

History of Eureka Lodge No. 36
Free and Accepted Masons, (Prince Hall)
Rochester, New York

The first meeting of Eureka Lodge was held, under dispensation, in the Wilder Building May 8, 1879. The dispensation was granted by M.W. John Chase, Grand Master. The charter for Eureka No. 36 was granted on December 3, 1879. The charter members were: William H. Bruce, A.C. Wilson, Emanuel Myers, Abraham Taylor, John W. Parker, Augustus L. Johnson, E.H. Brown, Henry Johnson, Chauncey Vincent, William H. Coleman, T. Cleggett; and T.A. Henry Miller.

The first officers of Eureka were:

Worshipful Master.....	William H. Bruce
Senior Warden.....	Emanuel Myers
Junior Warden.....	A.C. Wilson
Treasurer.....	Chauncey J. Vincent
Secretary.....	Henry G. Johnson
Senior Deacon.....	E.H. Brown
Junior Deacon	William H. Coleman
Senior Master of Ceremony.....	Abraham D. Taylor
Junior Master of Ceremony	T. Cleggett
Chaplain	John W. Parker
Tyler.....	Johiah B. Jeffery

The charter was signed by:

M.W. A.J. Aldridge.....	Grand Master
R.W. Joseph T. Brown.....	Deputy Grand Master

R.W. George W.A. Murray.....Sr. Grand Warden
R.W. W.H. Johnson.....Jr. Grand Warden
R.W. J.A. Tower.....Grand Treasurer
R.W. Peter T. Jewell.....Grand Secretary

Among its many notable achievements over the years, one of which Eureka Lodge is most proud of, is the role it played in establishing the monument to the memory of the great abolitionist, writer, and orator, Frederick Douglas, which is now standing in Highland Park.

At a regular meeting of Eureka Lodge No. 36 held in Rochester, November 20, 1894, Bro. John W. Thompson made a motion that a committee be appointed for the purpose of raising funds for erecting a monument in memory of the Afro-American Soldiers and Sailors who had fallen in the wars of this country. The members appointed were: J.W. Thompson, Chairman., Thos. E. Platner, C.J. Vincent, R.L. Kent, H.A. Spencer, and Leon J. DuBois. As a connecting link, we, the nation in general and Rochester in particular mourned the passing of the Honorable Frederick Douglas, February 20, 1885.

When the committee held its next meeting it was decided that the monument would be erected in the memory of Mr. Douglas.

On July 20, 1898 at 3:30 p.m. the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of the State of NY, assembled with Eureka Lodge No. 36, and Estella Chapter No. 7 O.E.S. at the lodge rooms in the Durand Building. Accompanied by the 54th Regiment Band, they proceeded to Douglas Park (Central Avenue and St. Paul Street), where Grand Master E.R. Spaulding laid the cornerstone for the Frederick Douglas monument.

The Trowel that was used for the laying of the cornerstone (made of silver with an Ivory handle), was suitably engraved and presented to Grand Master E.R. Spaulding, by the members of Eureka Lodge No. 36 Free and Accepted Masons (P.H.)

In the year 1937 EUREKA had the distinction of hosting the 92nd Annual Communication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of the State of New York, in Rochester, NY. This was the first time that the Annual Communication was held outside of New York City. Once again in 1955, EUREKA had the honor to host the Grand Communication in Rochester, New York.

Throughout its one hundred year history, EUREKA LODGE has been fortunate to have attracted to its membership some of the greater Rochester community's most outstanding citizens. EUREKA LODGE

No. 36 is proud to note among its many bright moments:

There have been elected from its membership:
Two (2) Grand Masters of Masons and Three (3) Grand Wardens. In addition, there have been appointed from the membership of Eureka Lodge: Seven (7) District Deputy Grand Masters, two (2) Special District Deputies, one (1) District Deputy Grand Lecturer, two (2) Senior Grand Deacons, two (2) Grand Stewards, a grand Chaplain, three (3) Deputy Grand Marshals. One (1) member was appointed as District Deputy Grand Patron of Eureka Grand Chapter, O.E.S. (P.H.A.)

Members of Eureka Lodge No. 36 who served as Grand Lodge Officers:

M.W. Henry A. Spencer.....	Grand Master 1905-1914
R.W. John W. Thompson.....	Grand Warden
R.W. Augustus L. Johnson.....	Grand Warden
R.W. Henry C. Thomas.....	Grand Warden
R.W. Rev. James W. Brown.....	Grand Chaplain
R.W. Leon DuBois.....	D.D.G.M.
R.W. Samuel R. Ball.....	Grand Senior Deacon
R.W. Robert J. Carter.....	Grand Senior Deacon
M.W.L. Ernest DuBois.....	Grand Master 1954-1955
R.W. John G. Lee.....	D.D.G.M.
R.W. John W. Coles.....	D.D.G.M.
R.W. Charles D. Poles, Sr.....	Grand Stewart
R.W. James H. Clark.....	D.D.G.M.
R.W. James Logan.....	D.D.G.M.