

The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania Outstanding Prince Hall Masons of Pennsylvania



Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge Of Pennsylvania, F&AM

Donald C. Jones, Sons of Light Lodge #120
105th Most Worshipful Grand Master

Paul A. Hibner, Letort Star Lodge #18
*Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master **

Timothy Cager, Melita Lodge #117
Right Worshipful Senior Grand Warden

Eric Williams, John S. Watson #23
Right Worshipful Junior Grand Warden



Historical Committee Members

*History of
The Most Worshipful
Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania*



Relief *Brotherly Love* *Truth*

1815 - 2015

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Robert L. Ximines #45, Director, Library/Archives
Donald Ford #47, Assistant Grand Historian

Herbert N. Gibbons Sr. #121, PMWGM
Thomas A. Jackmon Sr. #97, PMWGM
Robert E. Wyatt Sr. #37, PMWGM
Charles A. Bishop #112, PMWGM

Walter J. Sims #47
Lloyd Tilley #11
William Hunter #16
LaShaun Johnson #121
Jason Brown #43
Benjamin Sharp #3
Terrance Porter #142
Al Greene #143
Craig Davis #144
Charles Franklin IV #143
Kareem Lee #115

Prince Hall of Boston

Prince Hall (1735-1807)

Outspoken opponent of racial oppression and slavery in colonial New England.

Becomes a Mason in 1775 (*Immortal 15*)

Requested Warrant from Americans - Refused

Request for the Original Charter to William Moody #55, Premier GL of England in 1784

In 1789, Philadelphians send Henry Steward to consult with Prince Hall, to compare civil and social goals.



Free African Society (FAS)

Founded in 1787 in Philadelphia

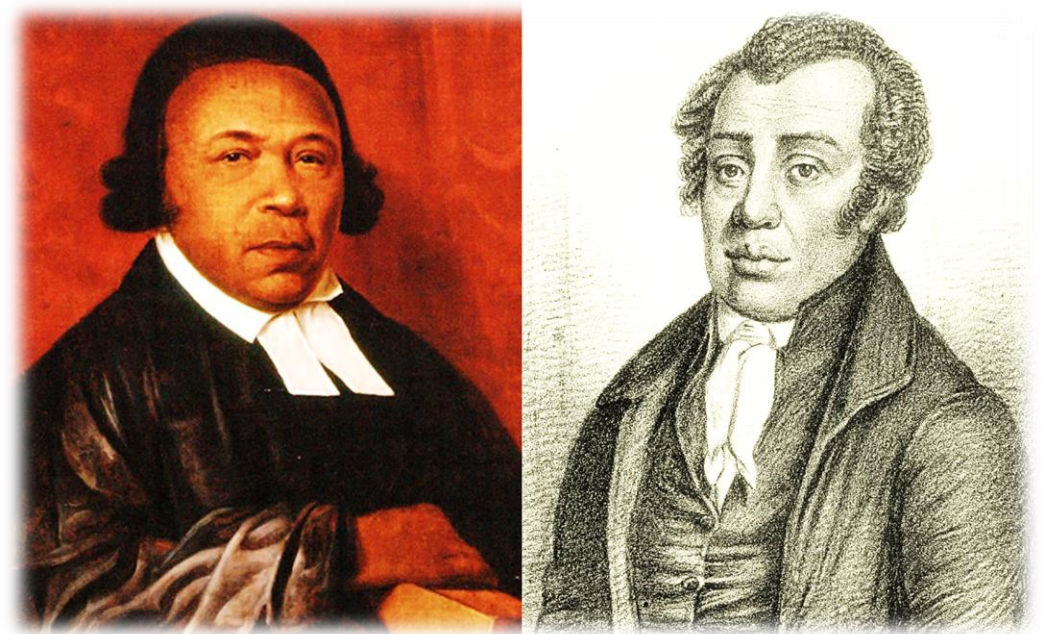
Rev. Absalom Jones (Co-Founder)

Rev. Richard Allen (Co-Founder)

Cyrus Bustill (Co-Founder)

Benevolent Mutual Aid Society, supported widows and orphans, supported the education of children, provided social and economic guidance, and medical care.

