

## **Vision for H. R. Butler, Lodge #23**

[Recapturing, Retaining and Reclaiming our Brothers]

The vision for H. R. Butler, Lodge #23 shall serve as the template for all actions and decisions being made by the Lodge and its Leadership. This vision will serve as the framework of how our Lodge Brothers will view us and as a mirror of how we view ourselves. The four pillars of the Lodge vision are Leadership Culture; Decision Making Priorities; Lodge Priorities and Evolution Strategy. However, the foundation of our Lodge are our Brothers. Without the support of the Lodge Brothers; our pillars, as well as the structure of our Lodge will crumble and fall.

### **Leadership Culture**

All H. R. Butler Lodge leaders will be **predictable** by establishing expectations in accordance with the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Georgia (MWP HGLGA); Constitution & By – Laws, Rules, Regulations, as well as the By – Laws of H. R. Butler, Lodge #23 by consistently modeling those expectations. Being **visible** and engaged in meaningful interactions with Brothers foster good morale. Leaders will also present themselves as **approachable**; where our Lodge Brothers feel comfortable addressing them with the needs and concerns of the Lodge. Leaders will be **accessible** at all levels, creating an atmosphere where the Lodge Brothers can be heard. The final piece of the leadership culture is to be **accountable**. Every member of the Leader team will answer for the results of their actions if not in line with the overall mission and vision of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Georgia.

- Predictable
- Visible

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- Approachable
  - Accessible
  - Accountable

## **Decision Making Priorities**

First and foremost, all decisions made by the leadership team of H. R. Butler, Lodge #23 and its members shall directly or indirectly benefit the mission and vision of the **MWPHGLGA**. Secondly, we will consider the needs and benefits to **H. R. Butler, Lodge #23 and Order of the Eastern Star Capitol Star Chapter #148**. Thirdly, our **Lodge Committees** shall make decision aligned with the needs of the **MWPHGLGA**, as well as, consider the impact of their decision on Lodge Brothers and Chapter Sisters. Therefore, decisions which benefit one committee, should not have an adverse effect on another committee or its members.

There are many **Brothers/Widows** within the Lodge. All our Brother and Widows are important. Decision made to benefit one of our Brothers/Widows will also be applicable to our other Brothers/Widows that are similarly situated. **Lodge Officers** needs are also very important. Decisions made to benefit a Lodge Officers will be applicable to the Lodge Officers similarly situated and who make the same request. Decisions made based on *favoritism* and *territorialism* shall not be tolerated. Lastly, the needs of the **Lodge Leader** (Worshipful Master) will be considered last. Applying this systematic approach assures that the MWPHGLGA and our Lodge decisions derived from mission driven motives. Again, the list of decision making priorities are listed below:

- Most Worshipful Prince Grand Lodge of Georgia (MWPHGLGA)
- H. R. Butler, Lodge #23 and OES Capitol Star Chapter #148
- Lodge Committees
- Brothers and Widows
- Lodge Officers
- Worshipful Master

## **Lodge Priorities**

One of the greatest obligation of H. R. Butler, Lodge #23 is our Brothers. When our Brothers call, we should answer them as far as Brothers necessities may require and our ability permit, without any injury to ourselves. Therefore, the Lodge will continue to implement programs, activities, and services purposed around the premise of Brotherly Love. A structured budget should be able to support our mission of *Brotherly Love* along with our vision of *Recapturing, Retaining and Reclaiming our Brothers*. Likewise, activities related to Brothers Engagement; Masonic Education;

Lodge/Church/Brothers Visitation; Facilities/Equipment/Technology; Community Engagement; and Masonic Information/Education/and Relations (MIERs) will comprise a strategic approach to the overall Lodge priorities, which are listed below:

- Brothers (Sisters)
- Masonic Education
- Visitation
- Facilities/Equipment/Technology
- Community Engagement
- Masonic Information/Education/Relations (MIER)

## **H. R. Butler, Lodge #23 – Evolution Strategy**

H. R. Butler, Lodge #23, evolution strategy includes five guiding principles designed to assist the Lodge with enhancing our Brotherly Love towards each other. These five guiding principles are as follow:

- **Interdisciplinary** – It is about creating something new by thinking across boundaries or relating to more than one branch of knowledge.
- **Holistic** – relating to or concerned with the whole or with complete systems rather than with the analysis of treatment of or “dissection” into parts.
- **Actionable** – sufficient reason to take legal action and having a practical value to our mission.
- **Outcome-Based** – “achieved the goal” The focus on outcome creates a clear expectation of what needs to be accomplished by the end.
- **Ensure our Brothers success** – A Lodge work well together has the most success together.

