Prince Hall Letters HC 28/A/1-8 and HC 28/A/10-12 Original Spellings

Transcripts of Prince Hall Letters

The

General Regutations of the African Looge

1

As all Mosons are obliged to obey the morral law we therfore Exclud from this Lodge all stupid Athest and Irreligous libertines: yet at the same time we alow everey man to Inioy his one Religion so that thay be men of Honesty and Honour & free born

2

We admeet none but thouse who are of a Peaceble subjects to the civeil Powers were they live free from all plots and conspiraies against the peace of the same

3

No member of this Lodge is sufered to be absent therefrom when worned to appear without given sum Good Reson for his so doing or Pay the sum of three shillings as a fine to the Lodge

4

We admete none into this Lodge under the Age of twentey one and haveing a tung of a Good Reporte for this Reson no man can be admetted a member ^{of} the same till he hath ben proponded at lest one mounth that the Brethren may inque re into his charectter

5

All perferment amonge us is by real worth and personel merit only for fear of Slander being Brought upon the Nobel order and a Disgrace to our Lodge

6

No man can be admitted a member of this Lodge for les money than three pounds and tow Good Bondsmen for his Good behover within and without the Lodge

7

When meat in the Lodge we forbed all Perfain Langage all indecent behaver in the Lodge under the Pelentey of paying to the Lodge the sum of ten shittings and be leiabel to be expealed for six monts

There and all other Laws that the Lodge shall think Proper to make you are to observe as true and sencear men from God that the Nobel Craft may not be Desgraced by your bad conducte by thouse that ore Without; A man so let Be Prince Hall Mr in the Lodge Rume Boston January 15 5779 and in the year of our Lord 1779

The subcribers ar a Lest of the membres

Cyrus Forbes

Thomes Sarndson JW Intered a Prenteses

Brister Slzener

Prince Taler Cuf Buffom Boston Smeth SW Ponnmes Speer Fotain Howord Phiplep Boston John Carter Seoczes Speer John Meanes Coto Rusel

Forches Cudmerch Cato Underwood St

Tr Jube Hill John Bown William Gorge Gregrey Sipeo Lard

Gorge Medelton JD **Bristol Merrandy** Jemes Smeeth Slavd **Boston Fadey** John Brown SD James Horkens Slavd

Retcherd Pollord Mershel

Ceser Speer PM These are a true Lest Prince Spooner of the Leving member of the Africon Lodge at Present John Hopte

thou there is a number absent Craftes at this time: We shall

Collect for the found of Ceser fleet Cherrety the Next Quartly Sipeo Dolton Clerk meeting and send it the Cear Cambel first opertunity We can get

afterwords Pompey Seads Tiler

After Whishing His Royal Highnes Our Nobel Grand and the Grond Lodge all Happness Hear and hearafter I Humbley Beg Leve to subcribe my self your Humble Servent & Br Prince Hall

M^r Moodey

Most W Master

Sir

Permite me to Returne you my Hearty thankes for your for your Brotherly [...] two Brothers Reed & Menes when in a strang Land and when in a time of neade you was so good is to Recve them as Brotheres and to Treet them so cindely as thay inform me you dide What you have done to them I Luck opon as done to me and the Hole of us for which I give you meney thanks; and Likewise to all the Lodge I hope thay Behaved them selves as men and as Masons with you, if not I would Be Glad if you would Be so Good as to Let me know of it and thay shall Be Delt with accordingly; - Dear Br I would inform you that this Ladge hath Bin Founded almoust this Eaght yeears and had no Worrent yet But only a Premete from Grand Master Row to Walk on St Johns Dayes and to Burey our Dead in forme; which we now Injoy: We have had no opertunity tell now of aplieing for a Worrent thou we were Preste upon to send to France for one But we Refues'ed it for Resons Best nown to our selves we now aupley to the Fountain from whome we Recved Lights for this faver; and Dear Sir I must Bege you to Be our advocate for us By sending this our Request to His Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland Grand Master And to the Right Honourable Earl of Effingham Acting Grand Master: the Deputy G Master and G Warden and the Rest of the Brethren of the Grand Lodge; that thay Would gracusly be Pleased to Grante us a chater to Holde this Lodge as Long as we Behave up to the sprite of the Constitution This our Humbel petechon we hope His Highness and the Reste of the Grand Lodge will gracusly Be Pleas'd to Grant us there Thou Poor yet Sencear Brothren of the Creft and therfor in Duty Bound ever to pray - I Beg Leve to subcribe my self your Loving Frind and Brother - Prince Hall Master of the Efrican Lodge No 1 June 30 1784 in the year of Masnery 5784 in the Name of the holl Lodge C. Undewod Secerterey