Jones and Allen provided nurses and aides during the Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1793,



Rev. Absalom Jones #459

- **Absalom Jones**, born into slavery in Sussex County, Delaware, in 1746
- First former slave ordained as a priest in the Episcopal Church in America
- Co-Founder of Free African Society
- African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas (AECST) was founded in 1792
- **Freemason, First Master of African Lodge #459 (Philadelphia).**
- **Grandmaster, First Independent African Grand Lodge of North America (PA)**





Bishop Richard Allen #459

Richard Allen was born into slavery on 1760, on the Delaware property of Benjamin Chew. He taught himself to read and write and joined the Methodists at age 17

In 1786, Allen was ordained and became a preacher at St. George's Methodist Episcopal Church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

In 1787, Allen along with Absalom Jones led the black members out of St. George's Methodist Church. They formed the Free African Society (FAS)

In 1794, Allen founded African Methodist Episcopal (AME) denomination. His church, Mother Bethel AME, is the oldest parcel of real estate in the United States owned continuously by African Americans. By 1816, he became the denomination's First Bishop

In 1797, Allen became the Treasurer African Lodge #459, Philadelphia

From 1797 until his death in 1831, Allen and his wife Sarah Bass Allen operated a station on the Underground Railroad for fugitive slaves.

James Forten #459

Brother James Forten was born free in Philadelphia and served as a drummer in the Continental Army. By age 15 he was a powder boy on. His ship was later captured, and young Brother Forten was taken prisoner and at risk of being enslaved on British frigate, *Amphylon*. He was subsequently sent to the infamous British prison ship, the *HMS Jersey*, moored off Brooklyn, New York, where 8-10 prisoners of war perished daily. After 7 months, Brother Forten was paroled and returned to his home and family by walking on foot from New York to Philadelphia.

Brother Forten went on to become a successful businessman by making sails, a craft he learned as a boy on the Delaware River with his father, when he was an apprentice to sail-maker Robert Bridges.

Years later in 1814, Brother Forten helped enlist 2500 African-American volunteers during the *War of 1812* to protect the City of Philadelphia from the British. He was also an early participant of the abolitionist movement. Brother Forten received his Masonic degrees in England and served as African Lodge of Philadelphia first Senior Deacon. As a sailmaker, he amassed a fortune of \$300,000 dollars during his lifetime, which equates to millions of dollars in 2015.



