

In March, 1776, Lord Howe's army arrived in Halifax from Boston which had been evacuated early in that month. One hundred transports were used for the army consisting of 200 officers and 1500 men. The transports also brought with them about 1500 Loyalist refugees with their families. Many of these refugees afterwards became members of the Craft in Halifax, a number of them becoming prominent members of St. Andrew's Lodge. The Army of Lord Howe began its preparations in May to leave the town for New York.

The Loyalists referred to in the last paragraph became useful citizens of the town a number of them holding positions of great responsibility. It is also a curious fact that from about this time all of the important offices were filled by members of the Craft. In one year for which the records are available the four members of the Assembly, fifteen out of seventeen of the Magistrates, the Collector of Customs, and other officers of the town, were members of the Fraternity.

Masonry in Halifax, 1768. When Lodge 155 began its career under the Ancients, there were in Halifax as we have already seen, the following Lodges;

The Provincial Grand Lodge, presided over by the Hon. Jonathan Belcher, Provincial G. M.

Lodge No. 2—John Finney or John Browne, Master.

Lodge No. 3—John Pollard, Master.

Lodge No. 4—(now St. Andrew's) John Cody, Master.

Lodge No. 5, John Rea, Master, and very shortly afterwards we find Lodge No. 6, John Wadsworth, Master. (Curiously enough, all the presiding Masters possessing the Christian name of "John").

In 1770 we find No. 2 possibly others dropping out, and "The Lodge No. 1 at Halifax" (Moderns) holding meetings at Halifax.

Lodge Records. Before referring to the progress of the Lodge during this period from 1768 to 1784, a word must be said respecting the difficulty of obtaining full information about many matters. Unfortunately the minutes of the Lodge prior to 1802, are altogether missing, and previous to 1784 the records are fragmentary. We have