

SWEEPING VICTORY

For the Legal Masons in the United States of AMERICA

The decision rendered by Chief Justice Shepard of the Court of Appeals of Washington, D. C., United States of America, February 1st 1910, now brings the long bitterly contested law-suit that has been in the court nearly four years between the two colored Grand Lodges of Masons at Washington, D. C., at an end throughout the United States.

W. H. Grimshaw, W. H. Meyers, F. C. Bailey, and their associates of the bogus Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Washington, D. C., were defeated and routed at every point by the decision of the Court of Appeals of Washington, D. C., by an opinion rendered by Chief Justice Shepard of the Courts of Appeals February 1st 1910, sustaining the legality of the lawful, legal and regular M. W. Grand Lodge A. F. and A. Masons of Washington, D. C., of which H. C. Scott is Grand Master, and the Most Worshipful St. John's Grand Lodge A. F. and A. Masons of Illinois of which John G. Jones of Chicago is Grand Master; and the Most Worshipful St. Andrew Grand Lodge A. F. and A. Masons of Louisiana of which W. T. Grant of New Orleans is Grand Master, wins their case from the court that was filed by Grimshaw, Grand Master of the bogus Prince Hall Masons. Court of Appeals dismisses the cross-bill and all its complaints and requests contained therein and so rules that Grimshaw, Grand Master of the bogus Prince Hall Grand Lodge should pay to Hon. H. C. Scott, Grand Master of the regular and legal Grand Lodge of A. F. and A. Masons of Washington, D. C., half of the cost of the court. Court so ruled that the effect of opinion that the legality, of the M. W. Grand Lodge A. F. and A. Masons of which H. C. Scott is Grand Master, and incorporated under the laws of Washington, D. C., and all of its sister Grand Lodges and subordinates are recognized.

The decision rendered by Judge Wright, Nov. 11th, 1908, against H. C. Scott was reversed and set aside by the Courts of Appeals.

The Court of Appeals so ruled that the decision rendered by Judge Wright was an error and unwise, and that in his decision to do indirectly what could not be done directly, as it is impossible to put out of existence or prevent the lawful, regular and legal Grand Lodge of which H. C. Scott is Grand Master, and the sister Grand Lodges and their subordinates and associates from operating in the United States, but the opinion of the higher and greater Court reversed this unwise and erroneous decision of the lower Court, this saying its act (though not in words) that this body known as the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of the District of Columbia having received its Warrant of Constitution from the white Grand Lodge A. F. and A. Masons of the Republic of Roumania, and incorporated by an Act of the United States Congress 1896, as well as its Subordinates and affiliating Grand Lodges by whatever name known or style have legitimate existence, a right to be, and to carry on their legitimate business and to go forth unmolested and unrestrained and undisturbed by the bogus Prince Hall Grand Lodge, or any other unlawful body of clandestine Free Masons, and to continue its acts of charity and humanitarianism which it purposes to do with increased vigor, practicing the principles and tenets of the Order with love and charity all mankind and the opinion of the Respectful Chief Justice Shepard,—see the Evening Star Newspaper of Washington, D. C., of Feb. 1st, 1910, and the Court Record of the Court of Appeals No. 2007. It is very gratifying to the fifty thousand legitimate and regular colored Masons in the United States to know that they have at last triumphed and won out, and that the Warrant of Constitution which H. C. Scott, Grand Master of the legitimate and regular Masons of Washington, D. C., received from the white Grand Lodge A. F. and A. Masons of the Republic of Roumania stood the test before the Court of Appeals was sustained before the Court of Appeals and legal masonic doctrine that they are right and are a legal body of Free Masons.

The decision of the Court of Appeals now brings W. H. Grimshaw, W. H. Meyers, F. C. Bailey and those identified and associated with them, especially John G. Lewis, Grand Master of the bogus Eureka Grand Lodge of Louisiana are disappointed and come to grief by the decision rendered by the Court of Appeals against the irregular and bogus Prince Hall faction from which Lewis and Grimshaw received their warrant of Constitution from the National Compact and the National Compact originated from Prince Hall. England has said over and over again that they never made Prince Hall a mason and neither did they grant any warrant to African Lodge No. 459 that was organized June 24th, 1791, at Boston, Mass., so it is as the Court says that they are nothing but a voluntary, self constituted, so-called set of masons and have no legitimate standard since March 6th, 1775, down to this present date.

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The decision has been a fatal blow to the illegitimate and unlawful faction of the followers of the Prince Hall and old compact negro masons in this country. They have been a source of annoyance to the legitimate and regular Lodges and Grand Lodges of colored Masons all over this country for some time. These Prince Hall factions and old National Compact Masons of Boston, Mass., Washington, D. C., Texas, Louisiana and elsewhere have for some time filled the country with pamphlets and circulars which have been full of misrepresentations.

H. C. Scott, Grand Master, N. F. Henry, Grand Secretary of the regular and lawful Grand Lodge of colored Masons in the District of Columbia, with John G. Jones, Grand Master of the Most Worshipful St. John's Grand Lodge of A. F. and A. Masons of the State of Illinois, and W. T. Grant, Grand Master of the Most Worshipful St. Andrew Grand Lodge A. F. and A. Masons of Louisiana and their associates, together with fifty thousand colored Masons in the United States win out in the case by having a legal Warrant of Constitution granted by the white Grand Lodge A. F. and A. Masons of the Republic of Roumania.

Mr. William M. Allison and Mr. Charles Kergwin, two of the most learned and brilliant lawyers at the bar in Washington, D. C., represented Mr. H. C. Scott, Grand Master of the regular and legitimate Grand Lodge of Masons in the District of Columbia. Mr. Scott and the rest of the brethren in Washington, D. C., and throughout the country that stood with him are to be congratulated for having the courage and determination to have carried their case to the Court of Appeals in the District of Columbia, thereby securing a favorable decision for them.