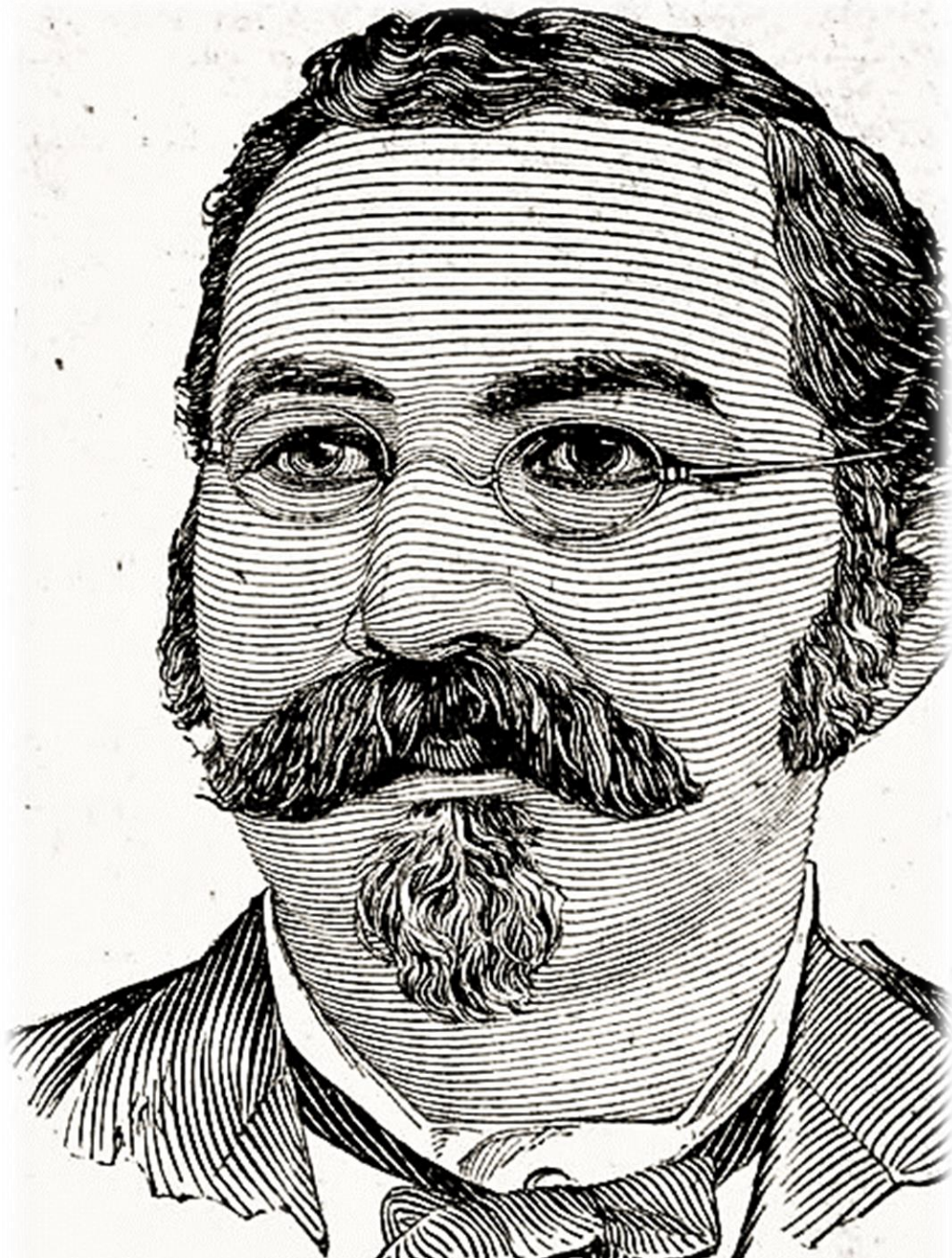
Richard Howell Gleaves #2, #13

Brother **Richard H. Gleaves**, was initially raised in Laurel Lodge #2, was among the founding members of the first and oldest lodge of Black Masonry west of the Alleghenies, Saint Cyprian #13.

He had an extensive Masonic career and while in Pittsburgh he was the Deputy Grand Master for the First Independent African Grand Lodge for the territories west of the Allegheny Mountains. Gleaves became the MWNGM of The National Grand Lodge (Compact) from 1865-1877

In 1872 and 1874, Gleaves was elected as the 55th Lieutenant Governor of South Carolina. In 1874, he defeated Martin R. Delany, an African American running as an Independent Republican, for the office.

In 1876, Gleaves was a delegate to the 1876 Republican National Convention, which chose Ohio Gov. Rutherford B. Hayes as its nominee



R. HOWELL GLEAVES.

Martin Robison Delany #13

Martin Robison Delany was an African-American abolitionist, journalist, freemason, physician, politician, soldier, writer and arguably the first proponent of Black Nationalism. He was a Past Master of Saint Cyprian Lodge #13 in Pittsburgh.

In 1843, Delany founded the abolitionist publication "*The Mystery*". It was the first African-American newspaper published west of the Allegheny Mountains. His focus was on various aspects of the anti-slavery movement.

Brother Delany was instrumental, along with fellow Lodge brothers, Richard H. Gleaves, George Vashon, and Thomas Stringer in the formation of the Grand Lodge of Ohio in 1849.

In 1850, Delany was one of the first three black men admitted to Harvard Medical School, but all were dismissed after a few weeks because of widespread protests by white students.



Major Martin Robison Delany #13

Brother Delany stressed the importance of African heritage and self-reliance. Slavery and racial discrimination induced Brother Delany to advocate emigration. In 1852, he published *The Condition, Elevation, Emigration and Destiny of the Colored People of the United States*, which suggested that Blacks leave for Africa, Central and South America.

When the United States Colored Troops were created during the Civil War in 1863, he recruited for them. Commissioned as a Major in February 1865, Delany became the first African-American field grade officer in the United States Army.

