>1931 – 1935</i>
<i>Brother Frank Jingles</i>	<i>1935 – 1954</i>
<i>Brother Samuel L. Hannibal</i>	<i>1954 – 1961 Past Grand Master</i>
<i>Brother Thomas Gardener</i>	<i>1961 – 2011</i>
<i>Brother Norman R. Ward</i>	<i>2011 – 2016</i>
<i>Brother Dale A. Grimes</i>	<i>2016 – Present</i>



HISTORY OF THE GOLDEN POPPY GRAND CHAPTER, O.E.S. (1910) 1924 – 2010

The degree of the Eastern Star was introduced into colonies in 1778. The order with its ceremonies as we know it today came into existence in 1868 and thus began the chapter system.

Golden Poppy Grand Chapter, Order of Eastern Star was organized and legally constituted June 1910 in Los Angeles, California by Ill. R. J. Fletcher. Thus Alpine #1 was organized and the presiding officers were: Bro. R. J. Fletcher, GWP, and Sis. Eva Williams, GWM, Bro. D. R. Young, GWP, Sis. Anna Westley, GAM, Sis. M. L. Flood, GS, Sis. L. J. Roper, GT, Sis. B. F. Meadows, GC, Sis. Johnson, GAC.

The Grand Chapter was reconstituted under the Most Worshipful Hiram of Tyre Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. Inc. Scottish Rite Affiliation June 1924 in Fresno, California by the Deputy at large Wm. F. Payne. The authority to do so was granted to him by the Most Worshipful Grand Master Alpine #1, Esther #2 of Los Angeles and Rising Star #5 of Fresno.

We are a closed society of selected Women, whose membership is based upon requirements that set us apart. We are Wives, Daughters, Mothers, Sisters and Widows of Master Masons. The Fraternal Order encompasses various jurisdictions and has been recognized as one of the most prestigious organizations for African Americans with membership in every state and the Caribbean's.

The charitable work of GPGC and the subordinate chapters throughout the state is commendable and we have received numerous commendations and accolades from civic and public officials. However, a large portion of our benevolent work is done without recognition or fan-fair. We have obligated ourselves to improving the life of our families and the surrounding communities by modeling Christian characteristic in our daily lives.

The Grand Chapter has financially supported numerous health agencies (i.e. Cancer and Lupus Fund, Battered Women), Toys for Tots, United Negro College Fund, and the NAACP to name a few. Through the efforts of our "Miss Golden Poppy" contest we have provided more than \$100,000 in scholarships over the past 56 years. We award scholarships annually to deserving students that will be attending a trade school or accredited College. Additionally, we diligently support our Youth Cornid Department. With the firm guidance of the Youth Directors and Queen Mothers, Girls ages six to eighteen are introduced to community service projects, structured activities, and assistance with academic development.

As we give thanks for this day, let us not forget the 26 Past Grand Worthy Matrons and 19 Past Grand Worthy Patrons that have labored fervently to build and improve the order through their good deeds and loyal service.

Golden Poppy Grand Chapter is authentic in its ritualistic work and are dedicated to this great order and pledge to uphold the moral principals as prescribed in the word of God. Stressing the tenets of charity, truth and loving kindness.

As we embark upon our Centennial celebration, let us look to the future as we remain...

Fairest Among Thousands all together Lovely

**This history was researched, edited, and compiled by
Hiram of Tyre Grand Lodge
Past Grand Master Brother Elvey Perkins 33°**

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

Ill. Brother Qllie 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 Illinois.

Ill. Brother Thomas Gradener 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 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° 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.

