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### HISTORY OF MASONRY IN CANADA.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE CRAFTSMAN.

The following notes relating to the history of Free Masonry in Upper Canada were put together for the information of St. John's Lodge, No. 3, Kingston. I send them to you in the hope that their publication may lead every Brother in the province to feel that it is his duty to add to the material already collected, by hunting up and preserving every document that may tend to throw light on the subject.

S. D. F.  
P. G. Sen. Warden.

The Grand Lodge of Canada fully alive to the importance of compiling a history of the Craft in this province, appointed a committee, several years since, to collect materials for that purpose. Some considerable progress has been made by this Committee, they have in their possession a number of Masonic documents collected from various quarters, and have examined others which they were obliged to return to the lodges to whom they belonged. I am convinced there are still many valuable records extant, hid away, and perhaps forgotten in old lumber chests, both in lodges, and in the possession of old Masons or their descendants, which further enquiry may bring to light, and it is to be hoped that ere long a competent historiographer will, with more materials at command, be able to compile a complete Masonic history of Canada.

I have thought it would be interesting to the members of one of the oldest Lodges in Canada, and the only Lodge, so far as I know, that has been able to produce its records unbroken and un mutilated from its formation in 1794 to the present day, to know a little more than they do of the history of the Craft in Canada, and have therefore culled a few extracts from Lodge Minute Books, and other old Masonic documents (which as a member of the Committee of Grand Lodge, referred to above have come under my notice), accompanied by explanatory remarks.

In tracing the early history of Masonry in this country, it must be remembered that during the greater part of last century there existed in England Two Grand Lodges, each claiming and exercising jurisdiction in the Colonies, and even in foreign countries, whose conflicting claims were put an end to in 1813, by "their incorporation and consolidation into one United Grand Lodge."

Almost all the old Lodges of Upper Canada, or at least those, any of whose records are still extant, derived their origin from what is commonly called the Athol Grand Lodge, and none of these date

further back than 1794, but that there were at one time Lodges hailing from the other section of the English Craft is evident from the following list taken from a Masonic "Vade Mecum" published in London in 1797, and now in my possession. :-

No. 151,	Merchants Lodge,	Quebec.
" 152,	St. Andrew's	do.
" 153,	St. Patrick's	do.
" 155,	Select	do.
" 154,	St. Peter's	Montreal.
" 414,	St. Paul's	do.
" 428,	Select	do.
" 522,	St. John's Lodge of Friendship,	Montreal.
" 239,	Lodge at	Detroit.
" 320,	Union Lodge,	do.
" 376,	St. John's Lodge,	Michilimacinac.
" 426,	Lodge of Unity,	Fort Henry.
" 427,	St. James Lodge,	Cataraqui.
" 429,	New Oswegatchie Lodge.	
" 430,	St. John's Lodge,	Niagara.
" 498,	Rawden	between the Lakes.
" 523,	United	Cornwall.

And that the most of the above mentioned lodges were not, even at that time, of a very recent date, is proved by the fact that in the same list we find a Lodge at Yarmouth, (England,) set down as No. 564.

So far as I have yet learned, there are no records of any of these Lodges now remaining in Upper Canada, with the exception of a portion of the minutes and other documents of the "Rawden Lodge" extending from 1797 to 1800, and at that time meeting at York. These minutes during this period are complete, but judging from its number as shewn in the above list, this lodge must have been working for several years prior to 1797.

I cannot say whether any of the Lodges enumerated above are still in existence in Lower Canada, or what materials may be extant there to compile a history of the Craft in that portion of the province, but the following advertisement copied from the first number of the Quebec Gazette published on the 21st June, 1764, shews that the first one on the list was at work one hundred and three years since.

"Notice is hereby given that on Sunday the 24th, being the Festival of St. John, such strange Brethren who may have a desire to join the Merchants Lodge, No. 1, Quebec, may obtain liberty by applying to Miles Prenties at the sun, in St. John street, who has tickets, price five shillings for the day."

I have also been led to understand that the "Union Lodge, Detroit," referred to, is still flourishing.

We turn reluctantly from these, undoubtedly the oldest Lodges in the province, to those that sprung