After the war, Delany unsuccessfully sought various political positions. In 1874, Delany ran as an Independent Republican for Lieutenant Governor of South Carolina, with John T. Green as the gubernatorial candidate. Their ticket lost to Republican Attorney General Daniel H. Chamberlain and his running mate, Delany's former Lodge Brother, Richard Howell Gleaves.

In 2002, the scholar Molefi Asante listed Delany among the 100 Greatest African Americans.



Robert Lee Vann #20

Robert Lee Vann (1879-1940) was born in Ahoskie, North Carolina. Vann was raised in Jericho Lodge #20, and is listed as the Worshipful Master while the Lodge was Under Dispensation (U.D.) in the 1911 Grand Lodge proceedings.

He was the publisher and editor of the Pittsburgh Courier from 1912 until his death. Vann went to Western University of Pennsylvania and graduated with a law degree in 1909. In 1910, Vann became one of the only five blacks out of more than 25,000 African Americans in Pittsburgh to become an attorney.

The Pittsburgh Courier was one of the nation's leading black newspapers. Vann's newspaper grew popular because of its opposition to the demeaning duties assigned to black soldiers during World War I. In the 1920s Vann also began to cover the rise of the first national black sports heroes such as Negro League Baseball, Olympian Jessie Owens and Boxer Joe Louis and in the process built a huge readership.





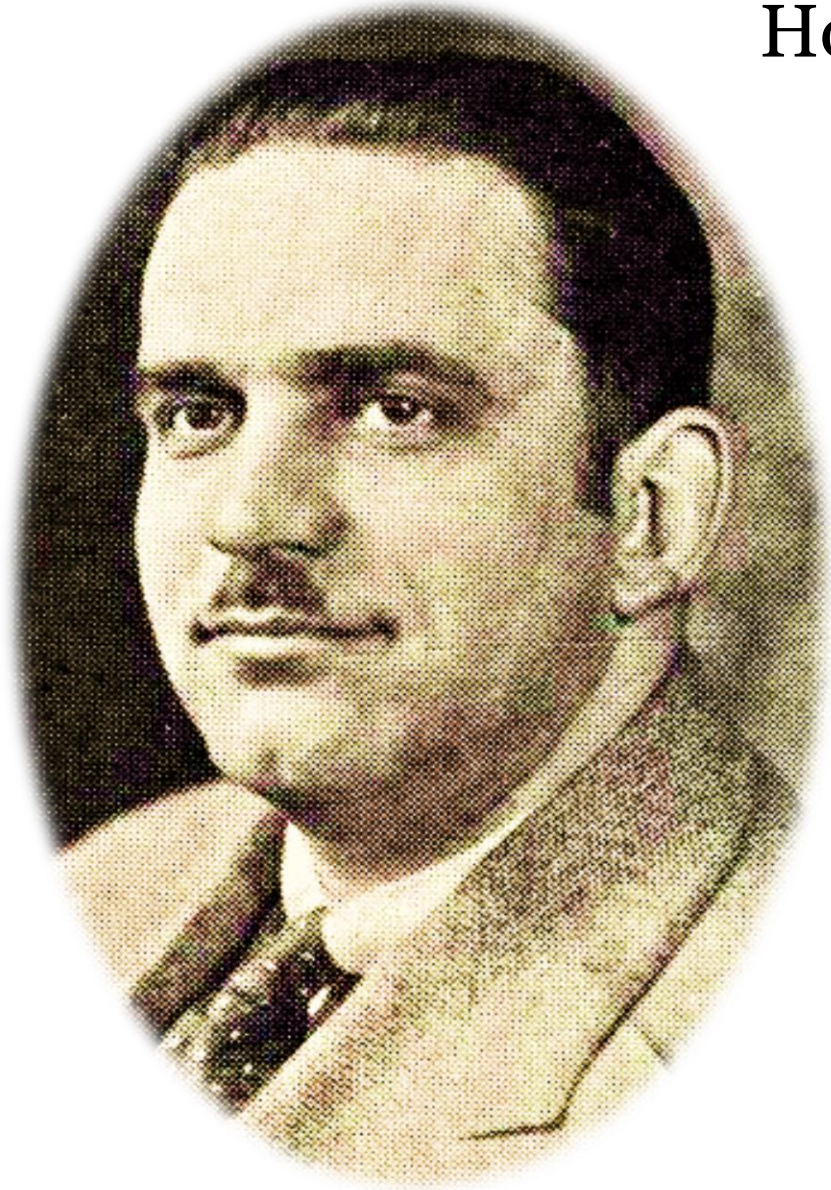
Robert Lee Vann #20

Vann was also active in politics initially as a Republican. He served as national director of Negro publicity in the Republican Presidential campaigns of Warren Harding in 1920, Calvin Coolidge in 1924, and Herbert Hoover in 1928.

