

# We are NOT all Brothers

An introduction to Clandestine Freemasonry

By

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# Knowledge

- What is Knowledge?
  - facts, information, and skills acquired by a person through experience or education; the theoretical or practical understanding of a subject.
- “Knowledge is of two kinds. We know a subject ourselves, or we know where we can find information on it.”  
—*Samuel Johnson*



# Knowledge of Words

- Every Freemason should pride himself on not only being proficient in his ritual and Constitution, but understanding the words that he has read and repeats.
- Words that every Freemason should have a working knowledge of are:
  - Regular
  - Irregular
  - Clandestine





# Definitions

- Regular
  - A Lodge working under the legal authority of a Warrant of Constitution is said to be regular. The word was first used in 1723 in the first edition of Anderson's Constitutions. (**Mackey's Encyclopedia of Freemasonry**)
  - A “regular Lodge” is one that conforms to Grand Lodge requirements; a “regular Mason” is the member of such a Lodge who conforms to its laws and by-laws. (**100 Words in Masonry**)
- Irregular
  - Lodge or Grand Lodge established in regular fashion, but have departed from normal custom and rules of Freemasonry



# Definitions Continued...

- Clandestine
  - Lodge
    - A body of Freemasons or of those improperly claiming to be Freemasons, uniting in a Lodge without the consent of a Grand Lodge, or, although originally legally constituted, continuing to work after its Charter has been revoked, is styled a Clandestine Lodge. (**Mackey's Encyclopedia of Freemasonry**)
  - Synonyms
    - Spurious
    - Bogus
  - Freemason:
    - One made in or affiliated with a clandestine Lodge. With clandestine Lodges or Freemasons, regular Freemasons are forbidden to associate or converse on Masonic subjects. (**Mackey's Encyclopedia of Freemasonry**)





# FACT:

- Prince Hall Masonry has always been plagued by groups within the African American community claiming to be Masonic, but lack the ability to trace their lineage to a competent Masonic source.
- 2006 in the United States:
  - Over 245 Bogus or Irregular predominately Black Grand Lodges
  - Over 70 Bogus or Irregular predominately White Grand Lodges <sup>1</sup>
- These bogus groups were introduced into the African American community as economic group enterprises and economic development activities<sup>2</sup>



# Determining Regularity

In 1929, the United Grand Lodge of England drew up a statement of the Basic Principles of Recognition

- First item addressed dealt with the Regularity of Origin
  - Regularity of origin: i.e. each Grand Lodge shall have been established lawfully by a duly recognised Grand Lodge or by three or more regularly constituted Lodges<sup>19</sup>





# Origin of Regularity for Prince Hall Freemasonry

- Bro. Prince Hall and 14 other men of color were initiated (E, P, R'd) in a Regular Lodge on March 6, 1775
  - Irish Constitution Military Lodge No. 441
    - Grand Lodge of Ireland
- Granted a dispensation by No. 441 in 1776
  - African Lodge
  - Dispensation allowed them to:
    - Meet as a Lodge, Form Processions on the days of the Saints John and Conduct Masonic funerals
  - Not allowed to:
    - Confer degrees nor to do other Masonic work.
- African Lodge petitioned the Grand Lodge of England in 1784 for a Warrant (Charter)
  - Warrant issued on September 29, 1784 to African Lodge # 459
  - Warrant received on April 27, 1787
- All Prince Hall Grand Lodges, who have a seat at the Conference of Grand Masters, are regular in origin and trace their lineage back to warrant issued to African Lodge #459





# AFRICAN AMERICAN CLANDESTINE FREEMASONRY AFRICAN AMERICAN CLANDESTINE FREEMASONRY

## “The Father, The King, and Mr. International”

# John George Jones

## “Father of Bogus Freemasonry”



- Significant Facts
  - MWPHGL of IL
    - Initiated, passed, and raised in John Jones Lodge No. 7
      - Lodge named after his Uncle
  - Grand Secretary: 1873 & 1874
  - Deputy Grand Master in 1875
    - Not re-elected
  - Lieutenant Grand Commander
    - United Supreme Council of the Thirty-Third and Last Degree Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite for the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States of America
  - Founder of the Imperial Council of Prince Hall Shriners
    - June 3, 1893
    - Now known as A.E.A.O.N.M.S, Inc.





