

Province-Wide Interest In Masonic Visitation

Freemasonry Nearing 150th Milestone In Prince Edward Island

Governor Fanning Was The First Initiated Mason In St. John's Lodge Opened In Charlottetown In 1797, When Province Was Known As St. John's Island. Masonry Closely Associated With Island's History Since That Time.

(The following sketch of Freemasonry in Prince Edward Island is extracted from Brother George W. Wastford's P. G. M. History of Prince Edward Island.)

The earliest records of Freemasonry was when the Brethren of H. M. Independent Company stationed on the Island of St. John (now Prince Edward Island) were granted a travelling Dispensation to form a Lodge on said Island by Letters 135 and 211 of Nova Scotia dated 29th May 1781, and known as St. George's Lodge. The Independent Company referred to became on their transfer to Halifax, the Royal Nova Scotia Regiment. In 1800 this Lodge became No. 24 R. N. S. and can be traced to the year 1802. When the Regiment was disbanded it is noteworthy that the meetings of this Lodge while in Charlottetown were probably the first Masonic meetings held in Prince Edward Island.

The next step taken to form a Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons on this Island was by letter dated Charlottetown, 22nd September, 1790, addressed to the Grand Master of Masons of Nova Scotia and signed by several Masters. The original letter is in the archives of the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia, but no record as to its disposal.

The next, and a successful attempt, was made by a letter dated Charlottetown, 14th July 1792, when a warrant dated Halifax Nova Scotia October 19th, 1797, authorizing the Worshipful Ebenezer Nicholson, Esq., one of our Masters, Masons, the Worshipful William Hillman, his Senior Warden and Worshipful Robert Lee his Junior Warden, to form and hold a Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons, at the house of Alexander Richardson or elsewhere in Charlottetown in the Island of St. John's, on the second Tuesday in each Calendar Month.

The house of Alexander Richardson was known as the "Cross Keys" and stood on the north-east corner of Queen and George streets. In it the first House of Assembly met in July 1793, and the Clerk of the Sessions was a Mr. Alexander Richardson.

First Lodge Opened

The following found in the Archives of the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia, is a record of the formation proceedings:

Proceedings of the Right Worshipful Grand Lodge held in Charlottetown in the Island of St. John, October 19th, 1797 pursuant to a Warrant issued by the Right Worshipful Brother Bulkeley, Grand Master of Ancient York Masons for the Province of Nova Scotia and its Dependencies, etc.

MEMBERS PRESENT

- R. W. Bro. J. Holland — W. Grand Master.
 - R. W. Bro. A. Gordon — Senior Warden.
 - R. W. Bro. J. Curtis — Junior Warden.
 - R. W. Bro. J. Macgowan — Grand Secretary.
 - R. W. Bro. A. Smyth — Senior Deacon.
 - R. W. Bro. J. Webster — Junior Deacon.
- The Right Worshipful Deu Grand Master was pleased to open the Right Worshipful Grand Lodge

in the Third Degree of Masonry when the Warrant for holding the same was read (here is inserted the order for Installation) and duly acknowledged by the several Brethren after which the purpose for holding the aforesaid Lodge was explained.

Brother Ebenezer Nicholson, R. A. M. was then introduced in Masonic form, and acquainted that the Prayer of his Petition and that of the other Brethren of the Island and that a Warren empowering them to hold a Lodge by the name of St. John Lodge, No. 26 had been granted, and that the Right Worshipful Deu Grand Master was now ready to proceed according to Ancient form in the Installation of the said Lodge and the several officers.

Brother Nicholson was then invested with the Honorable Badge of Master, Brother Colledge as proxy for Brother Hillman in the place for Senior Warden and Brother Lee as Junior Warden. The following is a list of the twelve members on the above date: — Ebenezer Nicholson M. D., William Hillman, James Colledge, D. William Hillman, James Colledge, Army Officer, Robert Lee, Peter Macgowan, Attorney General, Alexander Gordon M. D., Alexander Smith, John Webster, James Curtis, late Lieut. Governor to Governor Patterson, John Clarke, Proprietor, Lot 49, Brother Thomas Alexander, an affiliate fellow Craft, was raised in November 1797.

Governor Fanning Initiated

Lieutenant Governor Frederick Augustus Fanning was the first member by petition. He was initiated 14th November 1797, passed and raised 12th December, 1797. He was elected Worshipful Master in 1801 and was continued in office for several years.

The Lodge has a copy of the Holy Bible presented to it by Governor Fanning in 1799 bearing the inscription "Frederick Augustus Fanning his book 1799."

The Treasurer's account book opened in February 1810 is still in use in St. John's Lodge.

Except for three years, (1848-1850) when the regular Communication was held on the second Friday, the Lodge has since its organization 1797, set apart the second Tuesday in each month for that purpose.