By 1932 however, he became a Democrat and helped Franklin Roosevelt win black votes in 1932. Vann was rewarded by Roosevelt who appointed him Assistant to the Attorney General in 1933, a position he held until January 1936.

Vann's support for Roosevelt and the New Deal influenced thousands of black voters to move into the New Deal Coalition. Over 80 percent of African American voters supported Franklin Roosevelt's reelection in 1936. Vann, however, eventually became disenchanted with the New Deal and in 1940 supported Republican Presidential nominee Wendell Willkie. Robert Vann never lived long enough to see Franklin Roosevelt elected to a third term with overwhelming African American support. He died of cancer in Philadelphia on October 24, 1940.

Hobson R. Reynolds #11



Brother **Hobson R. Reynolds** (1898-1991) owned a funeral home, was a state legislator, public official, and judge who lived in Pennsylvania. He served in the Pennsylvania General Assembly

He was a Past Master of Prudence Lodge #11 and a community and fraternal powerhouse for more than half of the 20th Century. Reynolds became a successful funeral director in Philadelphia, having attended the Eckels Mortuary College of Embalmers.

Fraternally, Reynolds climbed the Masonic leadership ladder based on his merits as a prolific administrator. Brother Reynolds served as the Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Grand Lodge in 1947 and 1948.

Hobson R. Reynolds #11

In the 1940s, Reynolds became the first black owner of Merion Memorial Park in Bala Cynwyd PA. He also was instrumental in the purchase of the Eckels School of Mortuary Science's building for First Masonic District Temple, located at 17th & Diamond streets, Philadelphia.

Once he fulfilled his tenure as the Grand Master of Prince Hall Masons (1947-1948), Brother Reynolds became an international leader, as the Grand Exalted Ruler of the Improved Benevolent and Protective Order Elks of the World

He also was such a respected figure in local politics that he was selected to give the seconding speech when Dwight Eisenhower was nominated at the Republican National Convention in 1952.



Hobson R. Reynolds #11



President Lyndon B. Johnson (left) greeting the Reverend Brother Leon H. Sullivan #131 (center facing Johnson) and members of the Grand Lodge and the National Urban League at the White House in December 1964.

PGM Hobson R. Reynolds #11 (top right) and SGW Reverend Thomas W. S. Logan #37 (right) shown greeting former President, Brother Harry S. Truman (center, facing Logan).

Brother John H. Johnson, (top left) Publisher-Editor of Ebony-Jet magazines signed a landmark Civil Rights Act in June 1965.



Rev. Brother Leon H. Sullivan #131

Leon Howard Sullivan was a Baptist minister, a civil rights leader and social activist focusing on the creation of job training opportunities for African Americans, a longtime General Motors Board Member, and an anti-Apartheid activist.

Sullivan moved to Philadelphia in 1950 and became the pastor of Zion Baptist Church at the corner of Broad and Venango streets until he retired in 1988.

In 1964, Sullivan founded Opportunities Industrialization Centers (OIC) of America in an abandoned jail house in North Philadelphia. The program took individuals with little hope and few prospects and offered them job training and instruction in life skills and then helped place them into jobs. The movement quickly spread around the nation.

Rev. Brother Leon H. Sullivan #131

After establishing the OIC in the mid-1960s, the next major undertaking was the fulfillment of Rev. Sullivan's dream of building the nation's first black-owned and developed shopping center, to be named Progress Plaza.

Progress Plaza, which is located on Broad Street, one of Philadelphia's main thoroughfares, was dedicated in 1968 before a crowd of 10,000 well-wishers.

