

1. The Lodge of Antiquity, No. 1, Montreal, and
2. Albion Lodge, No. 2, Quebec, both on the Registry of Quebec;
3. St. Paul's Lodge, No. 374, Montreal, P. Q., and
4. St. John's Lodge, No. 115, Gibraltar, both on the Registry of England;
5. The Lodge, Star of the East, No. 67, and
6. The Lodge of Industry and Perseverance, No. 109, both at Calcutta, India, and on the Registry of Bengal.

I propose stating the facts of each case with very little comment, leaving the Fraternity at large to judge as to the merits of the claims of these lodges. I submit, however, that in order to substantiate any claim to the distinction, a claimant must show,

(a) the establishment of the Lodge under a dispensation or warrant regularly granted;

(b) a continuous history from establishment to the present time. By "continuous" I mean uninterrupted, without dormant periods, or virtual extinction through the cessation of its meetings, or the reduction of the number of its members below the legal number, or the abandonment of its corporate existence or continuance so as to leave doubt as to its intention to continue, and

(c) there must be direct or circumstantial evidence, such as would be accepted among the Craft for the claims asserted.

It may not be uninteresting at this point to refer to the history of St. Andrew's Lodge, No. 1, which it is admitted is the oldest in Nova Scotia, and which easily complies with the above rules which I have laid down, so far as any claims it might make are concerned. There is abundant evidence in the records of the "Ancients" in England from 1768-1813, the Provincial Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia, from 1784-1869, the minute books of the Lodge and other lodges, the current newspapers from 1767 to date and other sources, of an absolutely unbroken history of more than one hundred and fifty years. The original warrant granted by the "Ancients" on March 26th, 1768, is still in possession of the Lodge and has never been surrendered or absent from its meetings. From that date to the present time not a shadow of a suspicion can be imputed against its position. There are some who would willingly take up the challenge on its behalf for an existence