Reverse Side

Addressed to: M^r Moody

Petition for Constitution Annotation:

Lodge at Boston

Boston September 22 1785

May it Please your Royel Highness: to Permit us your Humble Brethren of the African Lodge to Return your Royal Highness the Wardens and the Brethren of the Grand Lodge under your Royel Highness Charge our Humble Thankes for your goodness to us in granting us a charter from your venerble and Honrable Lodge for which we Pray Almighty god ever to Bless and Presarve till time shall be no more: and from time to time grant your Royel Highness and that Noable socity that you may allways mentain that Blessed spirit of our ever Blessed Grand Master Jesus Christ who thou he stiles himself King of Kings and Lord of Lords yet he is not ashamed to call the true Members of his Fratenity his Beloved Brethren: and such a condeingn spirit as this your Royel Highness with the Grand Lodge hath abundently menefested to us in Honring us your onworthi members of the Chraft with a charter this your Beneverlence to us will not only be Recved by us with Love and grateud but will convence the Blind World that true Masonry hath somthing in it Divin and Noble and Diffuses universal Love to all mankind: and now may it please your Royel Highness: we shall allways make it our study to keep ouer selves whithin the bounds and Lemites of ouer nobel constitu-=tion and under your Wise Derections as over Parent Grand Lodge we shall always Cheefully obay your Deretolions which you may from time to time be pleas'd to send us: I shall for my part as Long as I shall have the Honour of Felleing the cheear shall all ways in Dever to give thouse Lectteors as shall be most bennefechel to there Light and Knowledg: &c after whiching your Royel Highiness and all your Elustres Feameley all the Blessing of Prences hear Below you may Rain as King and Priest in the World above and may the Grand Lodge keep such a Lodge hear below that thay keep a everlasting above for ever more: is the earnest Whech and prayer of your Humble and obedent servent and Brother

Prince Hall

Wrapping

Addressed to: To His Royal Highness

Henry Fredrik

Duke of Cumberland H: G: &c and Grand Master of the Antient And Nowble Society

Of

Free and Accepted Masons

London

Annotation: Boston 22^d Sept^r 1785

Prince Hall

Williom White Esq

Worshipfull sir I recved the constituon together with your your Recep for the payment for it by the Hand of Cap[†]. scott for which I together with the Lodge do Return you our thanks; we should have taken it up tew years ago had the person we Deleverd the money to don as he orte, but the money was suffeald away and we have last the whowl of it; which is a grate Lose to us; I shall send a coppey of our by Laws togeth =er with a last of the Lodge to ouer Right Worshipfull Grand Master and by the grace Of God shall indever to fullfeal all that Is Requeir'd of me in the charter; and as I shall make the constitution my gide I hope we shall adorn our prafeson as Mosons; After whiching Love Peace and Happenese to the Holle Fe[†]ternity all rond the Globe and to you and yours I Beg leve to subcribe my self your Humble and Loving Brother Prince Hall

Liveing in Woarter Street at the sine of the Golden Fleec in Boston were our Lodge is now held May 16 1787

PS: as this Lodge withoute Dute meoy
Increes to such a number as may not be
convent for us to set in one Lodg: I shold glod be
to no the minds of the Grand Lodgs Wether
This carter will ampouer us to set apart
another by the same name as seckent
Lodge

