

The Second period dates from 1792 until 1817, during which time the Provincial Grand Lodge, warranted by the Athol Grand Lodge, struggled for an existence at York (Toronto).

The Third period is from 1817 until 1822, when, under the care of the Grand Masonic Convention at Kingston, — practically a Provincial Grand Lodge, — the Craft work was revived and kept well in hand.

The Fourth period is from 1822 until 1830, during which time the second Provincial Grand Lodge, under Right Worshipful Brother Simon McGillivray, and warranted by the United Grand Lodge of England, was organized and flourished.

The Fifth period is from 1830 until 1845, when the Provincial Grand Lodge became dormant, and the lodges led rather quiet lives.

The Sixth period, from 1845 until 1855, when the Provincial Grand Lodge of Upper Canada was revived, under Right Worshipful Brother Sir Allan Napier McNab and Right Worshipful Brother T. G. Ridout.

The Seventh period, which includes the formation of the Grand Lodge of Canada in 1855, the dissolution in 1857 of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Canada under England, the creation in the same year of the Ancient Grand Lodge of Canada and the union of the both organizations under the style and title of the Grand Lodge of Canada.

The First Period. — With this apologetic preamble, let us wander back to the days of the first period, in 1780, and, in our fancy, picture an evening within the shelter of the old fort at Niagara, when the brethren of the lodge, known as No. 156, in the King's or 8th Regiment of Foot, unfolded the volume of the Sacred Law, and the soldier Masons expounded the principles and teachings of our Craft, and gave an impetus to the work that to-day is felt in what is now known as the Tenth Masonic District, the old Niagara District, — the birthplace of Masonry, — in this Province.

That the reader may fairly comprehend the situation in these early times, it should be pointed out that in Upper Canada there was no governing body of the Craft prior to 1792, and that all the lodges were either working under direct warrants granted by the Grand Lodge of England, or under warrants issued by the Provincial Grand Lodge of Quebec, where the Craft art had been practised as early as 1760, the year following the conquest of the ancient city.

The assertion is made by a distinguished authority that the earliest lodges in Canada were established by warrants from New England. While this statement is correct in the sense that some warrants were granted by American authority, the history of the lodges of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, and Ontario shows, that, with the exception of three or four lodges, — and those not of early creation, — all received their authority from Provincial Grand bodies which had been erected by the Mother Grand Lodges across the sea. The purview of the writer of this chapter is limited to the jurisdiction within