

reading public have been limited to two; one a book entitled "A concise account of the Rise and Progress of Freemasonry in the Province of Nova Scotia from the first settlement of it to this present time 1786"—of which the only copy known to exist is in the library of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts; the other a pamphlet of 32 pages "Early History of Masonry in Nova Scotia"—being a lecture delivered before Virgin Lodge, Halifax, in June, 1910, by our late lamented Brother Hon. William Ross, formerly Grand Secretary of this jurisdiction. This latter work is well known to many of you.

A monumental and most interesting history of the Craft in all Canada has been published by M. W. Bro. J. Ross Robertson, of Toronto; it is a credit not only to the Dominion but to the Empire, and few works of the sort throughout the Masonic world approach its high standard of excellence.

Disregarding as of minor consequence certain hieroglyphics which were found in 1827 on a stone near Annapolis Royal, we learn that the founder, and first great figure in our Masonic life was Erasmus James Philips, Major of His Majesty's 40th Regiment of Foot, who sometime prior to 1726—the exact date is unknown, and of little importance—came to Annapolis Royal. He was made a Mason in Boston in 1737, being then 31 years of age. In 1739 or 1740 he apparently received from the Provincial Grand Master of New England a warrant as Provincial Grand Master of Acadia, and bears this title in the record of the minutes of the Boston lodge. Of his Masonic work in Annapolis we practically know nothing, but undoubtedly a lodge was established there. As far back as 1854 the then Provincial Grand Master of Nova Scotia, the Honorable Alexander Keith, in his address at the annual communication of the Provincial Grand Lodge, referred to Annapolis Royal as the "cradle of Masonry in Nova Scotia" The work done by this lodge was still in evidence when, in 1749, Halifax came into being as a civilized community. Now appears on the scene one of the most distinguished Masons in Nova Scotian life—Hon. Edward Cornwallis, founder and first Governor of town and province; and on 12th of June, 1750, a petition came to Major Philips signed by Cornwallis and four other men prominent in the social life of the young town,—Wm. Steele, Robert Campbell, William Nesbitt, and David Haldane—requesting a Warrant to be granted them to hold and establish a lodge in Halifax. This was granted, and the Warrant received on the 19th of July, on which date began Masonry in this city; Governor Cornwallis was the first W. M., and on leaving the province was succeeded in the chair by Gover-

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