In 1971, Sullivan became the first African American to join General Motors' board of directors, where he served until 1991. While he was on the board, Sullivan took his fight against racial injustice both domestically and internationally.



Rev. Brother Leon H. Sullivan #131

In 1977, he drafted the Sullivan Principles, guidelines for American businesses operating in South Africa during apartheid, a system of institutionalized racial segregation.

The Sullivan Principles called for desegregation on factory floors, fair employment practices; equal pay for equal work; promotion of more Blacks to supervisory positions; improved housing, schooling, recreation and health facilities for workers.

During his lifetime he was also awarded honorary doctorate degrees from over 50 colleges and universities and served as a board member of General Motors, Mellon Bank and the Boy Scouts of America.

The Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian award that the American government can give, by President George H. W. Bush, 1991



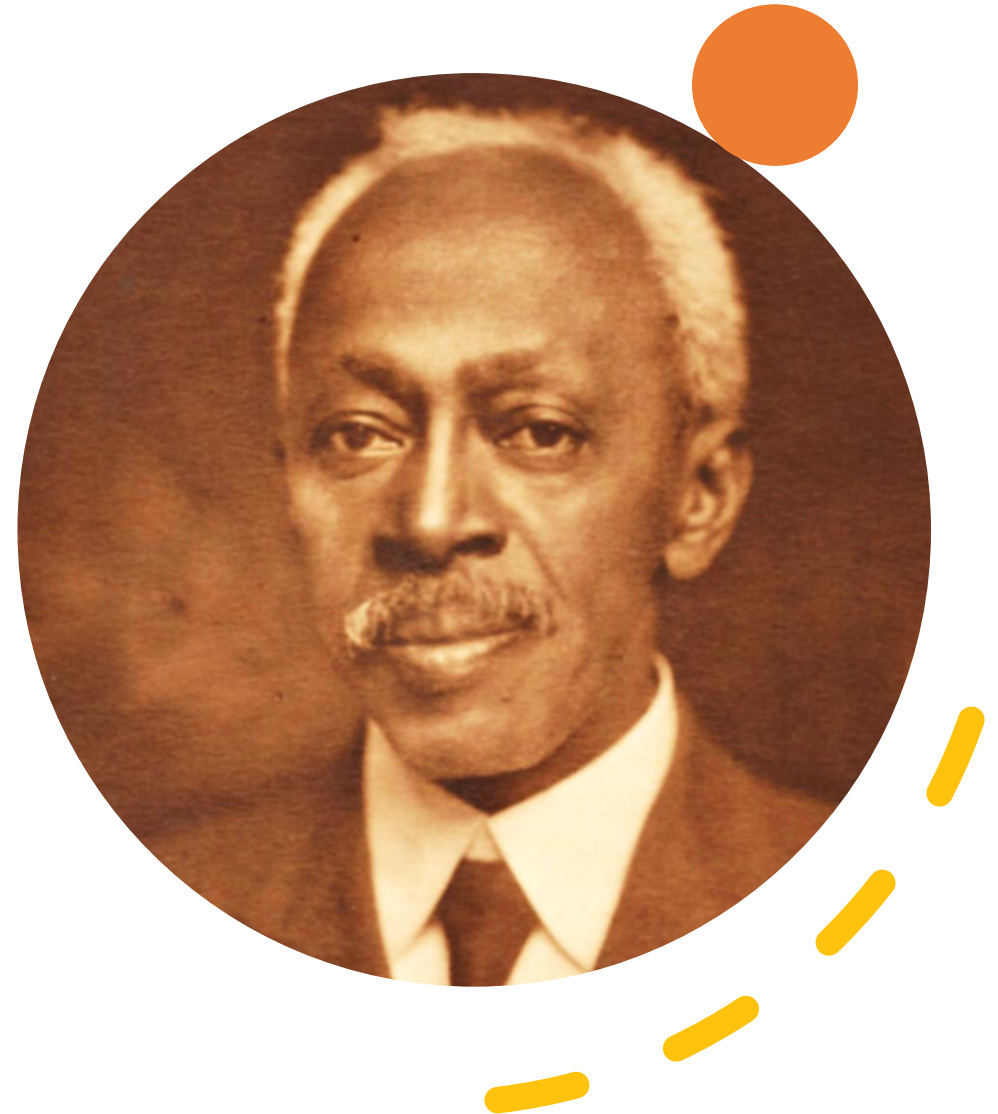
Richard R. Wright Sr. #48

Richard Robert Wright Sr., college founder and banker, was born into slavery on May 16, 1855, near Dalton, Georgia, eventually moving to Atlanta, where he attended the Storrs School, a forerunner of Atlanta University.

