

1732, when (Chief Justice) *William Allen* was the Grand Master, with *Benjamin Franklin* as one of the Wardens, and, in 1734, the latter became Grand Master. I am of the same opinion as Bro. Gould with respect to this Body. Clearly it was an *independent organization*, formed possibly after the manner or example of the old Lodge at York, which became a Grand Lodge in 1725, the "Grand Lodge of *Munster*" (Ireland), which was in working order a few years before the present Grand Lodge at Dublin, of 1729-30, and following the premier Grand Lodge of 1717, started in London, England. Each and all had equal rights to follow out their own wishes at the period in question, and we know that the earliest, or senior Grand Lodge was in the habit, for years afterwards, of granting Warrants to *Old Lodges*, so as to make them what they termed "regular" Bodies, thus acknowledging their legitimate Masonic status as Lodges previously, whilst separate and distinct organizations. This Grand Lodge at Pennsylvania, as the letters existing of 1734 prove, was looked upon by its promoters as the *peer of all others of the kind*, or of any other kind, in America, second only to the Grand Master and Grand Lodge of all America, by authority of England, if any such existed. That it worked a "Freemasonry" that was common to the other Bodies in America and England is proved by the appointment of Franklin as Provincial Grand Master of Pennsylvania in 1749 by *Oznard*, as Provincial Grand Master of America, and in the following year of *Allen* as Provincial Grand Master of Pennsylvania by Lord Byron, Grand Master of England. The former then became merged in the latter, and the Philadelphia Brethren were directly recognized in England.

4. The first Provincial Grand Master appointed for any part of America by the premier Grand Lodge of England was by Deputation dated June 5th, 1780, and issued to Daniel

Cox [Coxe] for "New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania," so that the three Provinces (or States) named can claim the honor of precedence in Masonic "regularity" as respects America, so far as the name or title goes. What Cox did by virtue of his Patent we know not. The celebrated "Bell Letter" has been cited in proof that he granted a Warrant for a Lodge in Philadelphia, but if he did (which is not proved) it could not, in my opinion, have been the one referred to at length under No. 2 of this article, and for the time being, at least, I think the "Bell Letter" may as well be left out of the question, unless, as Bro. Meyer suggests, it is corroborated by other evidence. At present, the origin of a Lodge at New York known as "No. 1," is not accounted for, and others may be mentioned that as yet cannot be satisfactorily explained. Some may have been Cox's, or may not, and there we must leave the matter. Possibly there may be "time-immemorial" organizations as at Philadelphia,—of conjecture there is no lack, but of evidence there is none.

5. The earliest Lodge that was warranted by a Provincial Grand Master, for any part of America, and which was subsequently acknowledged and placed on the Register of the Grand Lodge of England, was No. 126, at Boston, in 1733, so that to *Massachusetts* is due the honor of having the premier warranted Lodge for any part of America (being also still in existence), by authority of the second Provincial Grand Master in America, appointed by the Grand Master of England. No lodge of the "Moderns" ever appears on the English Register, hailing from Pennsylvania, which is a singular fact, and proves that if Cox did warrant any, he did not send any reports to headquarters. Even when Allen, Franklin & Company were acknowledged by England, their Lodge or Lodges do not appear on the Register.

In conclusion, I desire to state