

largely lost sight of in this jurisdiction) appears to have been carefully kept up, that is the observance of the festivals of St. John. There is much room for improvement here in this respect. In some years both days (St. John the Baptist and St. John the Evangelist) were honoured by banquets or other forms of celebration, but those lodges holding under the Grand Lodge of England usually limited their Masonic festivities to the December anniversary, on which day the annual communication of the District Grand Lodge was held. The proceedings generally terminated with a banquet conducted on the best and most liberal scale and generally attended by many prominent personages in Church and State. To show how these functions were carried out by our forefathers, let me instance the celebration of the Evangelist's day in 1846, a full and interesting account of which will be found in The Royal Gazette of Dec. 30, of that year.

This was only one of many similar events; and the record of such proceedings, when available, deserve careful preservation by the future historians of this jurisdiction. They constitute a most attractive feature of the life of that period and undoubtedly were a source of great strength to the Craft; it is greatly to be regretted that today instances of this social and fraternal tendency are conspicuous by their absence. Both English and Scottish bodies joined in these festivities, and in similar events held occasionally on the 30th of November, the festival of St. Andrew, no which day the annual communication of the Provincial Grand Lodge under Scottish authority was always held. In 1838 all Halifax Masons took part in the great parade or procession in celebration of the coronation of Queen Victoria and a most eloquent address of congratulation on this event was presented to His Excellency the Governor on behalf of the Free Masons of this province. In 1849 the Craft also took a prominent part in the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the settlement of Halifax. Several lodges marched in the procession, all in full regalia, each lodge preceded by its banner. On this occasion our brethren began their Masonic duties at 6. a. m., probably a unique instance of the early opening of a lodge in this or any other British North American jurisdiction.

On the 19th of July, 1850, another centenary took place; on this time it was purely Masonic, being in honour of the establishment of the Craft in Halifax one hundred years before. On this noteworthy occasion a large number of the brethren attended an emergent communication of the Provincial Grand Lodge, after which they marched in procession, the Scottish lodges headed by pipers in Highland costume, and