

It will therefore be seen that the Lodge "Star of the East," expired in 1781, was re-established in 1794, expired again in 1798 and was re-established in 1813, a total lapse of 28 years.

The Lodge of "Industry and Perseverance," struggled through the first period with great difficulty, but from 1804 to 1813 its light went out completely.

Other gaps of no consequence may have occurred in the previous or later history of these lodges but they did not in any way prejudice the existence of the Lodge. The breaks to which we have referred at length, however, undoubtedly did so for the revival of these lodges in 1813 was due in each case to the exertions of demitted members who were not on the membership rolls when they ceased to work. Dues had not been paid by the brethren for many years, the Provincial Grand Lodge was extinct, and Masonry had entirely ceased to exist as an organization.

Contrast the record of any one of these six lodges with the uninterrupted story of at least 150 years of continuous Masonic history and work to the credit of St. Andrew's Lodge No. 1, R. N. S., and you have the answer to the question which is the title of this paper. The writer is willing to submit the facts to any three disinterested past Grand Masters of any jurisdiction and abide by their decision, confident in the belief that St. Andrew's is entitled to the distinction of being not only the oldest Lodge in Canada but of being the oldest in the Empire outside the British Isles.