As the Lodge applies the evolution strategy, leadership culture, decision making priorities and Lodge priorities together. We will be able to **Recapture, Reclaim and Retain** the Brothers of H. R. Butler, Lodge #23.

- *Recapture* – the act of retaking or to experience again.
  - Get back; reacquire; recover; re-collect; recoup

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➤ *Reclaim* – to restore to a previous nature state.

- Regain; repossess; retake; retrieve

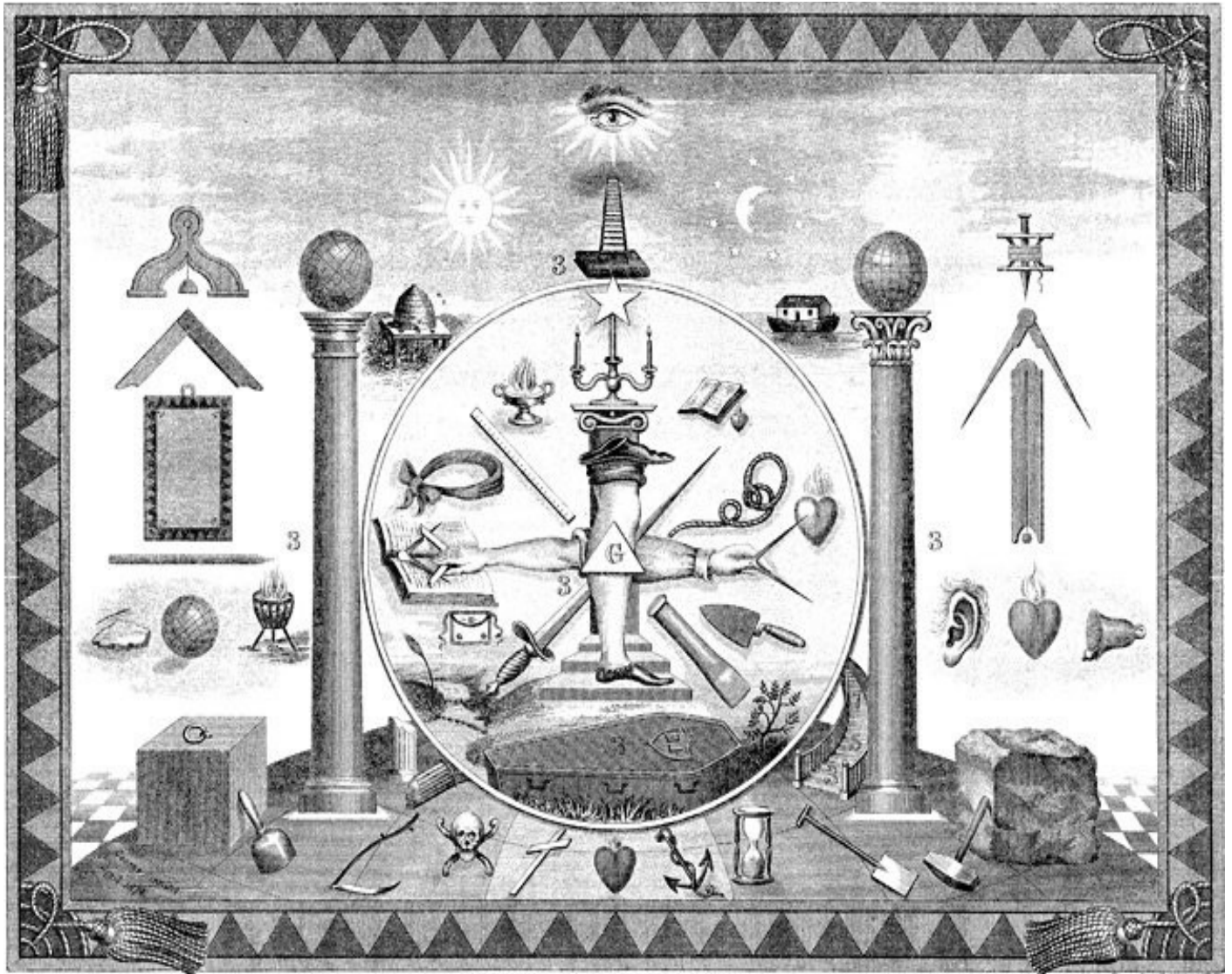
➤ *Retain* – to hold secure or intact.

