

MASONS.....

By the 1870's the National Compact was officially dead, but the negative effects of this "experiment" lingered on for many, many years. It left a legacy of "false" Grand Masters who claimed to have legitimate Masonic power to establish lodges. Lodges so constituted came to be known as "Clandestine Masonry."

Today, the state Grand Masters meet once a year in an advisory, non-official body known as the Conference of Grand Masters.

Who Was and Is Who Among Prince Hall Masons

THIS "very partial" list also includes "Who Was Who Among Prince Hall Masons." Such a list is not easy to compile, for as one Masonic historian observed, "How can Black historians write our history without including Prince Hall Masons, identified as such. In one state history of Black Americans, he estimated that approximately 90 percent of all the adults portrayed are Prince Hall Masonic members.

Ralph David Abernathy, president, Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC).

Robert Sengstacke Abbott, founder and publisher, *Chicago Defender*.

Ira Aldridge, Shakespearean actor.

Richard Allen, founder and first bishop, AME Church.

Dr. Alexander T. Augusta, first Black to head a hospital in U.S.

Ebenezer Don Carlos Bassett, principal of the Institute for Colored Youth (now Cheyney University)

James Herbert "Eubie" Blake, composer/pianist.

William "Count" Basie, orchestral leader/composer.

William Wells Brown, novelist and playwright.

Thomas Bradley, mayor of Los Angeles, California.

Nathaniel "Nat King" Cole, singer.

Samuel E. Cornish, co-founder of *Freedom's Journal*, first Black newspaper.

Ossie Davis, actor/director/playwright.

Oscar DePriest, first Black U.S. Congressman in the 20th century.

Martin R. Delany, author of first published history of Black Freemasonry in the United States.

W.E.B. DuBois, educator/author/historian.

Alexander Dumas, writer.

Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington, orchestra leader/composer.

Medgar Wiley Evers, civil rights leader.

James Forten, abolitionist/manufacturer.

Timothy Thomas Fortune, journalist.

Henry Highland Garnet, former U.S. minister to Liberia/writer.

Richard D. Gidron, president, Dick Gidron Cadillac.

Alex Haley, author.

Prince Hall, founder of African Masonic Lodge in the United States, first Worshipful Grand Master of African Masonic Lodge in America.

William C. Handy, composer.

Augustus F. Hawkins, U.S. Congressman from California.

Lionel Hampton, orchestra leader/composer.

Matthew Henson, explorer.

John Hope, founder and first president of Atlanta University.

Benjamin L. Hooks, executive director, NAACP.

Maynard H. Jackson, former mayor of Atlanta, Georgia.

Daniel "Chappie" James, general, U.S. Air Force.

J. Rosamond Johnson wrote words to "Lift Every Voice and Sing."

John H. Johnson, publisher of *EBONY* and *JET*.

Absalom Jones, first Black Episcopal priest and first Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania.

Thurgood Marshall, associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.

Benjamin Mays, educator, former president of Atlanta University.

Ralph H. Metcalfe, Olympic champion.

Adam Clayton Powell Jr., Baptist minister and former U.S. Congressman.

Richard Pryor, actor/comedian.



The Honorable Thurgood Marshall



Dr. Benjamin Mays



Ralph Metcalfe



Rep. Charles Rangel



Paul Robeson



Rep. Louis Stokes