In 1876, Wright was named valedictorian at Atlanta University's first commencement ceremony. He went on to study at a number of other institutions over his lifetime, including Harvard, Columbia, the University of Chicago, Oxford University, and the University of Pennsylvania.

In 1891 Wright founded the Georgia State Industrial College for Colored Youth in Savannah, Georgia. It is now known as Savannah State University. He served as its first president for 30 years from 1891 to 1921.

Wright's balanced approach to black higher education engendered considerable support and brought diverse lecturers to the campus including Booker T. Washington, and Mary McLeod Bethune, and U.S. Presidents William McKinley and William Howard Taft.



Major Richard R. Wright Sr. #48



In 1942, Wright invited national and local leaders to meet in Philadelphia to formulate plans to set aside February 1st each year to memorialize the signing of the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution by President Abraham Lincoln on February 1, 1865, which freed all U.S. slaves.

One year after Wright's death in 1947, both houses of the U.S. Congress passed a bill to make February 1st National Freedom Day.

The holiday proclamation was signed into law on June 30, 1948, by President Harry Truman and began in 1949.



Horace Mann Bond #34, #141

In 1945, **Dr. Horace Mann Bond**, an alumnus of Lincoln University, and a Prince Hall Mason was selected as the first African-American president of the university.

Brother Bond was a Past Master of Mount Hebron Lodge #34, and a leading educator, scholar and public figure among Black Americans, particularly during the middle decades of the twentieth century.

He was the first Worshipful Master of University Lodge #141 at Lincoln University, which was formed by students attending the school with the assistance of Prince Hall Masons from Mount Hebron Lodge, who had conferred degrees on Lincoln students for many years.

Bond taught at several institutions while completing his doctorate, including HBCUs Langston University in Oklahoma; Fisk University in Tennessee; and Dillard University in Louisiana.