Reverse Side

Addressed to: For

The Worshipfull

William White &c E^{sqr}

Annotation: Boston 16 May 1787

African Lodge Nº 459

Ans^{d.}

Rowland Holt Esq D.G.M. of the Grand Lodge of England

Right

Worshipfull sir, after informing you that We have Recved the charter which the grand Lodge was grachesly Ples'd to grant us sumtime Ago the reson of its being so long detand in London the Grand se^cetrey will inform your Worship In complyence to the Requesions Requeired of me in the charter I have sent your

Worship a copey of our bylaws together with the list of the list of the Membres of the Lodg we shall always be willing to contrebute ## as far as in us lies to that Lordable custom which hath ever bin the practes and custom amangth Masons from the Foundation thereof I shall indever allway to make the constitution my gide in all my tranactions in the Lodge and I hope I shall be abel (so long as I have the Honner to set in the chear) to give your Worship a good account of the African Lodg is the earnest Desier and Prayr of your Most obedent and humble servent & Bother Prince Hall

Boston May 16 1787

Reverse Side

Addressed to: For

> His Right Worshipfull Rowland Holt & &c Esqr

Boston 16th May 1787 Annotation:

Rowland Holt Esq D.G.M. of the Grand Lodge of England Right Worshipfull sir. as in duty bound we now send you an account of our precdings of the year past; which we fletter ourselves hath ben approved of by our most cures spectaters without dores: as I have maid it my study to ceep that order and deception and hearmoney whithin the Lodge as I hope will meet with our Royal Grand Masters your Worship the Warding the rest of the members of the Grand Lodges Apprabation. We have Initiaed into the Lodge sence July the 6 1787 to this time foure members Namley Matthew Cox a melato man aged 22 years old on the 11 of December Gorge Meller 24 and Joshep Hicks 23 on the 24 James Hicke 25 years all Black men and of good charecters and we hope will make good men. But we have bin under the Desegreable nessety of Expelling from the Lodge Prince Spooner or Lasley for Refuweing to pay for these three years anething to soport the Lodge in anney manner whatever tho ben often admonished and intreeted to compley with our just demands yet he behaved himself stubern and bid us Defience; Also John Means for maney dishonorable and Base actions borth within and without the Lodge; he being secretary of the Lodge. We have ben Deprived By Death of three of our Brethren the year past Namely Pompey Eodes Welleam Henrey Gregrey and Bristol Slenzer one of our Brothers Was Kednapted by a Passel of Raffens with tow others but thay are on there Return Home; after Whiching Health and Happeness to our Royel Grand Master We beg leve to subcrib your most obedent Humbel servents and Brothers

Prince Hall

Thomas Saunderson S[†]
Boston May 23 1788 at the Lodg Room Warter Street at the sine of the Goulding Fleece

Reverse Side

Addressed to: To

The Right Worshipful Rowland Holt E^{sqr}

in London

Annotation: Boston 23rd May 1788

Right Worshipfull sir

We now send you an account of the Lodges Preceding sence we sent our Last Which was in Augest last together whith ten Dallers for the Found of the Grand Chority by captain Scoot, which he saith he heath Deleverd to the Grand secretary, but he hath no Recept with him for the money: we have Initiaed into the Lodge this year Sameuel Beean a Blacke man, and the Reverend Mr John Merrand A Black Minester from Home but last from Burchtown in Nova Scotia: we shall make a colletchon on St John Day next Which we shall send by the first caarfull hand; the Lodge in generel Behaves veri well in there station so that ther no just complantes made aganest them; I hope I may allways have the Pleseor of sending a good account of the African Lodge; I beg after Whiching all Happyness to our Royel Grand Master; and all the officers and Members of the Grand Lodge I Beg leve to subcribe my self your Most obedent humbel servent and Brother Prince Hall

Boston June 4 1789

Reverse Side

Addressed to:

The Right Worshipful Rowland Holt E^{sqr} Deputy Grand Master of the Grand of England

