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# SCOTTISH RITE MASONRY

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*Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry  
Southern Jurisdiction of the United States of America*



*The Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry has been practiced among men of African descent in the United States since 1820, at that time a Council of Princes of Jerusalem was established in Philadelphia, PA. This council arose through migration of black men known as the West Indies or Caribbean. The Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry was propagated in the area of Middle America by Bro. Stephen Morin. The Council was known as "The African Grand Council". Later the African Council merged with the King David Council of Philadelphia; its warrant is still in existence properly signed and sealed. This was the first PRINCE HALL COUNCIL. In the year 1850 Count St. Laurent, Grand Commander of Spain, an Inspector General and a Deputy of the Supreme Council of France, clothed with proper authority conferred the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite degrees upon David Leary, a prominent Black American from Philadelphia, PA. Subsequently, the Supreme Council of France granted him a patent of power and authority to establish a Supreme Council among men of colored Masons in the United States of America. The Supreme Council of France, on March 5, 1887, recognized all the Scottish Rite work accomplished by Dr. Laurent in America. In 1862, Baron A. Hugo DeBulow, a member of the Mother Supreme Council of France while visiting America, conferred the 33° degrees on colored Masons, among who was Lemuel Griffin of the Jurisdiction of Maryland. As a result of contracts with Baron A. Hugo DeBulow, five councils were established among black men in the United States of America. One of these councils was in Baltimore, MD. In a conference for unity held in New York City on January 13, 1887, Articles of Union were prepared and adopted. The parties in authority discussed the questions of amalgamation and the organization of Scottish Rite Masonry among our people upon a proper and legitimate basis. At this conference, Lemuel G. Griffin, 33°, James A. Handy, 33°, A. W. Tancil, 33°, and Hiram Watty, 33°, represented the Supreme Council of Baltimore. The New York Conference established two Supreme Councils, the Supreme Council of the Northern Jurisdiction, and the Supreme Council of the Southern Jurisdiction. In pursuance of a decree handed down by the two Supreme Councils concerning Chapters, Councils, Consistories, and etc., possessing the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite, and having hitherto received their patents, charters, constitutions, and etc., Hiram Consistory, which had been holding allegiance to the Baltimore Supreme Council, immediately petitioned the Supreme Council for warrants of perpetual patent under its authority, and on January 27, 1887, the petition was granted and the Consistory was set apart with proper ceremony as Hiram Consistory #2 of Baltimore, MD, the first Consistory established in the State of Maryland. Their first officers elected and installed were:*

*R.H. Freeman, Illustrious Commander-in-Chief, John T. Tubman, Illustrious First Lieutenant Commander, Hiram Watty, Illustrious Second Lieutenant Commander, Walter Sorrel, Illustrious Minister of State and Grand Orator, Joseph H. Lee, Illustrious Grand Chancellor C.R. Matthews, Illustrious Secretary and Keepers of the Seal and Archives, William Mitchell, Illustrious Grand Hospitaler. The establishment of Hiram Consistory in the Valley of Baltimore in 1887, led subsequently to the following Scottish Rite bodies:*

*The Baltimore City Lodge of Perfection #1  
Eureka Chapter #1 Knights of Rose Croix  
Emmanuel Council Knights of Kadosh  
Queen Esther Assembly #1 Order of Golden Circle*

*Queen Esther Assembly #1 Order of Golden Circle was organized on June 26, 1908. Hiram Consistory #2 was the first in the nation to organize a group of ladies and so they became number one on the roster and were known as Queen Esther Assembly of Baltimore, MD and the Richard Howard Gleaves Assembly #2 Order of Golden Circle, Washington, DC were the first assemblies in the nation to be constituted by the United Supreme Council.*

*"History of Prince Hall Scottish Rite Masonry in the State of Maryland" was taken from the Bicentennial Journal 1775-1975, which was given out at the Prince Hall Masonry Bicentennial Banquet held at the Baltimore Hilton Hotel, Francis Scott Key Ballroom, on Sunday, September 14, 1975 in Baltimore, MD.*