

HISTORY OF HARMONY LODGE NO. 2, F. & A. M.

This history has been specifically written for this celebration to pay respect to the men of color who established, and to their successors who have maintained a viable organization in Seattle, Washington for Seventy (70) consecutive years. This organization is Harmony Lodge No. 2, F. & A. M. (PHA), established April 3, 1911. The mechanism of forming Harmony Lodge No. 2 was the consolidation of Washington Lodge No. 2 and Trinity Lodge No. 7, as recorded in the Grand Lodge records of 1911 pages 57, 58 and 59.

The history of Harmony Lodge first must begin with the history of Washington Lodge No. 49 and Trinity Lodge No. 27. Washington Lodge No. 49, A. F. & A. M., was chartered in 1898 under the Grand Lodge of Illinois and Jurisdiction. It was located at Franklin, Washington, then a coal mining section near the present sites of Black Diamond and New Castle. Washington Lodge moved to Seattle, Washington and became one of the organizers of our Grand Lodge in 1903. Trinity Lodge No. 27, A. F. & A. M., was organized U.D. on October 2, 1902 in Seattle and was chartered August 4, 1903 by the Grand Lodge of Iowa and Jurisdiction.

The historical data will show that both lodges were A. F. & A. M. because their grand lodges were using the letters A. F. & A. M. at the turn of the Century, similar to all other grand lodges in the Prince Hall masonic family.

The first style and title of our Grand Lodge organized in 1903, was the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge A. F. & A. M. of Washington and Oregon. Records reveal that on July 20, 1906, the Grand Lodge filed Articles of Incorporation under the name of "Grand Lodge Free and Accepted Masons (African) of Washington. Here the documents show that A. F. & A. M. is changed to F. & A. M. and has remained over the years even though the name has changed to read "The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge F. & A. M., State of Washington and Jurisdiction. Washington Lodge was listed in our Grand Lodge records as number 2 in 1903, however; Trinity Lodge chose to remain under the Iowa Jurisdiction until in 1907 when its name appeared on our Grand Lodge records as Trinity Lodge No. 7 F. & A. M. Further that all lodges having seals with the letters "A. F. & A. M." be changed to read "F. & A.M." as this will be in accordance with the Grand Lodge. This was adopted in 1907.

The expansion of freemasonry in the Seattle area by the two (2) lodges, prior to the merger, created dissension between the two lodges over the years. This divergent action by the lodges was not uncommon under the circumstances during that period in history. First, masonic lodges were from various jurisdictions in this area, therefore, the general practice of masonry were different. Since each Grand Lodge has always been and still is sovereign in its jurisdiction, the laws are different even though each Grand Lodge of Prince Hall Masons possesses a superior working relationship in their recognition of each other regardless of their location. Secondly, since there were no Prince Hall Grand Lodge in this state