

***The Imperial Supreme Council, Ancient and Accepted Scottish_Rite Masons
International Jurisdiction, Incorporate – History Overview***

Background 1733° to 1814

“In 1733°, Henry Price, the Provincial Grand Master over all of North America for the Grand Lodge of England, granted a charter to a group of Boston Freemasons. A group of African Americans, having been rejected by the lodges in Boston, were initiated into Lodge No 441 on the register of the Grand Lodge of Ireland, which was attached to the 38th Foot (later the 1st Staffordshire)”.

It is conceded by all the authorities on Scottish Rite Masonry, that the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite was established by the Ancient Council of the Emperors of the East and West, an organization created in Paris in 1758, having a Chamber in the old Grand Lodge of France. In 1761 that Council of Emperors of East and West appointed Stephen Morin as Grand Inspector, giving him certain powers over the then known twenty-five degrees.

At this time the "Council of Emperors of the East and West" and the Grand Lodge of France was under the direction of the same Grand Master, Count De Clermont, prince of the royal blood, and shortly thereafter all the Masonic organizations in France in the Grand Orient of France.

On the 17th day of August 1766, Morin removed for cause, his powers revoked and annulled, and W.-Bro. Martin of St. Fredericks Lodge appointed and commissioned to establish Perfect and Sublime Masonry in all parts of the then New World.

At this period, the Grand Orient to 33° had increased the 25 degrees existing when Morin commissioned in 1761 and decreed by the Grand Orient that the 33° should be the last degree of Free and Accepted Masonry and govern them all. The first body to work the 33°rd degree under this decree was the Primitive Scottish Rite at Naumur, France, 1770.

Joseph Cerneau, born in France in 1765, immigrated to San Domingo and became the Master of La Reunion Desiree Lodge; invested by Bro. Martin with the degrees and appointed Deputy Grand Inspector, with power to confer the degrees and establish bodies in America.

Bro. Prince Hall along with 14 other African Americans, all who were free born from African Lodge No. 1, left a permit to perform work with the exception of admitting new

masons. Bro. Hall duly granted a charter on September 29, 1784, known as African Lodge No 459 from the Premier Grand Lodge of England (GLE).

“The thirty-three degrees of the Scottish Rite existed in parts of previous degree systems, the Scottish Rite did not come into being until the formation of the Mother Supreme Council at Charleston, South Carolina, in May 1801”. See. De Hoyos, Arturo, "Development of the Scottish Rite Rituals", in Scottish Rite Ritual, Monitor and Guide 2d ed. (Washington, D.C.: Supreme Council, 33°, S.J., 2009), pp. 109-118. A Supreme Council was also in San Domingo.

In 1806, he came to the United States, and on 27 October 1807, he organized "The Sov.-. Grand Consistory for the United States of America, its Territories and Dependencies. In 1807, Joseph Cerneau was the only person in America holding a 33°rd patent. (P. 68, Folger's Hist.) His patents and authority to find the Rite in this country were fully investigated and approved before DeWitt Clinton, Cadwallader D. Colden, and other eminent lawyers, then officers of the Grand Lodge of New York, created the body in 1807.

All U.S.-based Lodges stricken from their rolls – due largely to the War of 1812. Thus, separated from both UGLE and any concordantly recognized U.S. Grand Lodge, African Lodge re-titled itself as the African Lodge, Number 1 – and became a de facto "Grand Lodge". **Scottish Rite authority is achieved by four pathways: (i) by our Masonic lineage, heritage, and historical connections; (ii) by charter rights; (iii) by General Regulations of the Order; and (iv) by act of Incorporation.**

In 1813, upon the union of Ancients and Moderns, the UGLE had created a new Constitution, based on the Constitution of Anderson of the Moderns and the Ahiman Rezon of the Ancients, which required acceptance of the Great Architect of the Universe.

Prior to 1814, quite a number of subordinate bodies created, and in that year, this Council for several subordinate bodies at Charleston, S. C., granted charters.

The Grand Orient of France in 1816 fully acknowledged the legal status of the bodies thus created by Joseph Cerneau and appointed him its representative near the Supreme Council of the United States, and Germain Hacquet appointed representative of the U. S. Council, near the Grand Orient. These two representatives acted for their respective bodies until 1827.

