

WELCOME

NOBLES and DAUGHTERS

Shriners Have Illustrious History



ELEANOR GIBSON
ILLUSTRIOUS POTENTATE
DAUGHTERS OF ISIS

No history of the Order of the Mystic Shrine can be complete without the story of the Arab and his most sacred city, Mecca. Here in 570 A.D., was Born Mohammed, founder of Islam. In history his flight to Medina is of greater import than his birth and has been fittingly chosen as the beginning of the Moslem era.

It was there that the Order of the Mystic Shrine was founded in the year 25 of the Hegira (A.D. 647), by the great Prophet Mohammed as a vigilance committee, whose main object was to dispose justice and to protect the weak and oppressed.

By this means a band of determined men, actuated solely by civic and patriotic motives were welded together to stamp out lawlessness and protect human rights. In carrying out their work they acted without fear of favor and would often execute a convicted criminal within an hour of the verdict.

In 1698 the Order was firmly established in Mecca, and since then has been the most highly favored secret organization in the oriental countries. The membership of the Order is composed of the most eminent men of learning and social position.

In 1890 the petition of the Illustrious John George Jones, Puissant Grand Lieutenant Commander, Supreme Council Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite for the South-

ern Jurisdiction of the United States of America, was favorably acted upon by the Grand Council of Arabia, at Mecca, and he was elected to receive the Order of the Mystic Shrine.

On June 1, 1893, Illustrious Noble, Rofelt Pasha, an Arabian visitor to the Columbian Exposition in Chicago, conferred the Order of the Mystic Shrine upon John George Jones, John W. Dunmore, Willard W. Demsey, Payton Randolph, Elijah W. Totten, James Barber, Charles F. Thomas, Joseph Winn, Isaac Colbert, Benjamin Kersey, John B. Foster, Joseph Shreve and J. H. Blount.

Jones was authorized by Pasha to confer the Degree of the Order, to establish Temples and a Grand Council. On June 2, 1893, Jones organized Palestine Temple (since changed to Arabic Temple). On June 10, 1893 he organized an Imperial Grand Council at Chicago, and was named Imperial Grand Potentate. Shortly thereafter other Temples were organized in Pittsburgh, Indianapolis, Philadelphia, Washington, Baltimore, New York, Providence St. Paul and other cities.

The Order was in a flourishing condition when trouble developed in the Supreme Council, A.A.S.R. for the Southern Jurisdiction of the USA, presided over by Illustrious Thornton A. Jackson. As a result of this turmoil John G. Jones was suspended and subsequently expelled from the Supreme Council. Shortly thereafter Jones was expelled from Symbolic Masonry by the Grand Lodge of Illinois.

This left the Shrine organization in the unfortunate position having an expelled Mason as the head of the Order. Jones objected to resigning the position he had held so long. As a result of this Noble Isaac L. W. Holland, of Pyramid Temple, Philadelphia, and other members of the order joined in a call for a convention of all Temples to decide the future course of the organization.

After meeting in convention it was decided to reorganize the Imperial Council, this being consid-



BENJAMIN A. GORE
Illustrious Potentate

ered the most reasonable method by which they might rid themselves of Jones.

On December 12, 1900 the Philadelphia convention organized the present Imperial Council of the Ancient Egyptian Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine of North and South America and its Jurisdiction.

A new constitution was adopted on December 12, 1901, at the First Annual Session in Newark, N. J. The Constitution decreed that the Order select its members from Free Masons who were members of Lodges descended from African Lodge No. 459, which was organized July 3, 1775, under a Warrant granted by the Grand Lodge of the "Most Ancient and Honorable Society of Free and Accepted Masons," London, England, September 29, 1784 (commonly called The Prince Hall Masons).

In addition it was decreed that members must be Knights Templar and members in good standing

of some regular Commandery, or a 32nd degree Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite Mason, in good standing in some consistory under the jurisdiction of the United Supreme Council of The Thirty-Third and last Degree of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite for the Northern Masonic Jurisdiction of the United States of America, or the Supreme Council of the Thirty-Third and last Degree of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite for the Southern Masonic Jurisdiction of the United States of America.

The annual meeting in Newark that year also ordered that the Imperial Council of the Ancient Egyptian Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine in America is the sole source of authority of the Order among Prince Hall Masons, and has exclusive control over its Temples and members. Also, that the Order should be a charitable and social organization.



DIVAN OF ARABIC COURT