

(Continued from Page 16)



from Brooklyn, N.Y., to this city of Columbus, Ohio, on account of the Grattan Bill, which was passed by the State Assembly of New York and which prohibits colored Elks from wearing badges or pins. However, a committee has waited on the Attorney General and he informed the members thereof that this bill would be set aside in the near future.... I advise this Grand Body to employ the very best counsel to take hold of the New York Case, as some of our members have been ordered to take off their badges and pins. We must put our full force on the case and make every effort to have it taken to the Supreme Court [of the United States].

This seemingly arbitrary change of meeting place from Brooklyn, which had been selected for the 1906 Grand Lodge, to Columbus was totally unacceptable to the eastern lodges. One must remember that massive arrangements for housing had to be made in many individual homes because "downtown" hotels were off limits. Also, many Black businesses made extensive renovations, etc. in anticipation of the enormous amounts of money spent at such conventions.

Thus, they sent a committee to confer with Grand Exalted Ruler Howard to request that the decision of the previous Grand Lodge be respected. On Howard's refusal to comply with their request, the eastern lodges made plans to hold their own meeting in Brooklyn. Howard would not withdraw his call for the Columbus meeting and the eastern lodges would not consent to the Columbus meeting. Howard felt that the Grand Lodge should not meet in New York until the legal issue was settled and in this matter he was obdurate.

This situation resulted in two Grand Lodge sessions in 1906: one in Columbus with Grand Exalted Ruler Howard presiding; the other in Brooklyn with Grand Esteemed Leading Knight George E. Bates, the highest ranking Grand Lodge officer present, presiding at the opening session. He was succeeded by Dr. William E. Atkins of Hampton, Virginia as presiding officer and Grand Exalted Ruler. There were 41 lodges represented at the Columbus Grand Lodge and 21 at the Brooklyn Grand Lodge. These meetings inaugurated a schism in the ranks of the I.B.P.O.E. of W. which was not healed until 1910.

Several resolutions adopted by the Columbus Grand Lodge evinced the great esteem with which Grand Exalted Ruler Howard was held by the Grand Lodge. One of these resolutions stated:

Whereas, B.F. Howard, being the first colored man to give to our race

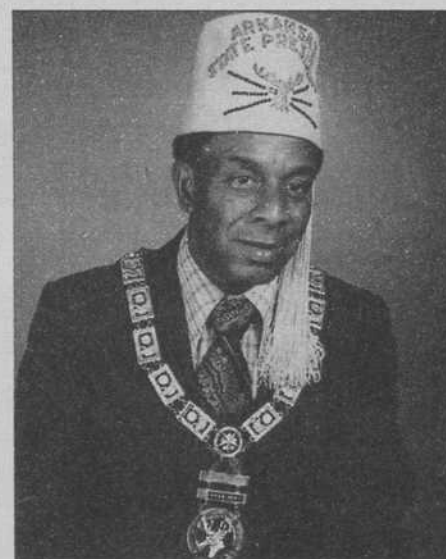
(Continued on Next Page)



Unity Day, May 1955



WILLIAM POLLARD, Ohio State Association President



ALVIN STARKS, Arkansas State Association President



COLYAR FRIERSON, Mississippi State Association President