

however the returns made yearly to the Grand Lodge of England, some few documents in the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia, and the newspapers published in Halifax to assist us in piecing together the story of the early days of the Lodge. From these sources however there cannot be left the slightest doubt in the mind of the searcher after facts that the Lodge enjoyed after the receipt of the charter of 1768 an absolutely unbroken record of existence.

Masonic Progress. Throughout the period under consideration, the Lodge, then known as No. 155, was virtually the Grand Lodge of not only the Province but what are now the Maritime Provinces. The Provincial Grand Lodge under the Hon. Jonathan Belcher had never been very active, and had allowed Lodges Nos. 3, 5 and 6 to expire, and Lodge No. 2 to transfer to the Moderns. Apart from No. 6 there is no evidence of the establishment of any subordinate Lodge. Probably the Grand Lodge ceased its activities about 1770. The Hon. Jonathan Belcher died in 1776, and after his death the position was not filled and Grand Lodge did not meet again. From about 1770 to 1780, Lodge 155 (Ancients) Lodge No. 1 (Moderns) and an occasional transient military Lodge were the only Masonic organizations in Halifax.

The North British Society. On March 26th, in the very first year of this period, and in the nineteenth year of the settlement of the town, there was founded a society which has lived side by side with the Lodge until this present day, and is still more vigorous than ever, the North British Society. The first meeting was held at the house which still stands at the corner of Granville and Salter Streets and now occupied by G. A. Perrier. It was the residence of Mr. John Taylor, one of the founders of the Society and a petitioner to the Ancients for the charter of 1768 of Lodge 155. At the same meeting the constitution and by-laws of the Society were unanimously adopted. It has been stated so many times that the Lodge and the North British Society were founded on the same day by the same men that many of the members of these societies believe it to be so. Probably the fact that the Lodge is now designated by the name of the Patron Saint of Scotland has helped to foster this belief. The minutes of the North British Society however,