- Hold; reserve; keep



## Conclusion

The future of our Lodge and the welfare of our Brothers will continue to responsibility of every Brother who claims H. R. Butler, Lodge #23 as their Lodge. This vision can not nor should it be the vision of the Worshipful Master alone. It must become the vision of the Lodge to be successful. The vision is what we should all strive to get accomplish as Brothers. We should all work towards making our vision a reality as we work on improving ourselves as Masons. Let us all find ways to reclaim, retain and recapture our Brothers of H. R. Butler, Lodge #23.



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### MASONIC EMBLEMS

*Respectfully Dedicated (by permission) To F. W. M. Melville Esq. of Bennoch, The Most Worshipful Grand Master, Masons of Scotland,  
By His Humble Servant William Garry.*

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## Prince Hall

(1748-1807)



Our Patriarch, Prince Hall was said to be born on September 12, 1748 in Bridgetown Barbados, West Indies. This has been refuted by such Masonic powerhouses as Harry E. Davis and Joseph A. Walkes, Jr. due to the lack of evidence available to substantiate this claim, but this does not rule it out altogether. The date of his birth is more ascertainable, due to the death notice extracted from the Boston Gazette, "Friday morning Mr. Prince Hall, age 72, **Master of African Lodge**" (Boston Gazette, 1807; *The Black Square and Compass*, 3). This age would make his date of birth be around 1735. Most facts concerning Prince Hall were originated from the mind Past Grand Master William H. Grimshaw of Washington, D.C. in his book, the *Official History of Freemasonry among Colored People in North America*. It is interesting to note that most of the facts concerning Prince hall has come from Grimshaw and unfortunately the educational system and Freemasonry has accepted these myths as facts.

Legend has it that Prince Hall served in the Revolutionary War, although documented information is hard to substantiate. This is complicated by the fact that there were several persons of African-American descent going by the same name as Prince Hall. There were at least three Prince Halls in military documents but we cannot be certain that our Founder Prince Hall was either one. We cannot rule out, however, that said records could be in error and that one could be our Prince Hall. Charles Welsey's book, *Prince Hall: Life and Legacy*, provides good information on the matter of his records. The exact place of his gravesite is even uncertain. For more insight on this you can consult Joseph A. Walkes' book, *Prince Hall Square and Compass*.

What documentation exists about this mysterious man? We do know that Prince Hall wrote a letter of protest, petitioning against the institution of slavery in the colonies and sent it to the Massachusetts legislature (see page 145 -146). The document can be dated at February 27, 1788. He also wrote two charges to the **African Grand Lodge** in 1782 and 1797. One of the charges is considered to the first public address by an African-American. We know that the first Lodge chartered by Prince Hall and 14 others was in Boston known as **African Lodge #459**. The Lodge also authorized **African Lodge #459A** in Philadelphia, PA and **Hiram Lodge** in Rhode Island. These three Lodges met in Boston in 1791 for the purpose of forming African Grand Lodge of North America and elected Prince Hall as the first Grand master. Our first Grand Master and founder for Freemasonry among Black Americans served until his death in 1807.