The first Scottish Rite organization among African Americans was the African Grand Council of 1820 in Philadelphia, referred to as a Council of Princes of Jerusalem. This Council “arose through migration of Black men known as the West Indies or Caribbean.”

The Council known as “The African Grand Council,” later the African Council merged with the Kind David Council of Philadelphia.

After Bro. Hall death, the provincial lodges reconstituted themselves as a grand lodge (African Grand Lodge) becoming Prince Hall Grand Lodge in 1847.” History of Masonic Grand Lodges in North America and Prince Hall

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Freemasonry#Establishment_of_Freemasonry_in_North_America

The Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry propagated in areas of “Middle America by Bro. Stephen Morin. In 1850, Count St. Laurent, Grand Commander of Spain, an Inspector General and a Deputy of the Supreme Council of France, with proper authority conferred the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite degrees upon Bro. 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 “coloured” Masons in the United States of America.

Baron Auguste Hugo DeBulow, a French nobleman, voted a Sovereign Grand Inspector on June 9, 1860, by the Supreme Council of France, and named representative of the Hayes Council. During his visit to America, he conferred the 33° degree on “colored” Masons, to include **Bro. Dr. Peter W. Ray of New York; Bro. Jonathan Miller of Pennsylvania; Bro Levi Anderson of Delaware; and Bro. Lemuel G. Griffin of Maryland.**

The Introduction of the Grand Orient of France

GRAND ORIENT De FRANCE. Supreme Council for France and its possessions, O. of Paris, Sept. 3d, 1862, E. V.

“We have the favor to answer the communication which you have addressed to us, with a view of establishing fraternal relations between the Sup. Con. of Grand Ins. G. 33° U. S. A. Scottish Rite, sitting at New York, and the G. O. of France, Sup. Con. of France and the French Possessions, sitting at Paris.

It is with the greatest satisfaction, moreover, Most Dear Bro., that we would see strict bonds established between these two Masonic powers, by the nomination of mutual guarantees of friendship. We accept, after examination of the powers, which you have shown us, to the effect, of being the representative of the Supreme Council, U. S. A. sitting at New York, to the Grand Orient of France, and we propose, as representative of the Grand Orient of France, to the said Sup. C. the Brother John J. Crane, Grand Master of the Grand- Lodge of the State of New Yor.”.

“These provisional designations, accepted by us in the beginning, shall be subject to the ratification of the Sup. C. of the U. S. A. sitting at New York. They shall become definitive, when the agreement of that power shall have reached us, and they shall then be officially notified “to whom it may concern”. We trust with confidence and Most Dear Brother, to your care and diligence for the prompt realization of these projects, which cannot fail to add to the glory of the order in general; accept and Most Dear Brother, the assurance of our high and affectionate consideration.”

L. C. Master Adjoint of the Masonic Order in France.

HUELLANT.

Examined and approved by us, the Marshal of France, Grand Master of the Masonic Order in France.

History from 1863 to Present

Bro. De Bulow elected a Sovereign Grand Inspector by the Supreme Council of France on June 9, 1860. In 1862, Bro. Harry J. Seymour, 33rd visited Europe and received with great honors by the various Councils, and among the others acts while there, he arranged for representation between the two Councils. The Baron De Bulow and Armand F. Heullant, near the Grand Orient of France, and Brothers Robert D. Holmes, Grand Master, and John J. Crane, of the Grand Orient, near the United States. Bro. DeBulow named representative of the Hayes Council, introduced to the body by Bro. Seymour.

Baron Auguste Hugo DeBulow, a French nobleman, Sovereign Inspector General of the Supreme Council of France, established the Supreme Council of the United States of America – Western Masonic Jurisdiction in the city of New York.

On November 30, 1864, with the silent acquiescence of the Hayes Council to which he was fraternally bound, Baron De Bulow established the Supreme Council of the United States with himself as Most Puissant Sovereign Grand Commander. The following officers: Patrick Reason, Lieutenant Grand Commander; Dr. Peter W. Ray, Adjoint Lieutenant Grand Commander; Ramsom Wake, Grand orator; George Laurence, Grand Secretary; and Alexander Peters, Master of Ceremonies. Many members of this Supreme Council were drawn from the then United Grand Lodge of New York (now Prince Hall Affiliation) with which the Baron kept very cordial relations and to which he paid various visits.

