

who from the year 1687 to 1690 was the largest landed proprietor, and also the Governor, of the Province of West Jersey. In 1691 Dr. Coxe sold the territory and government to the West Jersey Society for £9,000. He was thus a man of large wealth, and all authorities agree in attributing to him as well, great activity of intellect and enterprise of character. And he was distinguished in England before his arrival in America, having been the physician to both the Queen of King Charles II. and to Queen Anne.

In 1702, in consequence of commotions and disagreements, the several proprietors of East and West Jersey surrendered its government to Queen Anne, who the same year appointed Edward Hyde, Lord Viscount Cornbury, (the grandson of the illustrious Earl of Clarendon, and a cousin to the Queen,) the first Royal Governor of the United Provinces of East and West Jersey. His title is worth giving in full. It was: Governor-in-Chief of Her Majesty's Province of Nova Cesarea or New Jersey, New York, and all the Territories and Tracts of Land depending thereon in America, and Vice-Admiral of the Same."

At this point we commence the immediate biography of America's first Grand Master.

In 1702, Bro. Daniel Coxe was recommended to Queen Anne as a member of the Provincial Councils of New Jersey and New York. Certain parties objected, alleging that he had no real property in New Jersey, and also that he encouraged the people in their opposition to the election law. Lord Cornbury, the next year, appointed him to the command of all the forces in West Jersey, and henceforth he was known as Col. Coxe. He replied to those who opposed him, that he was in a controversy with the Proprietors concerning certain lands of his father's which they unjustly withheld from him, and that if he had been factious, Lord Cornbury would not have entrusted him with the military command of his forces. In 1705, he was successively recommended as a member of the Council by Lord Cornbury to the Board of Trade, then by the Board of Trade to the Queen, and in the same year he was approved, and received his appointment. He continued a member of the Council for eight years, until 1713, under the administrations of Governors Ingoldsby and Hunter, although his enemies were actively intriguing for his removal during the greater part of the time.

Lord Cornbury proved to be an arbitrary and tyrannical Governor. In consequence, the Assembly petitioned the Queen for his removal, whereupon he addressed Her Majesty in reply, and Bro. Coxe, with others, endorsed his reply. This fact drew upon the latter the hatred of the Governor's enemies. Notwithstanding this fact, in 1715, Col. Coxe was again elected to the Assembly, as a representative from Gloucester, and the following year he was chosen Speaker. Governor Hunter's party again becoming powerful, Coxe and his party were expelled from the Assembly, ostensibly on account of absenting themselves. At this time Col. Coxe resided in Bristol. His friends, in testimony of their confidence in the justice of his course, raised a subscription and sent him to England, where he arrived in November, 1716, and was favored by the Lord Chancellor and Lord Townshend. Governor Hunter, it was, who about this time wrote to Dean Swift, "Here is the finest air to live upon in the universe; and if our trees and birds could speak, and our *Assemblymen keep silent*, the finest conversation, too."

The minutes of the Grand Lodge of England show that, on January 29, 1731, at the meeting of that Grand Body, Bro. Daniel Coxe was present, and his health was drank, as "Provincial Grand Master of *North America*." This fact shows that at that date there was *no other* Provincial Grand Master besides Bro. Coxe in America. This was over two years before the appointment of Bro. Henry Price as Provincial Grand Master of Massachusetts.

In 1734, while Hooper was Chief Justice of New Jersey, Col. Coxe was appointed Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, and continued to hold this high office for a period of five years, until his death.

We should here allude to Bro. Coxe's fame as an author, for he composed two works, one of which was noted in its day, and since esteemed valuable enough to be reprinted in full in the present Collections of the Historical Society of Louisiana; and the other was not published until two years after his death. The latter was entitled "Collection of Voyages and Travels, London, 1741. 8vo." The full title of the former (the most valuable, curious and interesting to readers of the present day) is as follows:

"A Description of the English Province of CAROLINA, by the Spaniards called Florida, and by the French *La Louisiana*—as also of the great and famous river Meschacebe or Mississippi, the five vast navigable lakes of fresh water, and the parts adjacent, with an account of the commodities and their growth and production in the said Province. By DANIEL COXE. London: 1722."

There was so large a demand for this book that three additions of it were printed—in 1722, 1727, and 1741.

Its purpose is worthy of explanation, as well as its contents.