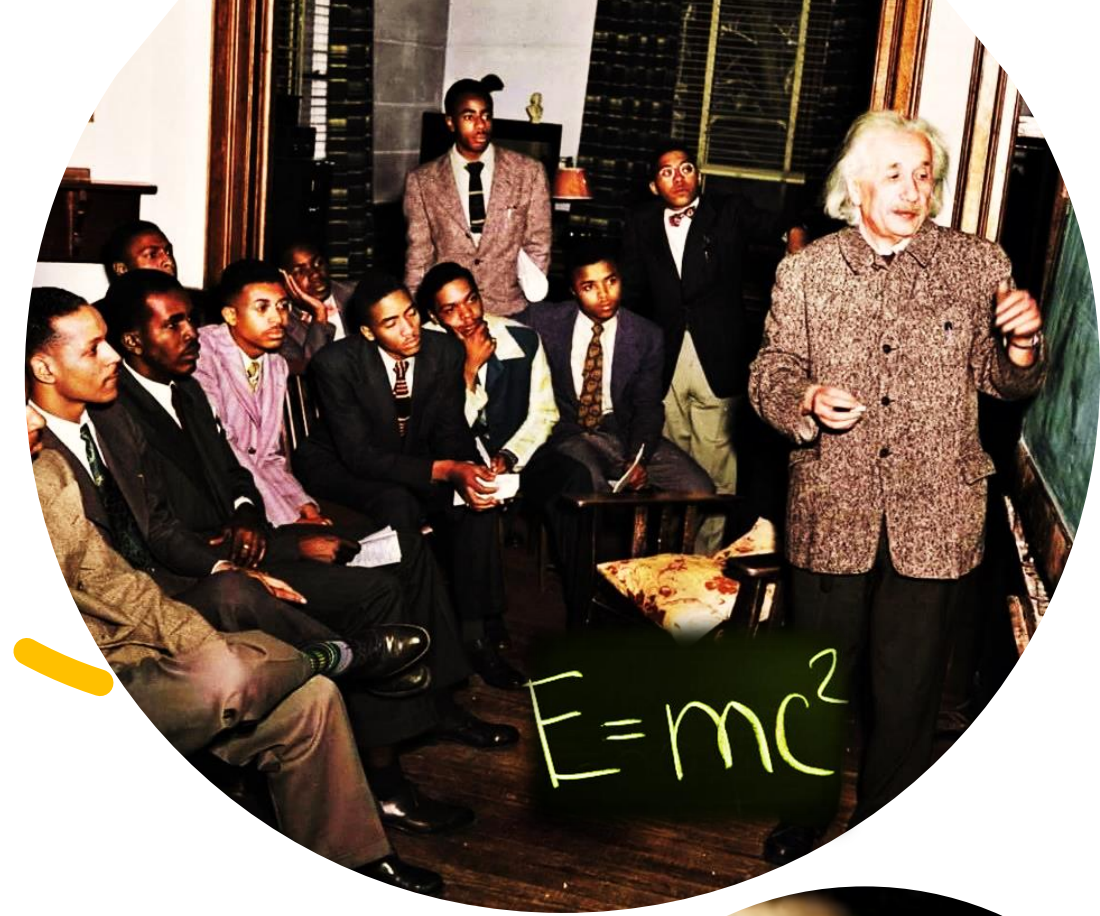
Horace Mann Bond #34, #141

In 1946, Brother Bond invited Dr. Albert Einstein to Lincoln University as a visiting professor in physics, and was awarded an honorary degree. Einstein who had become a member of the NAACP in 1940, also gave a speech about racism in America, adding, "***I do not intend to be quiet about it***".

In 1953, together with historians John Hope Franklin and C. Vann Woodward, Bond did research that helped support the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)'s landmark US Supreme Court case of *Brown v. Board of Education* (1954)

Bond became friends with Albert C. Barnes, businessman, art collector and founder of the nearby Barnes Foundation. Barnes supported education for working people and took a special interest in students of Lincoln University.

Barnes structured his foundation to enable Lincoln University to control the foundation's board of trustees, and thereby oversee one of the largest private art collections in the world, with valuable holdings in Impressionist and Modern art. The art collection is worth \$25–30 billion today.



W. Wilson Goode Sr. #120



Reverend Brother **W. Wilson Goode Sr. #120** was a two-term Mayor of Philadelphia, the first African-American to hold that office. He ran and was elected in Mayor in 1983 and 1987.

In 1979, Brother Goode was appointed to head the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission and later, between 1980 and 1983, he served in Mayor William J. Green's administration as Managing Director of the City of Philadelphia.

Made a Master Mason at-site in 1993, Brother Goode is an ordained Baptist Minister with over 50 years of service at the First Baptist Church of Paschal, located in southwest Philadelphia.

Goode stayed active after leaving office as mayor by holding a position in the U.S. Department of Education. As of 2015, he was director and organizer of the nationally acclaimed Amachi Program, a national faith-based mentoring model for children of incarcerated parents.

George “Toby” Young Jr. #43

Brother **George “Toby” Young, Jr.** a member of Chosen Friends Lodge #43 was an active radio and television personality in the greater Harrisburg area starting 1958.

Mr. Young’s radio broadcasting career began at WKBO radio, where he produced, wrote, created and hosted the Toby Young Show, Jazz Today, and Echoes of Glory,” which became his radio ministry.

Echoes of Glory remains one of the most listened to programs on Sunday mornings, featuring gospel music, church and civic news, dedications, and other valuable information to its listeners. Brother Young produced and hosted True Gospel, a program featuring local and national gospel artists on Suburban Cable.

Brother Young was the recipient of over 250 civic, community and church awards in recognition of his tremendous contributions through his radio ministry, fraternal affiliations and professional career. He was inducted into the Broadcasters Hall Of Fame in January 2008.

Masonically, Brother Young was a Past Master of Chosen Friends Lodge #43 and Secretary of the Past Masters Council. His notable Grand Lodge appointments were Director of Public Relations and District Deputy Grand Master of the 5th Masonic District.

