

# Masons from Across the Pond Bearing Gifts

By MUKHABIR LT. HARRY G. ORCUTT

LIKE an original and very good **Alfred Hitchcock** movie, it all began with a letter in 2008 to Senior London Grand Rank - Past Provincial Assistant Registrar **Louis Courtney**, a member of the Northeast Corner Lodge 6461, in London, England (from me to a Brother), and a responding phone call from my friend, to set in motion a series of plot twists and turns that came all right in the end.

I had met SLGR - PPAR Courtney in the Prince Hall Grand Lodge Building located in Dorchester (Mass., not Britain).

*Here is where the fog appears setting the scene, taking us back in time.*

It was Saturday, May 31, 2003, and one of the Prince Hall Lodges was Raising a group of Fellow Craft at a Regular Communication. (Now that was an experience.) Anyway, Louis was sitting next to me and as soon as we exchanged greetings, I definitely knew that he had originated from "Across the Pond." Further conversation (when I could understand what he was saying), was that he was here as a member of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of London to celebrate the Centennial of the first exchange of visits between his Company (the parent) and our own Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Boston (the progeny). "Well isn't that a coincidence," says I. "If we have the same drill as last year, I may well again command the Colonial Division (units of invited guests) as I did last year, in the Ancients Drums Head Parade and Election this coming Monday." It also developed that he was visiting the Prince Hall Grand Lodge A.F.&F.M. because the Grand Lodge of England had proffered Recognition of the former as a Regular Masonic Grand Lodge, and he wanted to see what it was all about. As we all should know, our own Massachusetts Grand Lodge A.F.&A.M. soon recognized Prince Hall Masonry shortly thereafter. I, and my alter ego, Noble (D.D.G.M. of the 13th) Earl W. Cole, Jr., had been invited to attend the Raising for the very same reason. Sympatico! Thus was born a beautiful and abiding friendship.

*Fog dissolves, fast forward to 2008.*

As a member of the Cambridge City Commission for the Prince Hall Monument, I was apprised of

the target date for the unveiling of the completed tablet memorial: September 12, 2009 (the accepted 271st anniversary of what a contemporary said was his birthday). Knowing that Louis and his Masonic mates, Past Master Working Brothers **Patrick Howell** (of Welwyn Lodge 3227) and **Gordon Ballard** (of Greenhill Lodge 5936), both located in Hertfordshire were keenly interested in Prince Hall Masonic Affairs (each had accompanied Brother

Courtney in previous visits both separately and all together to share fellowship with their Brethren of both Massachusetts Grand Lodges in the intervening years), I wrote him informing him of the details of the dedication ceremony as they were then beginning to be formulated, including copies of the official proclamations and documents of the City of Cambridge and the Massachusetts Prince Hall Grand Lodge recognizing Prince Hall as a Patriot and Founding Father of our country.

In the Spring of 2009, I received a phone call from Louis saying that he, Patrick, and Gordon were all planning on "Crossing the Pond" to attend the unveiling and dedication of the monument. He and I had gotten into the habit of exchanging meaningful tokens of our respective Masonic experiences or items expressive of our similar national heritage (Crown to Colony and vice versa so to speak). He asked if there were anything in particular that I wanted. Rather than acquire something for myself (Lady Susan often informs me that I have far too many artifacts already), I reminded him of a

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AT THE PRESENTATION of gifts for Aleppo Fire Brigade at the Aleppo Shrine Center are from left to right: PMWB **Gordon Ballard**; Past Captain (Minutemen) **Harry G. Orcutt**; Recorder **Peter K. Stone**; and SLGR-PPAR **Louis Courtney**.



COMMANDER OF the 54th Flag Detail, Brother **Benny White** and Noble **Harry G. Orcutt** in the guise of Brother **John Hancock**.

## NORTH SHORE SHRINE CLUB CLOWN FESTIVAL

**Date:** Sunday, Oct. 18, 2009  
**Time:** 1:00 p.m.  
**Where:** Philanthropic Lodge  
 62 Pleasant St.  
 Marblehead, Mass.  
**Donation:** Adults \$10  
 Children under 12 **FREE**  
*Maximum price per family \$30*

**Hilarious Aleppo Clown Festival and Home-Made ITALIAN DINNER**

**Spaghetti & Meatballs and LOTS, LOTS MORE**

**RESERVATION FORM FOR CLOWN FESTIVAL - SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2009**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City State Zip

Number fo Reservations at \$10.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Number fo Reservations at \$30.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Children Under 12 Free \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to: The North Shore Shrine Club  
 Mail to: Paul H. Johnson, President  
 6 Rockaway Court, Lynn, MA 01902 - Telephone: 781-592-2944  
 Reservations Close: October 14, 2009 - No tickets will be sent

## Clowning Around at SimplexGrinnell

By DAVID "DO-NO" NEWCOMB

ON Thursday, August 20, 2009, the SimplexGrinnell Company hosted a company outing at their headquarters building in Westminster, MA, and invited some of the Aleppo Clowns.

Over the last three years, the company has raised over \$20,000 for the Shriners Hospital for Children-Boston (SHC).

The hope is for SimplexGrinnell to adopt the SHC system nationwide. They have over 60,000 employees nationwide.

Representing Aleppo Temple at the function were Shrine Clowns "Do-No", "Rollo" and "Doo-Dad" as well as Noble **Dave Faulkner**, Director of Development f SHC-Boston.



PICTURED FROM left to right are: "Do-No"; **Chris Woodcock**, Dir. of Marketing and PR for SimplexGrinnell; **Dave Faulkner**, Dir. of Development for Shriners Hospitals for Children-Boston; "Rollo"; and "Doo-Dad."