Τо

Enquire a the Freemasons
Tavern
Great Queen Street

Boston November 9 1789

To the Most Worshipfull William White Esq G:S Dear Sir these comes to acquant you that we have sent sundrey Letters to our Right Worshipfull Rowland Holt Esq: and to your Worship according to my orders in the charter; and whith those we sent you datted augest 2 1788 we sent ten Dollers for the Grand Charity but have not had a anser wether you haul Receved them or not and the Lodge in uneasey with me on that acount as I paid the money to Mr Bengmen Greene Junr one of Coptain James Scott, Merchents and Receved his Recepte for the money to to be sent to him whith the Letters for you as I did not now were to Derecte them to you and if you have not Receved them that must be the Reson: therefore sir Be so good when you send us ansear to this you would Send me word were to Derect them that you may hove them which we hope will be by the Berrer hearof I have sent you a sermon preched on S[†] Johns day by our Brother John Marrant †: for our Grand Master and another for you which I hope you will Receve our Brother Sanderson is Dead all the Rest of our Br are in health so no at Present But must Bege Live to subcribe my self your vere Humbel Servent And Br Prince Hall

he was maid in march last

Reverse Side

Addressed to: To

Mr William White Esqr

in London

Annotation: Boston 9 Novem^r 1789

Prince Hall

Der Sir I imbrac this oppertunety to acquant you that we sent by the Barrer our well Bloved Newport Daves a letter to our warthy Depatey Grand Master together whith one geney for cherety to the Grand Lodge which I hepe you will Receve safe as we have sent sundrey times and have not known wether you Recved them or not we sente ten Dallers in Augest 1788 by Captan Scot: and by our the Rev John Merrant in Februy 2 1790 one geney: all which we hope you have Recved and if not we should be glad your Wishep would Inform us of it that we may now how to conduct our selves for the the feuter that when we send aney thing for so good a porpers you may Receve it safe be it ever so littel so no more at this time but Bag teve to serbcrib your Humbel servent and loving Brother Prince Hall

<u>Reverse Side</u>

Addressed to: OT

Willem White Esq

in London

Annotation: Boston 10 Nov. 1791

N° 459 With 1 Guinea

Rec^d 16 Feb 1792

Roland Holt Esq D Grand master of the Grand Lodge of England: Right Worshipfull sir: as we are in deuty bound I now send you a account of the present state of the African Lodge (which by Indulgence of the Grand Lodge) now under my charg: which I have Indiverd to conduct and Instruct them according to the Constitution and the Rules of the Charter: and I can with Pelseur inform your Right Worishfull and the Grand Lodge that there behaver hath bin such that thay have don Honner to the Craft hear and are noted for there Profound secrecey and good Behaver; we have bin deprived by Death of Cato Underwood Ceser Fleet & Mathew Cox; We hav Intered sence our last Letters Cato Mumford of Provuders Newport Daves & Peter Tower of Boston; we have seatt by our Beloved Brother Daves for cherety one geney that being as much as we can aford at this time most of our Brethren Being absent at this time - so more at Present as my is now writing - I beg live to subcrib my self your Worshipfell most obedent servent and Brother Prince Hall

Boston Nowmber 16 1791

Reverse Side

Addressed to: To

Rowland Holt Esqr

in

London

Boston May 24 1798

Beloved Brother

Thes comes with my Humble and best Respetes to you, and youre the grand Lodge hoping thay may find you all in health as by the Blessing of God thay leve me; I am sorrey to inform you of the Death of our dear Brother Newport Daves who died on his pacage to London last winter by whom I sent you sum charges Deleverd on Sant Johns Day June 24 which I beleve you have not Recved whith a small sum of money for Chretey to the Grand fund; he being the only Brother that went to London at that time and dar not trust aney other with money for that Porpers: I sent you a Letter By B^r pendel who was a Veseter in our Lodge but have not Recved a ansear nor for sum time Before from five year back which I much wounder at as I am counfeden that the Afracan Lodge hath no juest grounds of abencer nor I hope Never will: Dear Br I now send you six of the above chargees thou sempel yet the sencear sentimentes of of my hart on our Nobel order (for the Beggest Bungter may do sum good): I send these by a Trustey frend but not a Brother But I hope he will be one when he Returns. Thearfour You may send be a anser to this Letter with safty: We have Entred into the Lodge sence the year 92 the following Brethren