The Grand Orient de France (GOdF) initially adapted its Constitution in order to comply. In 1877, however, on a proposal of the Protestant priest Frédéric Desmons at the convention of the GOdF; they removed references to the Great Architect of the Universe

(GAOTU) from their Constitution. The members of the convention saw their decision as a way to return to the original Constitution of James Anderson of 1723.

Since the “great schism of 1877”, freemasonry is divided in two branches, Continental style Freemasonry and Anglo Freemasonry. At the instigation of the Protestant priest Frédéric Desmons, it allowed those who had no belief in a Supreme being - which the United Grand Lodge of England (UGLE) and related Lodges regarded as a Masonic Landmark - to be admitted. The Supreme Council of France, on March 5, 1887, recognized all the Scottish Rite work accomplished by Dr. Laurent in America. (Bicentennial Journal 1775-1975).

By 1894 many lodges had split off in protest and formed the **Grande Loge de France (GLdF)**. In addition, a third Grand Lodge, the Grande Loge Nationale Française (GLNF) was founded by the United Grand Lodge of England in 1913 (GLNF is the only one of the three that is recognized as being "regular" by those Freemasons that follow the Anglo tradition of requiring a belief in Deity.).

The following served as Sovereign Grand Commanders of the Supreme Council of the United States up to 1897: Baron Auguste De Bulow, from 1864 to 1870; Patrick Reason, from 1870 to 1879; Dr. Peter W. Ray, from 1879 to 1892; A.B. Allen, from 1892 to 1897.

During the administration of A. B. Allen, the De Bulow Supreme Council became moribund, almost extinct, membership having dwindled considerably. In the meantime, one Dorsey F. Seville, of Washington, D.C. was organizing in 1897, a council under the name National Supreme Council; and proposed to A. B. Allen the merger of the two Supreme Councils into one integrated body. This was bitterly opposed to by Dr. Peter W. Ray and his followers in the Council and brought about a split between A. B. Allen with his followers and Dr. Ray with his followers. It was Dr. Ray's contention that the Supreme Council of the United States established under historical circumstances of legitimacy and regularity, and it should not lose its identity and legitimacy by being integrated and merge with an irregular and clandestine body.

To overcome Dr. Ray's objection, it was agreed and determined that the merger be affected on condition that the De Bulow Council would not lose its personality as Supreme Council, but both would co-exist in a fraternal union less than one common name.

To perpetuate this duality of co-existence, it was agreed that at all times there should be two Sovereign Grand Commanders; one with the title of Most Puissant Sovereign Grand Commander and the other with the title of Deputy Most Powerful Sovereign Grand Commander, this latter being an unorthodox creation, to represent the De Bulow Council in the merged bodies. Even with this concession, Dr. Ray never accepted the merger, and retired from all activities taking all the records with him.

On October 17, 1897, the two merged bodies were incorporated in Washington, D.C. under the corporate name of "The National Supreme Council of Grand Inspector Generals of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite Thirty-Third Degree" for North America". The following as its first officers: D.F. Seville, Most Powerful Sovereign Grand Commander; A.B. Allen, Deputy Most Powerful Sovereign Grand Commander; Bishop J.W. Allstock, First Lieutenant Grand Commander; Rev. A.R. Robinson, Second Lieutenant Grand Commander; Oliver B. Jones, Grand Orator; I.L. Harden, Grand Secretary; Rev. A.M. Machack, Grand Treasurer General; J.F. Needham, Grand Chancellor; and W.C. Mitchell, Grand Keeper of the Seal.

On October 17, 1898, during the administration of Dorsey F. Seville, Sovereign Grand Commander, the Supreme Council was incorporated in Washington, District of Columbia, under the name of National Supreme Council of Sovereign Grand Inspectors General of A.A.S.R. 33° of North America, bearing Instrument No. 3149, recorded in Volume 8, folio 341 of the incorporated records of the District of Columbia.

