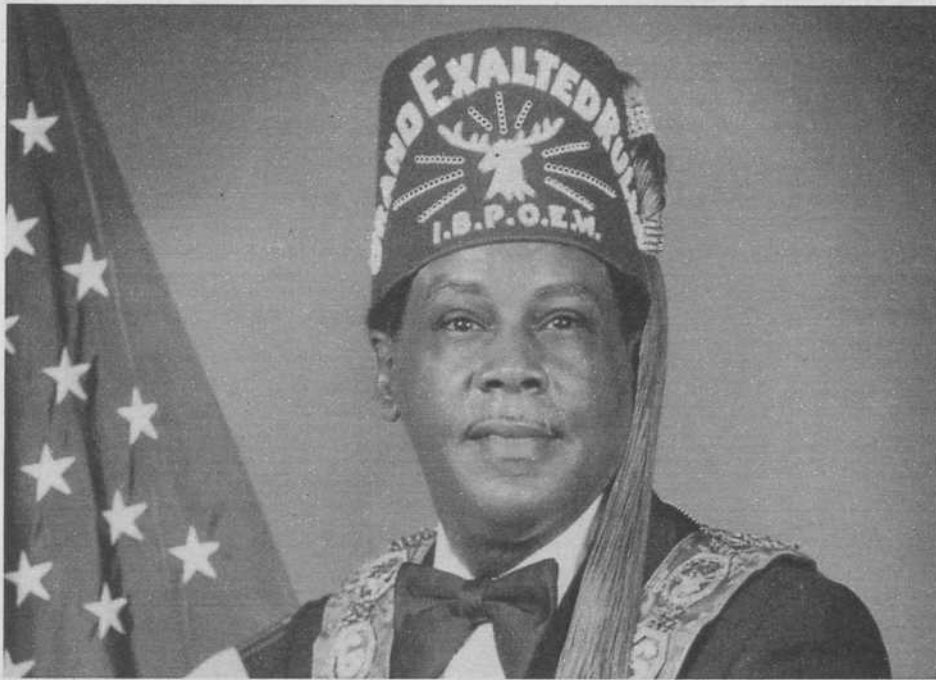


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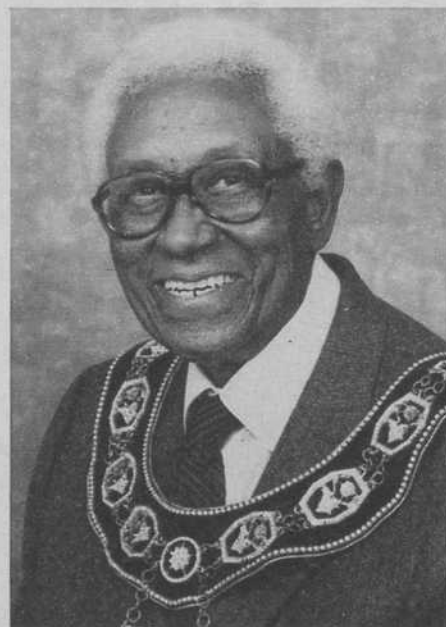
DONALD P. WILSON, Grand Exalted Ruler



MRS. JEAN C.W. SMITH, Grand Daughter Ruler



CARL O. DICKERSON, Grand Secretary



C.L. SMITH, Grand Treasurer

This brought about a temporary decline of Elk activity among the Blacks of Cincinnati. Lodges were organized under Howard's leadership in Norfolk, Virginia; Pine Bluff, Arkansas; Shreveport, Louisiana; and Natchez, Mississippi. He thus laid the foundation for the establishment of a Grand Lodge.

The First Grand Lodge assembled in Cincinnati on June 10, 1899. Howard was elected as Grand Exalted Ruler. A constitution for the Grand Lodge was drawn up and approved. The Preamble of the Constitution stated:

Section 1—The members of the Improved Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the World, representing the subordinate lodges in the Grand Lodge, at its annual session, June 10, 1899, at Cincinnati, Ohio, do establish, ordain and consent to the following constitution.