# John G. Jones...cont

## Trouble in Illinois

- Suspended on Aug. 31, 1887 by GM JW Moore for insubordination and rebellion<sup>3</sup>
  - Brother, Theodore Jones, was also suspended at the same time
  - Both were later reinstated after dropping civil lawsuits against GM
- Suspended Indefinitely from the MWPHGL of IL on October 14, 1903 by GM Henry E. Burris for gross Unmasonic conduct
  - William Gray was also suspended at the same time for the same charges as Jones.
- After trial and suspension in 1903, Jones and Gray started creating Lodges and Grand Lodges with Gray as GM and Jones as Gr. Secretary.<sup>5</sup>
  - John G. Jones Lodges are styled Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, but have no lineage to the Antients (Athols) which existed from 1751 until 1813 in England
- By 1904, the MWPHGL of IL expelled John G. Jones





## John G. Jones Cont...

# The Aftermath (Lodges, Grand Lodges)

- Clandestine John G. Jones Lodges and Grand Lodges (AF&AM) exist throughout the United States.
  - Advisory Board for all AF&AM Grand Lodges in the US
    - The General Grand Masonic Congress received its charter rite August 1847 in Washington D. C., revised in 1870 and reorganized by John G. Jones in Cleveland, Ohio August 9, 1889, under the name of National Masonic Congress A.F. & A. M.<sup>6</sup>
    - Renamed General Grand Masonic Congress of U.S. & Canada, August of 1920 (Jones was deceased by this time)
    - Splinter groups have started from this Congress
      - Congress of Grand Lodges supposedly established in Chicago in 1877
- Multiple AF&AM Grand Lodges exist in the same city in larger metropolitan areas (**Over 20 in Houston, TX**).
  - All claim lineage to a different Masonic Congress
  - All have different Grand Masters



## John G. Jones Cont...

### Brief History of the United Supreme Council, SJ

- The United Supreme Council 33° for the Southern and Western Jurisdiction, Grand East at Washington DC<sup>7</sup>
  - Established Tuesday, April 5, 1869
  - With the dissolution of the National Grand Lodge in 1877, the condition of the five (5) Supreme Councils in the United States of America (Negro) began to discuss amalgamation (uniting).
  - January 31, 1881: Council of Deliberation met in New York, NY
    - Determined that there should be only two (2) Supreme Councils for the USA (Negro)
    - Adopted and signed the Articles of Union
      - United Supreme Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, Prince Hall Affiliation, Northern Jurisdiction, U.S.A





## John G. Jones Cont...

### Brief History of the United Supreme Council, SJ

- September 17, 1886: Washington Supreme Council (Ill. Thorton A. Jackson) and Baltimore Supreme Council (Ill. James A. Handy) appointed 14 Commissioners from both Councils
  - In compliance with the ruling of the Council of Deliberation of January 31, 1881 (New York, NY) to create a Supreme Council for the Southern Jurisdiction
  - January 27, 1887
    - Creation of The United Supreme Council of the Thirty-Third and Last Degree Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite for the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States of America
    - **IMPORTANT FACT**
      - On January 27, 1887, The United Supreme Council 33° for the Southern and Western Jurisdiction became a part of newly established USC 33° and Last Degree AASR for the Southern Jurisdiction of the United States of America





## John G. Jones Cont...

### Trouble with the United Supreme Council, SJ

- Lost reelection as Lt. Grand Commander on October 21, 1895 in Washington, D.C.
- Started his own Supreme Council on October 22, 1895, naming himself as the Most Puissant Sovereign Grand Commander
  - Met at the residence of Dorsey F. Seville, along with 13 others
    - Of the 15 men present at the creation of this clandestine Supreme Council, Jones was the only one who had the 33<sup>rd</sup> degree. Four of those present had the 32<sup>nd</sup> degree, while the remaining were only Master Masons.<sup>4</sup>
      - Jones conferred the 33<sup>rd</sup> Degree on the 14 men present
  - Claimed to have expelled Thornton A. Jackson and others on the same date, but had no authority to do such.
- Suspended from the USC AASR Southern Jurisdiction of the U.S.A. by SGC Thornton A. Jackson on October 25, 1895.<sup>4</sup>
- Permanent Suspension on October 22, 1896 at the Annual Session of the USC AASR, Southern Jurisdiction, USA.



## John G. Jones Cont...

# Rebirth of the Southern and Western Jurisdiction

- John G. Jones continued to operate his self-created United Supreme Council after his Permanent Suspension
  - Chose the name of The United Supreme Council Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry for the Southern and Western Masonic Jurisdiction of the U.S.A. and Canada
    - Revived the old name of the USC before the merger in 1887
      - Used same history that existed from 1869
    - No legal authority to create new Supreme Council in 1895
    - No records exist of any SGC's for the Southern and Western Jurisdiction from 1887 until 1895, before Jones revived it.