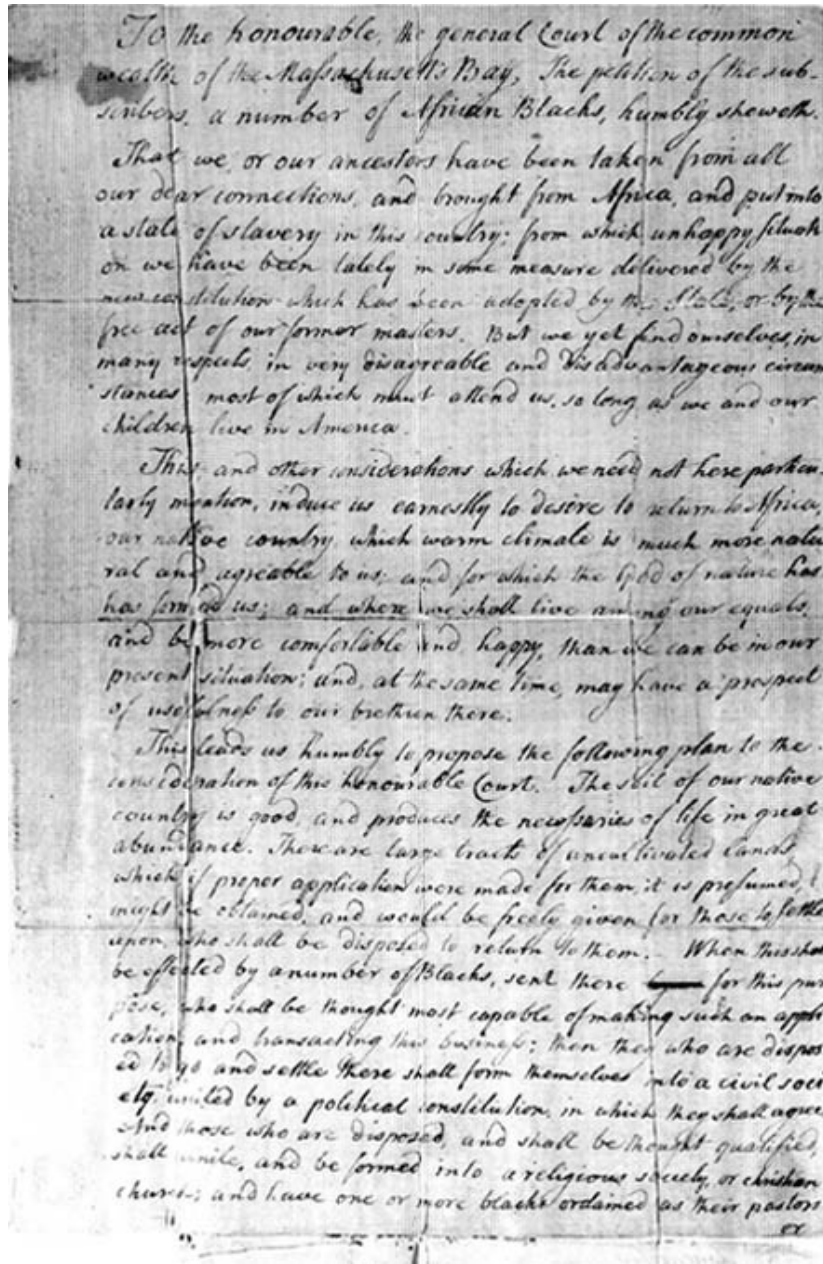
These are the accepted facts: Prince Hall and fourteen other blacks were initiated in **Army Lodge #441** in Boston on March 6, 1775. This was an Irish Lodge attached to the 38<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot British Army garrisoned at castle Williams, Boston Harbor. When the Revolution ended, the Lodge being a Military entity and under the Grand Lodge of Ireland, came under General Gage and the Worshipful Master Sergeant J. B. Batt, who had moved near New York. Legend has it that the Army Lodge left Prince Hall the dispensation or permit to meet and assemble and bury the dead and this is how **African Lodge #1** was organized.

At this time, African-Americans never referred to themselves as Indian, Negro, or Colored. Thence, the name African Lodge.

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#### **MWGM Prince Hall — Petition Letter against the Institution of Slavery:**

...we, or our ancestors have been taken from our dear connections, and brought from Africa and put into a state of slavery in this country; from which unhappy situation we have been lately in some measure delivered by the new constitution which has been adopted by this state, or by a free act of our former masters. But we yet to find ourselves, in many respects, in very disagreeable and



disadvantageous circumstances; most of which must attend us, so long as we and out children live in America.

This, and other considerations, which we need not here particularly mention, induce us earnestly to desire to return to Africa, our native country, which warm climate is much more natural and agreeable to us; and, for which the god of nature has formed us; and, where we shall live among our equals, and be more comfortable and happy, that we can be in our present situation; and, at the same time, may have the prospect of usefulness to our brethren there.

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This leads us humbly to propose the following plan to the consideration of this honourable Court. The soil of the native country is good, and produces the necessities of life in great abundance. There are large tracts of uncultivated lands, which, if proper application were made for them, it is presumed, might be obtained, and would be freely given for those to settle upon, who shall be disposed to return to them. When this shall be effected by a number of Blacks, sent there for this purpose, who shall be thought most capable of making such an application, , and transacting business; then they who are disposed to go and settle there shall form themselves into a civil society, united by a political constitution, in which they shall agree. And those who are disposed, and shall be thought qualified, shall unite, and be formed into a religious society, or Christian church; and have one or more blacks ordained as their pastor or Bishops: And being formed, shall remove to Africa, and settle on said lands.

