

## F&AM: NOW, BUT NOT ALWAYS

Confusion reigns in the temple when masons talk about the “differences” between AF&AM and F&AM Lodges. There are quite a few cornerstones in Alabama that have this “extra A.” The first Constitution, dated 14 June 1821 states “This Grand Lodge shall be stiled [sic] the **most Worshipful Grand Lodge of ancient Free Masons of Alabama.**” And the lowercase “most” and “ancient” are not typos.



Our *Proceedings* began with “**The M. W. Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Alabama**” in 1860 and this phrase appears to have been in continuous use through 1950.

The confusion gets going when in 1917 the Committee on Jurisprudence adopted this resolution:

*Whereas*, the articles of incorporation, Act approved December 9th, 1859, as amended by Act approved March 17th, 1875, fixes the name of the corporate entity as “The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Alabama;” and,

*Whereas*, the Constitution of the Grand Lodge in Section 1 of Article 1 styles it, “The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Alabama, and its Masonic Jurisdiction;” and,

*Whereas*, the attempted change was abortive and not legally accomplished, and the true name of the same is, “The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Alabama;” therefore,

*Be it resolved*, That in printing the future Manuals the name as it appears in Section 1 of Article 1 be changed so as to make it conform to its legal and proper name as set out in its Charter or Articles of Incorporation.

*Be it further resolved*, That the stationery hereafter printed for and on behalf of the Grand Lodge bear its proper name as set out in the Articles of Incorporation.

“Four Letter Masons” fired back the following year with:

### RESOLUTION

*Whereas*, By a resolution adopted at the 1917 meeting of this Grand Lodge, the name of this Grand Body was fixed as “The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Alabama;” and ,

*Whereas*, For many years all of our publications, our stationery, the markings upon Masonic Buildings and upon cornerstones of a very large number of the public buildings of the State bear the lettering “A. F. & A. M.” and the Craft and others have become accustomed and love and revere the form in use for so many years, and it is believed that the name in use for so many years should continue to be used by us; therefore,

*Be it resolved*, That the name and style of this Grand Body shall be “The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Alabama,” and this name shall hereafter be used in all official reference to or by this Grand Body, and that Article I of the Constitution corrected at the last meeting of this Grand Body be changed to conform to this resolution.

*Be it further resolved*, That the Grand Master shall appoint a committee to secure in a proper manner the amendment of the Act incorporating this Grand Body so that the name of the Grand Lodge as above recited shall be properly shown thereby.

But, they never amended the Act of Incorporation, so in 1950 the final choice was made.

### RESOLUTION

*BE IT RESOLVED* by the Grand Lodge of Alabama in Annual Communication assembled that the word “Ancient” be deleted from all future proceedings of the Grand and Subordinate Lodges of Alabama, and from the constitution, edicts, by-laws, and all ritualistic work, and that all proceedings, by-laws, constitution and edicts, shall designate the Grand Lodge and Subordinate Lodges as F. & A. M. of Alabama, as said Grand Lodge was incorporated in the name , “The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Alabama” by Acts of the Legislature of Alabama December 9, 1859. To be designated in any other manner is illegal and erroneous.

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED* that all Subordinate Lodges be notified of action of the Grand Lodge in this respect and be governed accordingly.

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED* that a copy of the above and foregoing resolution be spread upon the minutes of the Subordinate Lodges for their future guidance. Adopted.