

ORIGIN AND ESTABLISHMENT OF THE GRAND LODGE

The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of West Virginia, A.F. & A.M. was organized October 3, 1877 under the leadership of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Maryland.

On September 22, 1881, a convention was held in the city of Martinsburg for the purpose of incorporating and electing Grand Lodge Officers; this purpose was achieved. The Grand Lodge Officers were publicly installed by the Grand Master of Maryland on September 23, 1881 at Charles Town, West Virginia.

The first Grand Lodge Officers were: Thomas Marker, Most Worshipful Grand Master; George W. Green, Right Worshipful Grand Senior Warder; William Swartz, Right Worshipful Grand Junior Warder; Benjamin F. Christian, Right Worshipful Grand Secretary, and William Woods, Right Worshipful Grand Treasurer.

These brethren began working under a charter that read; The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of the State of West Virginia, A.F. and A.M. organized November 23, 1881.

A short time later application for a charter to incorporate was applied for. This charter was issued by the Secretary of State March 3, 1884. It read; The Most Worshipful Colored Grand Lodge of the state of West Virginia, A.F. & A.M.

The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge Charter A.F. & A.M. that was issued April 4, 1919, was again changed on January 4, 1923. With the permission of the then Secretary of State Houston G. Young, the Letter "A"; was discontinued. The charter then read: The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of West Virginia F. and A.M. Inc.