Antoney Batles Nh of Bengale
Shemethey Phelopes of Boston
Fortain Neckels of Ditto
Fllow Pollerd Ditto
Cato Gage of Harvel
Cato Freeborn of Boston
Gorge Joxon of Ditto
Sere Morce of Horverel
Willeam Power of Providance

Fortan Truston of Dott
Gorge Hill o Ditto
Prince Right Ditto
John Trurel of Bosto
We have last by Death
Willeam Clark
Ritcherd Standney
Cato Groves
and Recherd Pollerd

Dear B^r I am happey to infor you that our Lodge is much astemed hear by the wise and good and god grant that we may Behave allways in such a maner as to be aprov'd of by the grat Artchtare, the grand Lodge and all the world, till time shall be no more is the hartey And pray of your Humbel and Loving Brother Prince Hall

To my well Beloved Welleam White Esq

Reverse Side

Annotation: 7/a

Boston Mass. 24th May 1798

Prince Hall to

William White

G.S.

Prince Hall Letters HC 28/A/1-8 and HC 28/A/10-12 Modernised Spellings

Mr. Moodey

Most W. Master

Sir,

Permit me to return you my hearty thanks for your brotherly [...] to Brothers Reed and Means [...] in a strange land, and when in a time of need you were so good as to receive them as brothers and to treat them as kindly as they inform me you did. What you have done to them, I look upon as done to me and the whole of us, for which I give you many thanks and likewise to all the Lodge. I hope they behaved themselves as men and as Masons with you, if not I would be glad if you would be so good as to let me know of it and they shall be dealt with accordingly. Dear Brother, I would inform you that this Lodge has been founded almost this eight years, and had no warrant yet but only a permit from Grand Master Rowe to walk on St. John's Days and to bury our dead in form which we now enjoy. We have had no opportunity till now of applying for a warrant though we were pressed upon to send to France for one, but we refused it for reasons best known to ourselves. We now apply to the fountain from whom we received lights for this favour and, dear Sir, I must beg you to be our advocate for us by sending this, our request, to His Royal Highness, the Duke of Cumberland, Grand Master and to the Right Honourable Earl of Effingham, Acting Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master and Grand Wardens and the rest of the Brethren of the Grand Lodge, that they would graciously be pleased to grant us a charter to hold this Lodge as long as we behave up to the spirit of the constitution. This, our humble petition, we hope His Highness and the rest of the Grand Lodge will graciously be pleased to grant us there, though poor yet sincere Brethren of the Craft. And therefore, in duty bound ever to pray, I beg leave to subscribe myself your loving friend and Brother - Prince Hall, Master of the African Lodge No. 1, June 30th 1784 in the year of Masonry 5784, in the name of the whole Lodge, C. Underwood, Secretary.

Boston September 22 1785

May it please your Royal Highness to permit us, your humble Brethren of the African Lodge, to return to your Royal Highness, the Wardens and the Brethren of the Grand Lodge under your Royal Highness' charge, our humble thanks for your goodness to us in granting us a charter from your venerable and honourable Lodge, for which we pray for almighty God ever to bless and preserve you till time shall be no more: and from time to time grant your Royal Highness and that noble Society that you may always maintain that blessed spirit of our ever blessed Grand Master, Jesus Christ, who, though he styles himself King of Kings and Lord of Lords, yet he is not ashamed to call the true members of his fraternity his beloved brethren: and such a condescending spirit as that your Royal Highness, with the Grand Lodge, has abundently manifested to us in honouring us, your unworthy members of the Craft, with a charter. This, your benevolence to us, will not only be received by us with love and gratitude but will convince the blind world that true Masonry has something in it divine and noble and diffuses universal love to all mankind. And now may it please your Royal Highness, we shall always make it our study to keep ourselves within the bounds and limits of our noble constitution and under your directions which you may, from time to time, be pleased to send us. I shall, for my part, as long as I shall have the honour of filling the chair, always endeavour to give those lectures as shall be most beneficial to their light and knowledge etc. After wishing your Royal Highness and all your illustrious family all the blessings of princes here below, may you reign as King and Priest in the world above and may the Grand Lodge keep such a Lodge here below that they keep an everlasting abode for ever more. This is the earnest wish and prayer of your humble and obedient servent and Brother

