

Apart from the Naval character of the Lodge we find a large number of master mariners joining the Lodge, so that in course of time a very large proportion of the membership followed the sea. In 1801, nine of the 74 members were sea-captains not including of course those who belonged to the Navy itself. At a later period the Lodge became virtually a mariners' Lodge but of that more anon.

The Lodge's Meeting Places. We have not been able to discover with certainty where the Lodge held its meetings during the period under review. In 1783, it met at the "Pontac" (Willis') Tavern. The probability is that in 1784, it removed to the "Golden Ball" where it labored until about 1798. About that year it removed to the Grand Lodge rooms, on Grafton St. in the building No. 111, still standing in the rear of St. Paul's parish hall. This house is it would seem upwards of 130 years of age, and it is interesting to Masons of the present day not only because of its connection with the Craft in Halifax, but because of an arch shown in it in the room used by the lodges in the early days.

On April 15th, 1801, we find a notification to Grand Lodge "of the removal of the place of meeting from the late Grand Lodge room, Grafton St., to the house of Widow Stewart, in Water St. corner of Duke St." Widow Stewart's place of refreshment was in the rear of the present Board of Trade rooms, and across Duke St. from the "Pontac". The Lodge continued to meet here until the completion of the new Masons' Hall, Barrington St., about 1802, when along with the other town lodges it removed to the new premises.

Lodge Meetings. The record of a lodge meeting in the early years of last century forms interesting reading. The meetings took place at Masons' Hall, Barrington St. The minutes frequently record the attendance of only the senior officers of the Lodge, and the tyler.

The Lodge opened on either the 1st., 2nd, or 3rd degree, it did not matter which. The minutes of the last meeting were read, also one or more communications from other Lodges notifying the exclusion or suspension of a brother "for unmasonic conduct" (which generally meant the non-payment of dues or non-attendance at meetings). Some one rises to propose a new member; this is seconded and a ballot is taken; and if unanimous the Secretary is directed to