## John G. Jones Cont...

### False Statements Told by the John G. Jones Members

- The United Supreme Council for the **Southern and Western** Masonic Jurisdiction of the United States of America was formed on Jan. 27, 1887
  - Truth: This was the founding date of the Southern Jurisdiction. Attempt to steal the lineage of the Prince Hall United Supreme Council
- United Supreme Council for the Southern and Western Masonic Jurisdiction has continued to meet regularly since 1869 <sup>8</sup>
  - Truth: Southern and Western Ceased to exist in 1887 at the merger of the Baltimore and Washington, D.C. Councils.
- John G. Jones received charters from the United Grand Lodge of Romania for King Solomon Lodge of NY #1, Hiram Abiff Lodge #2, Jerusalem Lodge #3, and Joppa Lodge # 4 <sup>9</sup>
  - Truth: The United Grand Lodge of Romania was established in 1880 and has never issued any charters to African American Masons
  - Note: Same document states that John G. Jones and H.C. Scott opened a Grand Lodge of Ancient Free & Accepted Masons 1869
    - Truth: John G. Jones was still a member of the MWPHGL of IL in 1869 and the United Grand Lodge of Romania was eleven years from being created.





## John G. Jones Cont...

# The Imperial Council of Prince Hall Shriners

- Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine (now known as Shriners, Intl.) was established on September 26, 1872
- John G. Jones, was introduced to the ritualistic mysteries of the Order by one Ali Rofelt Pasha, Deputy and representative from the Grand Council of Arabia, during the World's Colombian Exposition in Chicago in 1893.<sup>10</sup>
  - Established the Imperial Council of Prince Hall Shriners on June 3, 1893, in Chicago, Illinois
- By 1896, Jones was violating the rules of the Imperial Council of Prince Hall Shriners
  - Dorsey F. Seville had been expelled from the MWPHGL of DC but was allowed to maintain his membership in the Shrine
  - Seville was allowed to bring charges against members from Mecca Temple, who were also Grand Lodge officers
    - Jones sustained the charges and suspended them from the Shrine ignoble conduct.
- Due to the turmoil within the Imperial Council, Jones was losing control and splinter Shrine organizations became direct competition to his organization.
- December 12, 1900, three Temples came together and reorganized the Shrine under the name of Imperial Council of the Ancient Egyptian Arabic Order Nobles Mystic Shrine of North and South America and its Jurisdiction, Incorporated
  - Pyramid Temple No. 1 (Philadelphia, PA), Sahara Temple No. 2 (Pittsburgh, PA), Magnus Temple No. 3 (Alexandria, VA)
  - **Isaac L. Holland, Imperial Potentate**

## John G. Jones Cont...

# The “Black” A.A.O.N.M.S of Today

- After Jones was expelled from the MWPHGL of IL, he continued to operate a Shrine organization that pulled its membership from his clandestinely formed Lodges.
  - Imperial Grand Council Ancient Arabic Order of Nobles of the Mystic Shrine of North and South America
  - Exact same history as that of the Imperial Council of Prince Hall Shriners (June 3, 1893, in Chicago, Illinois) <sup>11</sup>
  - Temples in 20 States
- As with the AF&AM clandestine Grand Lodges, there are several different Shrine organizations that have taken some part of the history, trying to legitimize their existence.



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# Jerry Baxter Baldwin

## “King of the Deep South”

- Claimed to have once been a member of Olive Branch Lodge under the Jurisdiction of the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Alabama
  - No evidence could be found to prove where Baldwin was made a Mason, but he was not a member of Said lodge <sup>12</sup>
- Created Free and Accepted Colored Masons of America <sup>13</sup>
  - Organized on November 1917, in Opelika, Alabama
  - Incorporated on December 3, 1921
  - Mission: Organize a group of Black people who would dedicate themselves not only to understanding the principle of Freemasonry but also to apply those principles to improve the social conditions of their race
  - 1917-1921: Seventeen lodges established throughout Alabama, Mississippi and Georgia
  - 1921: First Grand Lodge, Lincoln, created in Phoenix City, Alabama
    - T. M. Phillips, Grand Master
  - Elected the first Supreme Grand Master in 1924
- Name Change: April 4, 1955
  - Supreme Grand Lodge, Modern Free and Accepted Masons of the World, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite



# Jerry Baxter cont...

## Locations and Structure

- Locations
  - 20 Grand Councils
    - 17 States and 3 Countries (Canada, Bahamas, and Trinidad & Tobago)
- Council governed by a Grand Master
- The Leadership Team of Modern Free and Accepted Masons
  - Supreme Grand Master
  - Supreme Deputy Grand Master
  - Supreme Grand Senior Warden
  - Supreme Grand Junior Warden
  - This structure is IRREGULAR

**MODERN FREE  
AND ACCEPTED  
MASONS OF THE WORLD**



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# William V. Banks

## “Mr. International”

- “Masonic” Lineage <sup>14</sup>
  - Claimed to have been initiated in St. John Masonic Lodge in 1925 in Geneva, Kentucky
  - Left KY at an undisclosed time and moved his membership from lodge to lodge
  - Claimed that his "lodge" at Geneva, Kentucky, "ceased to operate," but does not give the date
  - In 1939 Banks, in protest of certain practices of his Detroit lodge, left it and became the head of "Modern Free and Accepted Colored Masons" at the request of a man who had been its head for 35 years
  - The name was changed in 1950 to the present name of International Free and Accepted Modern Masons.
- Banks was suspended from Modern Free and Accepted Colored Masons by SGM Jerry Baxter Baldwin <sup>15</sup>







# William V. Banks cont...

## The Creation of IF&AMM

- Name: International Free and Accepted Modern Masons
  - August of 1950: Received business license from Dover, DE to establish a non-profit business
    - **UNITED STATES CHARTER AUTHORITY**
  - Moved HQ to Detroit, MI
  - Dr. Banks and his host of friends established a National Jurisdiction
- The Biggest Lie Ever told
  - Having been incorporated and chartered in August of 1950; our Charter empowered International Masons to practice Freemasonry, and operate as a Masonic Order, throughout the United States, its possessions and territories. This American issued charter empowers International Masons to the same rights as those charters issued directly from the Grand Lodge of England or the Grand Orient of France.
  - A business license does not give an organization the right to practice Freemasonry in any legal manner
  - I have spoken directly with the State of Delaware Div of Corporations and they have confirmed that IF&AMM is a registered business.



# William V. Banks cont....

## Business License or Masonic Charter?

- Below is the summary of my conversation with the supposed “United States Charter Authority”

Just spoke with a lady @ the State of Delaware div of corporations 302-739-3073

She said that the IF&A Modern Masons has been a corporation registered in Dover, DE since the 1950's. They are registered as a exempt organization that is non-staffed, non-profit. The State of Delaware only grants business licenses and does not have the ability to grant Masonic charters and that most businesses of this nature register with them as protection from certain laws.

When I inquired as to their(IF&AM) ability to use this filing in DE in other states, she stated that their license only grants them permission to exist in Dover, DE and that if they wanted to practice their business elsewhere, they would have to file individually with each state to gain permission to do such.

So the State of DE is not a United States Charter Authority, it just covers the practice of each business entity registered in that state and that State alone. So now the question is did Banks register with MI when he got back there in the 1950's?

I spoke with her on 01-03-12 @ 2:05pm CDT



# William V. Banks cont....

## Facts about IF&AMM



- Members of IF&AMM get paid to recruit new members
  - Supreme Recruiting Officer
- Their emblem consists of the Square & Compass with a key beneath it.
  - “Having lost a number of law suits, it decided to add a key above its Square & Compass so as not to be confused with Prince Hall Freemasonry.”<sup>15</sup>
  - IF&AMM members will tell that they key unlocks the ivory box of knowledge (Not true)
  - The Key was originally used by (still being used) by Modern Free and Accepted Masons.
- Wear Fezzes to Blue House Meetings
  - Multiple colors depending on State and Rank
- Exalted Degrees
  - York Rite: 4-19
  - Scottish Rite Degree: 32<sup>nd</sup> and 33<sup>rd</sup>
    - Have to “Cross Over” from the York Rite side to get to Scottish Rite
    - William V. Banks was a self-appointed 33<sup>rd</sup>
- Structure
  - Supreme President/CEO
  - Supreme GM
  - National District GM
  - Regional GM
  - GM
  - Most Worshipful George Mathews Supreme Grand Lodge
    - Governing body over all States under IF&AMM



ILLUSTRIOUS JAMES O. DOGAN, 33<sup>rd</sup>  
Supreme President/CEO





# William V. Banks

## Early Recruitment Materials

18



**NOTHING ELSE LIKE IT!!**  
**You Get \$5.00 For Every**  
**\$3.00 Paid In DUES.**  
**Your Supreme Dues Goes**  
**Into A SAVINGS For You!**


Wm. V. Banks, S.O.M.