Prince Hall

William White Esq

Worshipful Sir,

I received the constitution, together with your receipt for the payment for it, by the hand of Capt. Scott, for which I, together with the Lodge, do return you our thanks. We should have taken it up two years ago had the person we delivered the money to done as he ought, but the money was shuffled? away and we have lost the whole of it, which is a great loss to us. I shall send a copy of our bye-laws together with a list of the Lodges to our Right Worshipful Grand Master and by the grace of God shall endeavour to fulfill all that is required of me in the charter; and as I shall make the constitution my guide, I hope we shall adorn our profession as Masons. After wishing love, peace and happiness to the whole Fraternity all round the globe and to you and yours, I beg leave to subscribe myself your humble and loving Brother, Prince Hall

Living in Water Street at the sign of the Golden Fleece in Boston where our Lodge is now held

May 16^{th} 1787

P.S. As this Lodge, without any doubt, may increase to such a number as may not be convenient for us to sit in one Lodge, I should be glad to know the minds of the Grand Lodge whether this charter will empower us to set apart another by the same as a second Lodge

Right Worshipfull Sir,

After informing you that we have received the charter which the Grand Lodge was graciously pleased to grant us sometime ago (the reason of its being so long detained in London the Grand Secretary will inform your Worship), in compliance to the requests required of me in the charter, I have sent your Worship a copy of our bye-laws, together with the list of the members of the Lodge. We shall always be willing to contribute as far as in us lies to that laudable custom which has ever been the practice and custom amongst Masons from the foundation thereof. I shall endeavour always to make the constitution my guide in all my transactions in the Lodge and I hope I shall be able (so long as I have the honour to sit in the chair) to give your Worship a good account of the African Lodge – it is the earnest and desire and prayer of your most obedient and humble servant and Brother,

Prince Hall

Boston May 16 1787

Right worshipful Sir,

As in duty bound, we now send you an account of our proceedings of the year past, which we flatter ourselves has been approved of by our most curious spectators without doors. As I have made it my study to keep that order and deception [secrecy?] and harmony within the Lodge as I hope will meet with our Royal Grand Master's, your Worship's, the Warden's and the rest of the members of the Grand Lodge's approbation. We have initiated into the Lodge since July 6th 1787, to this time, four members, namely Matthew Cox, a mulatto man aged 22 years old on the 11th of December George Meller, 24, and Joseph Hicks, 23, on the 24th James Hicke, 25 years, all black men and of good characters and we hope they will make good men. But we have been under the disagreeable necessity of expelling from the Lodge Prince Spooner, or Lasley, for refusing to pay for these three years anything to support the Lodge in any manner whatever though being often admonished and entreated to comply with out just demands, yet he behaved himself stubborn and bid us defiance. Also, John Means for many dishonourable and base actions both within and without the Lodge, he being Secretary of the Lodge. We have been deprived by death of three of our Brethren the year past, namely Pompey Edes, William Henry Gregory and Bristol Slenzer. One of our Brothers was kidnapped by a parcel of ruffians with two others but they are on their return home. After wishing health and happiness to our Royal Grand Master, we beg leave to subscribe your most obedient and humble servants and Brothers

Prince Hall

Thomas Sanderson S^{\dagger} Boston May $23^{\rm rd}$ 1788, at the Lodge Room, Water Street at the sign of the Golden Fleece

Right Worshipfull Sir,

We now send you an account of the Lodge's proceedings since we sent our last, which was in August last, together with ten dollars for the fund of the Grand Charity, by Captain Scott, which he says he has delivered to the Grand Secretary but he has no receipt with him for the money. We have initiated into the Lodge this year Samuel Bean, a black man, and the Reverend John Marrant, a black minister from home but last from Birchtown in Nova Scotia. We shall make a collection on St. John's Day next which we shall send by the first careful hand. The Lodge in general behaves very well in their station so that there are no just complaints made against them - I hope I may always have the pleasure of sending a good account of the African Lodge. After wishing all happiness to our Royal Grand Master and all the officers and members of the Grand Lodge, I beg leave to subscribe myself your most obedient, humble servant and Brother, Prince Hall

Boston June 4th 1789

Boston, November 9th 1789

To the most worshipfull William White Esq. G.S.