Section 2—The name of this organization shall be "The Improved Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the World."

Section 3—Its objects shall be and are benevolent, social and altruistic—to promote and encourage manly friendship and kindly intercourse, to aid, protect and assist its members and their families.

Provisions were made in the Constitution to assist "any Elk who finds himself actually in need of the necessities of life, or sick and in distress." While socializing was authorized at the close of the regular sessions, "true gentlemanly decorum, and no gambling was to be permitted in any lodge room, social or club quarters."

The Constitution also provided that "the present Grand Exalted Ruler, B.F. Howard, who by his unwearied zeal in securing the ritualistic ceremonies of this Order, shall hold the said office for a term of ten years...." The Grand Exalted Ruler also was to receive an annual salary of \$750 plus 50 percent of the gross receipts from taxes and a bonus of \$25 for each lodge organized. This established a precedent for the payment of a salary to the Grand Exalted Ruler.

A listing of lodges represented at the Third Grand Lodge which was held in Washington, Pennsylvania on September 2-4, 1902 is evidence of the expansion of Black Elkdom:

Alpha Lodge No. 1, Cincinnati, Ohio—60 members; Pandora Lodge No. 2, Newport News, Virginia—58 members; Monumental Lodge No. 3, Baltimore Maryland—89 members; Excelsior Lodge No. 4, Hampton, Virginia—81 members; Eureka Lodge No. 5, Norfolk, Virginia—204 members; Keystone Lodge No. 6, Washington, Pennsylvania—55 members; Phoenix Lodge No. 7, Paris, Kentucky—25 members;

Maceo Lodge No. 8; Jacksonville, Florida—25 members; Light House Lodge No. 9, Atlantic City, New Jersey—30 members; Capitol City Lodge No. 11, Richmond, Virginia—35 members; Berkley Lodge No. 12, Berkley, Virginia—53 members; Birmingham Lodge No. 14, Birmingham, Alabama—63 members; Bell Sumter Lodge No. 15, Birmingham, Alabama—31 members; and H.F. Weaver Lodge No. 16, Selma, Alabama—35 members.

## The Daughters

**T**he idea for an organization of women Elks had its beginning with Emma V. Kelley who is recognized as the founder and Supreme Mother of the Daughters of the Improved Benevolent Protective Order of Elks of the World.

Emma V. Kelley was born in Barretts Neck, Nansemond County, Virginia on February 8, 1865. After graduating from Hampton Institute, she became a teacher in the public schools of Virginia.

In describing the origin of the Daughters, Mrs. Kelley said:

...We well know that it was never intended for men to be alone, so the auxiliary to this Order was established.... It was on a bright summer evening on June 13th [1902], a small number of ladies had decided they wanted to be an auxiliary to the brother Elks, and in spite of some of the brothers not wanting such a department we were determined and thirteen of us were organized in the hall at that time at the corner of Smith and Queen Streets in a Temple of Daughters of Elks by Dr. James E. Mills, Grand Organizer then for Mr. B.F. Howard.

After three months, the daughters disbanded. Mrs. Kelley, however, realizing that the Elks had a wonderful mission not only for men but also for women, called another meeting on October 25. With only three members present, she organized, for the second time, the first Temple, Norfolk No. 1. Daughter Mary P. Barnes was elected Daughter Ruler; Daughter Emma V. Kelley was elected secretary; and Daughter Julia Fraction was elected treasurer. On the third Sunday in July 1903, when the Daughters celebrated their first anniversary, there were 40 members present. Other Temples followed. This expansion to include women is still recognized as one of the most significant achievements in the history of Black Elkdom.

Following the meeting of the Grand Lodge at Hampton Virginia, with the blessing of Grand Exalted Ruler Howard, a Grand Temple was held at Bassett's

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