Report of Commission 17

APPENDIX TWO

THIS IS THE WAY THESE BOGUS GROUPS OPERATE!

**INTERNATIONAL MASONS**  
**AND EASTERN STARS**



**NOTHING ELSE LIKE IT!!**  
**You Get \$5.00 For Every**  
**\$3.00 Paid In DUES.**  
**Your Supreme Dues Goes**  
**Into A SAVINGS For You!**

Wm. V. Banks, S.O.M.

**JUST LIKE MONEY IN THE BANK**

1. After 5 years, you may borrow on it.
2. It is an endowment assurance, up to \$500.00.
3. Fully paid up in 20 years. You don't pay any more.
4. You may draw out the full amount of your savings at 20 years.
5. For every \$3.00 you pay in Supreme Dues, \$2.00 is added so you have \$5.00 in endowment benefit.
6. The secrets of FREE MASONS will HELP you and give you PROTECTION around the WORLD.


Report of Commission 19

ADVERTISING PAYS. . .

If you are a  
**MINISTER**

You deserve to be helped. I will give you

HELP MINISTERS.



Rev. Attorney Wm. V. Banks

**\$300.00**

This is being given daily to Ministers all over the country.

To make it easy for you, for 90 days members can be accepted for \$5.00 each, only a fraction of the usual fee for a Mason, or Eastern Star.

Stop being duped! - who will give you \$300.00?

YOU DON'T NEED TO BE A MASON TO

- 1) ORGANIZE THIS CLUB.
- 2) GET THIS \$300.00

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# William V. Banks cont....

## Turmoil After Death

- TV and Radio Station <sup>17</sup>
  - Banks purchased WGPR-62 and WGPR-FM under the business of IF&AMM
  - Upon his death in 1985, station control went to George Matthews
    - Matthews became the Supreme President/CEO of IF&AMM in 1986
  - Mrs. Ivy Banks sued IF&AMM for \$1.3M
    - Amount of personal money she claims Banks used to purchase stations
    - Seized control of both IF&AMM and stations upon banks death in 1985
  - Tenicia Greogory, Banks daughter, became the head of the IF&AMM
    - IF&AMM also owned some stock that was also in question
    - Gregory was a member of the Board
    - Was removed without vote of membership and replaced by Matthews

# IRREGULAR MASONIC ORGANIZATIONS

# ИРРЕГУЛЯР МАСОНИЧ ОРГАНИЗАЦИИ

Most Worshipful  
National Grand Lodge  
Prince Hall Origin, National Compact, U.S.A.







# What makes them Irregular?

- Besides being able to trace the Regularity of Origin, there exist other criteria which determines Regularity.
  - Belief in the G.A.O.T.U.
  - Membership of Grand Lodge being composed of Men
  - Sovereign Jurisdiction of Grand Lodge
    - It shall be a responsible, independent, self-governing organization, with sole and undisputed authority over the Craft or Symbolic Degrees within its Jurisdiction.
- **Point of Information**
  - **Irregularities can be corrected (healed), but Clandestine cannot.**
    - Clandestine should be treated as you would treat a profane



# Grand Orient De France

- Regularly Established on June 24, 1773
- In 1877, removed the requirement of candidates to believe in a Supreme Being
  - Violated Masonic Landmark
  - UGLE and other GL's immediately pulled recognition
- No requirement of Volume of Sacred Law (Holy Book) on altar
- Since 2010, has allowed women to be initiated as Freemasons





# National Grand Lodge, FAAYM

## Subordinate Grand Lodges

- National Grand Lodge
  - Established in 1847 by 3 Grand Lodges
  - Currently doesn't have a physical address
  - No physical location for Grand Lodge
    - moves with the National Grand Master
- Subordinate Grand Lodges
  - Grand Master is subordinate to a National Grand Master
    - Grand Lodge is not an independent, self-governing organization, with sole and undisputed authority over the Craft or Symbolic Degrees
  - Is not the same as a Provincial Grand Lodge, since Grand Lodge holds elections for Grand Master and other officers
    - Provincial Grand Lodges, such as those under the UGLE, have APPOINTED officers and are treated as districts.
  - National Grand Lodge Standard Operating Procedures 2008-2013
    - Establish recognition with Modern Free Masons, Scottish Rite Masons and International Masons (Ongoing)
      - As previously established, these organizations are clandestine in formation and operation



# What Questions Do You Have

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