The following served as Sovereign Grand Commanders under the merger: Dorsey F. Seville, 1897 to 1911; H. M. Rennick, 1911 to 1920; W. H. Benderson, 1920 to 1948; W. J. Fitzpatrick, 1948 to 1957. The office of Deputy Most Powerful Sovereign Grand Commander, representing the De Bulow Council has been held at various times, after A. B. Allen, by Dr. R. G. Butcher, William J. Fitzpatrick, the Sovereign Grand Commander of the National Supreme Council (at the time of this writing); and Ramon A. Martinez, Sovereign Grand Commander of the Supreme Council of the United States (1958). In 1953 – 1954. W. J. Fitzpatrick caused the said office abolished in flagrant violation of the co-existence arrangement with one common name under which the two Supreme Councils had been operating, with two Sovereign Grand Commanders and duality of membership.

It is especially significant the Grand Lodge of Louisiana enthusiastically recognized the GLF and re-recognized the GOF on February 5, 1918. The above original incorporation continued in perpetuity on October 14, 1948, by certificate of re-incorporation of the National Supreme, bearing Instrument No. 32049 and recorded in Volume 69, folio 389 of the incorporation records of the District of Columbia. It operates now under that incorporation.

In view of the violation of the co-existence agreement by the arbitrary and unilateral action of the National Supreme Council, six Sovereign Grand Inspectors General of the National Supreme Council, led by ILL. Bro. Ramon A. Martinez, representative of the Supreme Council of the United States within the National Supreme Council and

the Last Deputy Most Powerful Sovereign Grand Commander before the abolition of the office, on August 10, 1957, seceded from and repudiated membership in the Supreme Council of the United States resuscitated the name, and after conferring the 33rd Degree on three Sublime Prince to form a Council of the Great Nine, on the same date reestablished it as an independent body, under the name of the Supreme Council of the United States of America – Western Jurisdiction – which was filed with the office of Corporations of the District of Columbia, on August 12, 1957.

The first officers after revival were as follows: **Ramon A. Martinez, Most Puissant Sovereign Grand Commander**; R. Carlson Smith, Lieutenant Sovereign Grand Commander; **W. W. Hoover, Grand Prior and Expert**; W. H. Gibbons, Grand Chancellor; Wesley Rudder, Grand Orator and Minister of State; Nathaniel A. Brown, Secretary General, H. E.; Elton H. Nightingale, Grand Treasurer General; William Carson, Grand Master of Ceremonies; and Marion Boykin, Grand Captain of the Guard.

National Headquarters established at 115 West 116th Street, New York, N.Y. In New York, where it was born. W. W. Hoover became the next Grand Commander. The headquarters of the Supreme Council of the United States of America, Western Jurisdiction relocated to High Point, North Carolina and became known as the Central Jurisdiction.

The jurisdiction expanded to other states and grew in membership. During August 1988, states became dissatisfied with the leadership under W. W. Hoover. Two Sovereign Grand Inspector Generals withdrew from the Central Jurisdiction. After conferring, the 33rd Degree on seven Sublime Prince to form a “Council of the Great Nine” an independent body was established.

On August 18, 1988, in the State of Arkansas, Office of the Secretary of State, J. Edward Long, presented the Petition, asking that the Imperial Council of the Ahura Grand Orient be declared a corporation under the provisions of Act 176 of 1963 of the General Assembly of the State of Arkansas, Arkansas Code Annotated §4-28-201 et seq., and that the Court issue an order approving its incorporation.

In the Circuit Court of Pulaski County of Pulaski County, Arkansas the Imperial Council of the Ahura Grand Orient Articles of Incorporation “was CONSIDERED, ORDERED and ADJUDGED, that incorporation of the Imperial Council of the Ahura Grand Orient, as a non-profit corporation is hereby approved and granted, and the Imperial Council of the Ahura Grand Orient is declared a body under the provisions of Act 176 of 1963 of the Arkansas General Assembly”. (J.T. Tessenberry, Circuit Judge,). The Imperial Council of the Ahura Grand Orient incorporated pursuant to the provisions of Arkansas Non-Profit Corporation Act, agreed:

Name: “The Imperial Supreme Council of Grand Council of Grand Inspector General of the Thirty-Third and Last Degree of the United States of America, Its Territories and Dependencies, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite Masons, International Jurisdiction, Incorporated”, (hereafter referred to as Imperial Supreme Council). The duration of this corporation is Fifty (50) years and thereafter each renewal of incorporation date.