Dear Sir,

This comes to acquaint you that we have sent sundry letters to our right worshipfull Rowland Holt E^{sq} and to your worship, according to my orders in the charter, and with those we sent you dated August 2^{nd} 1788, we sent ten dollars for the Grand Charity but have not had an answer whether you have received them or not and the Lodge is uneasy with me on that account as I paid the money to $M^{r.}$ Benjamin Greene $J^{unr.}$, one of Captain James Scott's merchants, and received his receipt for the money to be sent to him with the letters for you as I did not know where to direct them to you, and if you have not received them that must be the reason. Therefore Sir, be so good, when you send us answer to this, you would send me word where to direct them that you may have them which we hope will be by the bearer hereof. I have sent you a sermon, preached on St. John's day by our brother John Marrant (he was made in March last) for our Grand Master and another for you which I hope you will receive. Our Brother Sanderson is dead, all the rest of our Brethren are in health. So, no more at present, but I must beg leave to subscribe myself your very humble servant and Brother, Prince Hall

Dear Sir,

I embrace this opportunity to acquaint you that we sent by the bearer, our well beloved Newport Daves, a letter to our worthy Deputy Grand Master, together with one guinea for charity to the Grand Lodge, which I hope you will receive safe as we have sent sundry times and have not known whether you received them or not. We sent ten dollars in August 1788 by Captain Scott, and by the Rev John Marrant on February 2nd 1790 one guinea, all of which we hope you have received and, if not, we should be glad if your Worship would inform us of it, that we may know how to conduct ourselves for the future, that when we send anything for so good a purpose you may receive it safe, be it ever so little. So, no more at this time, but I beg leave to subscribe your humble servant and loving Brother,

Prince Hall

Rowland Holt Esq. D. Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of England

Right Worshipfull Sir,

As we are in duty bound, I now send you an account of the present state of the African Lodge (which, by indulgence of the Grand Lodge) is now under my charge. I have endeavoured to conduct and instruct them according to the constitution and the rules of the charter and I can, with pleasure, inform your Right Worshipfull Sir and the Grand Lodge that their behaviour has been such that they have done honour to the Craft here and are noted for their profound secrecy and good behaviour. We have been deprived by death of Cato Underwood, Ceser Fleet and Matthew Cox. We have entered since out last letter Cato Mumford of Providence, Newport Daves and Peter Tower of Boston. We have sent by our beloved Brother Daves, for charity, one guinea, that being as much as we can afford at this time, most of our Brethren being absent at this time. So, no more at present as I am now writing - I beg leave to subscribe myself your worshipfull, most obedient servant and Brother, Prince Hall

Boston November 16th 1791

Boston May 24th 1798

Beloved Brother,

Thiscomes with my humble and best respects to you and the Grand Lodge, hoping they may find you all in health as, by the blessing of God, they leave me. I am sorry to inform you of the death of our dear Brother Newport Daves, who died on his passage to London last winter, by whom I sent you some charges delivered on St. John's Day, June 24th (which I believe you have not received), with a small sum of money for charity to the Grand Fund, he being the only Brother that went to London at that time and I dare not trust any other with money for that purpose. I sent you a letter by Brother Pendel, who was a visitor in our Lodge but have not received an answer, nor for some time before, from five years back, which I much ponder at as I am confident that the African Lodge has no just grounds of [...] nor I hope ever will. Dear Brother, I now send you six of the above charges - though simple, yet the sincere sentiments of my heart on our noble order (for the biggest [...] may do some good).