

DIVISION IX.

● ● ● BRITISH AMERICA. ● ● ●

Outline History of The Grand Lodge of Canada, in the Province of Ontario.

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● ● ● CHAPTER I. ● ● ●

CRAFT MASONRY IN ONTARIO.

Prefatory. — To give the reader a fair idea of Craft work in Ontario, — this central and fruitful province of the Canadian federation, — and to thoroughly seize the mind with the contents of such records as we have, we must peer into the closing days of the eighteenth century, and, feeble as the tracings are, endeavor to build up, — and not without tangible foundation, — a sense of antiquity for Craft work, of which we to-day, with our roll of twenty thousand Craftsmen, should well be proud.

Infallible beings we think we are, and yet we oftentimes fail; so that if in the search for truth concerning our brethren of the olden time error should creep in, blame it not on the writer, but rather on our bygone brethren, who, without thought of the future, and regardless of wear of mind and body, have kept their records so illy preserved that the writer has journeyed over this vast Dominion to make up the history of their Masonic lives.

The Craft history of Upper Canada, now Ontario, must be considered in seven divisions or eras, some of brief duration, others covering a long period of years, and one, — the present, — is now making headway into its fourth decade on a basis that is, we feel assured, lasting, and which will exist until time shall be no more.

The First period is from about 1780 until 1792, when a few lodges, in different parts of the Province, worked without a local governing head, although it is true that one of these lodges at Cataraqui, now Kingston, was under the control of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Lower Canada.