

Charleston 29th March 1827

Most Illustrious Brother,

I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your favor of 19th instant inclosing your Balute to the S. Council which shall at an early day be laid before the body "in full Council sitting" - Although my eyes almost forbid - I cannot suffer you to remain in the error under which you have labored - and of which you probably are ^{not} unacquainted - I will copy the authority, or rather extracts of the Authorities under which our Albany Brothers are acting, which will give you the information required. "By the Glory of the G. A. of the U. Lux & tenebris, Unitas Concordia Fratrum - At the East, where shines the great light, & where reigns silence & peace - 29 of the ^{concord} Month called Kisleu - Anno Mundi 7771 (probably 5771)" 5528 equal to 20th Dec 1767 - By virtue of a full power & authority to me committed, &c. By "Stephen Morin" &c. confirmed by the grand Consistory of Princes of Masons in the Island of Jamaica" &c. &c. "We Henry Andrew Francken, &c. &c. have examined, &c. &c. "Wm Gamble Francis, Joseph Van Rister (et alii) hereby do constitute our said worthy Brethren" &c. &c. "into a regular Lodge of Perfection to be held at the city of Albany" &c. &c. &c.

(Signed) Henry And^r Francken, Prince of Masonry
Deputy Grand Inspe^r Gen -

(another copy - extracts)

Health, stability & Power. By the G. of the G. A. of the U. from the East of the grand Court of the most valiant Prince & sublime Masons of the Royal Secret, &c. &c. &c. under the C. C. of the Z - answering to 41.30 (Albany) "M. S. To our Ill. &c. &c. We Henry Andrew Francken, &c. &c. &c. &c. K-H. &c. &c. &c. Deputy over, &c. by patent from the Gr. Consistory at Kingston, Jamaica &c. &c. do certify that our dear Brother Samuel Stringer, M.D. &c. having initiated him, P. D. - K of the S. - K-H and further to the highest degree of free masonry, &c. &c. &c. this 26th day of the 3^d Month called Kisleu - of the year 7772 [5772] of the Restoration 2299 and of the vulgar Era 6th Dec - 1768 -

The former one is dated after the ecclesiastical Hebrew Year and the latter their civil year -

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you will now see that they began to work the sublime degrees in Albany 16 years before they did in Charleston and 20 years before Br. Huët de Luchaille began in New York City - No steps have ever been taken to arrange matters with them ^{on their degrees} they have forwarded the return from their Consistory - Their Charter or Warrant was made out for them and dated Nov-16-1824 - it was late in 1825 before they were ready to commence operations - Giles F. Gates was approved by this Supreme Council for their chief officer during the first term of three years - and in consequence of our statement, they ^{at Albany} have deemed it inexpedient to exalt and perfect any princes of Jerusalem in any of the Sublime Degrees conferred by the Consistory except those ^{Prs.} associated with the original founders of the Consistory" It shall be copied (their return for the last year, and the only one ever made by them) & in a few days forwarded to you - and they will then expect all future orders upon all degrees above 16th from your S.C. and will be officially directed to make all their future returns to you - below the 17th degree we have never exercised any authority and cannot transfer any allegiance - I cannot find ^{a copy of} their authority to hold a Grand Council of P. of Jerusalem - They once, I think copied it ^{for me} - but if they ever did, it is mislaid by me at present - you ask "if it would not have been best to have stopt in the present situation - at least for awhile, & all further new operations," &c. (My eyes have been very painful and I have written this at intervals until now, Monday evening, April 2^d) If the Grand Council of Princes of Jerusalem at Albany have done incorrectly - we are not answerable for them - We found them with this power in their hands - Br. Gates is 33^d - a sub-committee ^{of our S.C.} will report a tableau of our S. Council at our next Meeting, with which you will be officially furnished - Br. Allen is only S. P. R. S. - They have a great Mass of Copies of different MSS. &c. &c. but, I think ^{they} are not complete - or such is my impression - I believe there must be some imperfect Copies - Br. Jacob de La Motte sold his father's MSS. &c. - Most of them are in the hands of Br. Gates at Schenectady -

With sentiments of respect and esteem, I remain
your sincere friend -

197. Courgenoye.

M. Holbrook.

Charleston 2^d April
1827.

Mr. Holbrook

Albany Recd 11th 20

Notes - Answer 233

Allen only 1327.

MS -
Salamotta

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J. J. Gougas, Esqr.

Merchant.
New York

N.Y.



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