

CHAPTER V.

Lodge 155 (Ancients) 1767-8

Was Lodge 155 the legitimate successor of the First Lodge of 1750? This is a bold question to ask, for if answered in the affirmative it gives to the present day St. Andrew's Lodge, No. 1, nearly eighteen years more of history, and dates its establishment back to July 19th, 1750, when under the guiding hand of the Hon. Edward Cornwallis the new Lodge assembled to confer upon "a number of Navy Gentlemen" the first degree in Masonry. Can this question be answered in the affirmative? What is there to support such a theory?

First, we are able to trace the First Lodge in the Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts until April 24th, 1767. We know that it ceased working shortly after this, for it is not mentioned in the Massachusetts records, and Calcott's list in 1769 does not refer to it. Furthermore, the establishment of "The Lodge No. 1 at Halifax" by the Moderns in 1770 would not have been necessary had the original First Lodge been in existence.

Secondly, numerous instances of the transfer of Lodges from the jurisdiction of one Grand Lodge to that of the other can be cited. That such a transfer took place when the Modern Lodge of 1770 was chartered there cannot be any doubt. There were at this time in Halifax a strong Provincial Grand Lodge and two subordinate Lodges, owing allegiance to the Ancients, and it is not unreasonable to assume that the members of the only Modern Lodge in the town would feel somewhat out in the cold on such occasions as St. John's Day dinners.

Thirdly, Lodges Nos. 4 and 5 were not established by the Provincial Grand Lodge, which doubtless chartered Lodge No. 6 about the same time, but by an application to the Grand Lodge of England. This would not have been necessary, except in a most unusual case or one in which the powers of the Provincial Grand Lodge were in doubt. Such a case would be that of the transfer of a lodge of Modern Masons from their original jurisdiction to the jurisdiction of the Ancients, when the local Nova Scotia body might