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### FREEMASONRY IN AMERICA.

Freemasons' Lodges in America are of recent date. Upon application of a number of brethren residing in Boston, a warrant was granted by the Right Honorable and Most Worshipful Anthony, Lord Viscount Montague, Grand Master of Masons in England, dated 30th April, 1733, appointing the R. W. Henry Price, Grand Master of North America, with full power and authority to appoint his deputy, and other Masonic officers necessary for forming a Grand Lodge; and also to constitute lodges of free and accepted Masons, as often as occasion should require.

In consequence of this commission, the Grand Master opened a Grand Lodge in Boston,\* on the 30th July, 1733, in due form, and appointed the R. W. Andrew Belcher, Deputy Grand Master, and Thomas Kennelly and John Quann, Grand Wardens.

The Grand Lodge being thus organised, under the designation of St. John's Grand Lodge, proceeded to grant warrants for instituting regular lodges in various parts of America; and from this Grand Lodge originated the first Grand Lodges in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Barbadoes, Antigua, Newfoundland, Louisburg, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Surinam, and St. Christopher's.

In 1775, hostilities commenced between Great Britain and America. Boston became a garrison, and was abandoned by many of its former inhabitants. The regular meetings of the Grand Lodges were terminated, and the brethren of St. John's Grand Lodge held no assembly until after the re-establishment of peace.

There was at that time also a Grand Lodge holden at Boston, upon the ancient establishment, under the designation of "The Massachusetts Grand Lodge," which originated as follows:—

In 1755, a number of brethren residing in Boston, who were ancient masons, in consequence of a petition to the Grand Lodge of Scotland, received a dispensation, dated Nov. 30, 1752, from Sholto Charles Douglas, Lord Aberdour, then Grand Master, constituting them a lodge, under the title of St. Andrew's Lodge, (No. 82), to be holden at Boston.

This establishment was discouraged and opposed by the St. John's Grand Lodge, who thought their privileges infringed by the Grand Lodge of Scotland; they therefore refused to have any intercourse with the St. Andrew's Lodge for several years.

The prosperous state of St. Andrew's Lodge soon led its members to make great exertions for the establishment of an ancient Grand Lodge in America

which was soon effected in Boston, by the assistance of travelling lodges, belonging to the British army who were stationed there.

1769, December, 27.—The festival of the evangelist was celebrated in due form. When the brethren were assembled, a commission from the Right Hon. and M. W. George, Earl of Dalhousie, Grand Master of Masons in Scotland, dated the 30th of May, 1769, appointing Joseph Warren to be Grand Master of Masons in Boston, and within one hundred miles of the same, was read, and he was, according to ancient usage, duly installed into that office. The Grand Master then appointed and installed the other grand officers, and the Grand Lodge was at this time completely organised.

Between this period and the year 1791, this Grand Lodge granted warrants of constitution for lodges to be holden in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Vermont, and New York.

In the year 1773, a commission was received from the Right Hon. and M. W. Patrick, Earl of Dumfries, Grand Master of Masons in Scotland, dated March 3, 1772, appointing the R. W. Joseph Warren, Esq., Grand Master of Masons for the continent of America.

In 1775, the meetings of the Grand Lodge were suspended, by the town of Boston becoming a garrison.

At the battle of Bunker's Hill, on the 27th June, this year, Masonry and Grand Lodge met with a heavy loss in the death of Grand Master Warren, who was slain contending for the liberties of his country.

Soon after the evacuation of Boston by the British army, and previous to any regular communication, the brethren, influenced by a pious regard to the memory of the late Grand Master, were induced to search for his body, which had been rudely and indiscriminately buried in the field of slaughter. They accordingly repaired to the place, and, by the direction of a person who was on the ground at the time of his burial, a spot was found where the earth had been recently turned up. Upon moving the turf, and opening the grave, which was on the brow of a hill, and adjacent to a small cluster of sprigs, the remains were discovered in a mangled condition, but were easily ascertained,\* and being decently raised, were conveyed to the State House in Boston; from whence by a large and respectable number of brethren, with the late grand officers, attending in procession, they were carried to the stone chapel, where an animated eulogium was delivered by Bro. Perez Morton. The body was then deposited in the silent vault; without a sculptured stone to mark the spot; but, as the whole earth is the sepulchre of illustrious men, his

\* Sometimes called the "Grand Lodge of modern Masons."

\* By an Artificial Tooth.