It's exclusive purpose of this supreme council is as follows: (i) To support patriotic charitable and educational organizations; (ii) To buy, sell, lease, use, develop, mortgage, improve and otherwise deal in and dispose of all types of real or personal property in connection with the conduct of business enterprise carried on by the corporation; (iii) To carry out the edicts of Scottish Rite Masonry, namely to give assistance and aid to the widows and Brethren; (iv) To practice love and fellowship toward each other; (v) To give assistance to hospitals and other charitable organizations; (vi) To uphold the laws and landmarks; and (vii) To promote education, liberty, equality, and justice for all.

The first officers installed were: J. Edward Long, Most Puissant Sovereign Grand Commander; James W. Whitehead, Lieutenant Grand Commander; Roddie L. Johnson, Grand Orator, Minister of State; Charlie Davis, Grand Secretary General, H. E.; Robert Ware, Treasurer General, H.E.; Robert E. Willis, Grand Marshall General; Samuel Cooper, Grand Captain of the Guard; Norman Joyner, Jr. Grand Standard Bearer.

The Supreme Council of Great Nine together with the Heads of all Departments under the government of this Supreme Council shall be held in the year in which the Supreme Council shall hold its Bi-annual Session, designated by the Most Puissant Sovereign Grand Commander. The Most Puissant Sovereign Grand Commander and seven (7) active Sovereign Grand Inspectors General of the Thirty-Third and Last Degree shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business of the Supreme Council. The Imperial Supreme Council consists of twenty-five Officers of which any Nine may serve as Members of the Great Nine at the pleasure of the Most Puissant Sovereign Grand Commander. *(Constitution and By-Laws, Adopted June 23, 1990)*

On November 6, 2010, and during the Corporations' Executive Meeting of the Thirty-Third Council, 12th Biennial Session held in Chesapeake, Virginia Constitution and By-Laws were amended by a unanimous vote to relocate the Corporation Headquarters from the City of Little Rock, Province of Arkansas to the City of Portsmouth, Province of Virginia.

During its 13th Executive Session held November 2-3, 2013, and after the passing and/or retirement of several members of the Council of Nine; the Imperial Supreme Council convened by the Lieutenant Sovereign Grand Commander in accordance with its Constitution, Art. V, Sec. 4. The Lieutenant Sovereign Grand Commander accompanied by seven (7) Members of the Thirty-Third Council pursuant to Art. II, Sec. 6 formed a qualified quorum to perform executive, legislative, and judiciary official business.

The Council of Nine (Council) convened and elected the Illustrious Charlie Davis, Jr. 33° serving as the Lieutenant Sovereign Grand Commander as Most Puissant Sovereign Commander by unanimous vote, and in accordance with its Constitution, Art. III, Sec. 5.

The following Officers elected as Sovereign Grand Inspector Generals to the Council of Nine Ill. Roddie Johnson 33°, Lieutenant Sovereign Grand Commander; Ill. Lovelace Walker 33°, Grand Orator & Minister of State; Ill. Terry D. Quattlebaum 33°, Secretary General Holy Empire; Ill. Vernon Darden 33°, Grand Treasurer Holy Empire; Ill. Onnie Quattlebaum 33°, Grand Marshal General; Ill. Eric Newsome 33°, Grand Master of Ceremony; Ill. Regional Eley 33°, Grand Chancellor; and Ill. Roosevelt Jones 33°, Grand Captain of the Guard.

The Council performed a detailed review of compliance with its Articles of Incorporation, consistency with its Constitution, with the Regulations, Unwritten Principles and Landmarks of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish_Rite, and the Bylaws governing the Imperial Council of the Ahura Grand Orient (also recognized as The Imperial Supreme Council).

On August 17, 2013, during its 13th Biennial Session, Ill. Charlie Davis, Jr. 33° by unanimous vote of the Thirty-Third Council, and was coroneted as the Most Puissant Sovereign Grand Commander in the Valley of Norfolk, and Providence of Virginia. Its Headquarters relocated to Patrick, South Carolina.