These must be furnished with necessary provisions for the voyage; and with farming utensils necessary to cultivate the land; and with the materials which cannot at present be obtained there, and which will be needed to build houses and mills.

The execution of this plan will, we hope, be the means of enlightening and civilizing those nations, who are now sunk in ignorance and barbarity; and may give opportunity to those who shall be disposed, and engaged to promote the salvation of their heathen brethren, to spread the knowledge of Christianity among them, and persuade them to embrace it. And schools may be formed to instruct their youth and children, and Christian knowledge be spread through many nations who now are in gross darkness; and Christian nations churches be formed, and the only true God and Savior be worshipped and honoured through that vast extent of country, where are now the habitations of cruelty under the reign of the prince of darkness.

This may also lay a happy foundation for a friendly and lasting connection between that country and the United States of America, by a mutual intercourse and profitable commerce which, ay much more than overbalance all the expense which is now necessary in order to carry this plan into effect.

This leads us to observe, that we are poor and utterly unable to prosecute this scheme or to return to Africa, without assistance. Money is wanted to ewenable those who shall be appointed, to go to Africa, and procure lands to settle upon; and to obtain a passage for us and our families; and to furnish us with the necessary provisions and the utensils and articles that have been mentioned.

We therefore humbly and earnestly apply to this honorable Court, hoping and praying that in your wisdom and goodness, you concert and prosecute the best method to relieve and assist us either by



granting a brief for a collection in all the congregations in this state, or in any other way, which shall to your wisdom appear most expedient.

Massachusetts State Archives: <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/aia/part2/2h59.html>

## Masonic Word Search

D V O P E R A T I V E M A S O N S Q B I X R H V  
T U U E C N A R E P M E T N U V Y E P R W S F R  
S E C I T N E R P P A D E R E T N E K I B R E E  
L N U B Z I M F I B A M A R I H R P Z G X A N T  
E V E H M A S T E R M A S O N P Q Q W H G L O S  
C F F K P U O B A N N T O Z E T H R Q T T L I A  
N J A T O S L U O N A H U N D B V N S A C I T M  
E A H P R T G P Z A T V D Z L M E S E N F P A L  
D H O L Y B I B L E Z I D A H D T R T G E E G U  
U A H E A S Y G M J C L Z R R H X S A L L D I F

# Warrant of Constitution

DUPLICATE

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

The Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Georgia, in Grand Communication assembled, Send Greeting:

Know Ye, That we, the Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Georgia, have authorized and empowered, and do hereby authorize and empower, our trusty and well-beloved brethren:

John Wesley Dobbs Worshipful Master;  
Thomas H. Slack Senior Warden;  
Horace Carroll Junior Warden,

to open and hold a Lodge designated as  
H. R. Butler Lodge, No. 23  
under our register and jurisdiction at Atlanta  
in the State of Georgia, or within ten miles of the same.

And, We do further authorize and empower the said brethren to Admit, Enter, Pass, and Raise Freemasons, according to the most ancient custom, and usages of the Craft, in all ages and nations, throughout the world, and not otherwise.

And, We do further authorize and empower the said brethren, and their successors in office, to hear and determine all and singular matters and things relative to the Craft within the Jurisdiction of the said Lodge.

And Lastly, We do hereby authorize, empower and direct, our said trusty and well-beloved brethren to install their successors in office, after being duly elected and chosen; to invest them with all the powers and dignities to their offices respectively belonging, and to deliver to them this Warrant of Constitution, and such successors shall in like manner, from time to time, install their successors, and proceed in the premises as above directed, such installation to be upon, or immediately preceding, the Festival of St. John the Evangelist, during the continuance of the said Lodge forever.

Provided Always, That the said above named brethren, and their successors, do pay, and cause to be paid, due respect and strict obedience to the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Georgia, aforesaid, and to the rules, and regulations and edicts thereof; otherwise this Warrant of Constitution is to be of no force or effect whatsoever.

Given in open Grand Lodge, and under the seals of our Grand officers, and the seal of our Grand Lodge,  
at Macon Ga. the 18th day of June in the year of Light 59 87 : A. D. 19 87

Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge,  
Free and Accepted Masons, Jurisdiction of Georgia.

W. L. ... 3<sup>rd</sup> G.M.  
... Grand Master  
... Grand Warden



Benjamin Parkside Senior Grand Warden  
Wm. Davis Junior Grand Warden  
Wm. ... 33<sup>rd</sup> Active Grand Secretary