St. John's Lodge continued to be known as No. 26 on the Register of Nova Scotia until March 19th, 1929, the date of the Warrant granted by the United Grand Lodge of England and numbered 133 subsequently. In closing up of the numbers as 562 in 1832 and 397 in 1863.

Second Lodge Organized

A second Lodge was organized in 1828 under a Warrant of Constitution granted by the United Grand Lodge of England to be known as Sussex Lodge No. 822, Charlottetown. The Charter members were members of St. John's Lodge. It ceased to work in 1837. St. John's Lodge like many other Lodges, was shaken to its foundations during what was known as the Morgan Excitement 1826-1839. In twelve years from 1828 the records show initiated 5; passed 6; raised 8; and at one time the cash

The Story of Old Abegweit

("Abegweit" meaning Cradle-on-the-Sea) was the Indian name for Prince Edward Island.

In Old Abegweit, Micmac hunters staid in awe at the long-boats of Jacques Cartier who was the first white man to visit the Island and leave a record of what he saw. Many years after the curtain had been drawn for Europeans, there was neither audience nor actors on this Island stage. They came

French fishermen and traders eager to make their fortunes. These men did not stay but fled back to France before the approach of winter. For almost two centuries the land was a place of summer sojourn. Count de St. Pierre who once owned Isle St. Jean founded Port La Joie and St. Peters. Later, De Roma established a colony at Three Rivers (Brudenel P.I.) which was destroyed by the English. The French cleared much land and became rather prosperous. But in 1788 the British seized the island and carried many of the Acadians back to France. For the next four years St. John Island was left pretty much alone with its memories.

In 1763 the Island was ceded to Britain and placed under the rule of Nova Scotia. The Crown refused to agree to a scheme of Lord Egmont's to make the Isle a feudal kingdom. Captain Hosiard surveyed the island and divided it into three counties and 67 lots. The county capitals were to be Charlottetown, Georgetown and Prince George. The 64 lots were granted to army and naval officers who promised in return to bring out settlers and pay a small quit-rent. St. John Island was made separate province and Walter Patterson became its first governor. Soon after Charlottetown was plundered by American privateers. Within the next thirty years, 900 Loyalists settled here and Selkirk brought out the Skye Pioneers. Patterson was succeeded by the Loyalist governor, General Fanning. In 1799 the island was re-christened "Prince Edward Island" in honour of the Duke of Kent, father of Queen Victoria.

The Grand Lodge of Prince Edward Island

The first meeting called to consider the advisability of organizing a Grand Lodge of A. F. & A. M. in Prince Edward Island was held in St. John's Hall Charlottetown, October 31st, 1874, when several Brethren from St. John's and Victoria Lodges were present. When it was resolved, whereas it is the opinion of the Brethren here assembled that it would conduce to the best interest of our Ancient Order in this Island if an Independent Grand Lodge for Prince Edward Island could be constituted.

A committee was appointed in order to ascertain what steps are necessary to the formation of a Grand Lodge and to obtain all the information required. Letters were written to all the Lodges in the Province, and the subject, also to the Grand Lodges of England, Scotland, Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

After several meetings had been held the final meeting was held in Summerside on the 24th February 1875 when the eight Lodges were represented when it was unanimously voted that the various Grand Lodges of Free and Accepted Masons of Prince Edward Island, represented at this Connection of their duly authorized Delegates, desire to form a Grand Lodge of Prince Edward Island.

(Continued on page 11, Col 7)

Premier Campbell Voices Welcome Of Government



HON. THANE A. CAMPBELL, Premier of Prince Edward Island

Prince Edward Island today receives the representative members of the Grand Lodges of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons in the British Isles, the United States and our sister Provinces of the Dominion of Canada.

On behalf of the Government of the Province, I wish to extend to these visitors a cordial welcome to the Garden of the Gulf. To those members who are visiting the Island for the first time, I express my particular wish that they may find something that is pleasant in the beauty of our summer scenery and climate, and in the simple hospitality of our people.

I trust that their visits to the Town of Summerside, the City of Charlottetown, and to our famous beaches, as well as to our various industries, which they are invited to inspect, will be both pleasant and profitable to them.

The Grand Lodge of Prince Edward Island, A.F. & A.M., which is entertaining these distinguished guests, is a highly respected one and has accomplished much in the development of fraternity and citizenship in this Province.

THANE A. CAMPBELL, Premier.

spurred on by the thought of a large railway debt, the enemies of union with Canada became its friends and journeyed secretly to Ottawa to get the best terms that they could.

Then James C. Pope, the man who had introduced the Railway Bill, laid the terms of union before the Assembly which quickly gave its consent. On July 1, 1873,

Central Academy Established

The next governor was the aged DesBarres who died when he was 102. Then came Charles Douglas Smith, the tyrant, the Charles I. in our history. Smith's belief in the "divine right of governors" got him into a great deal of hot water. This worst of governors was succeeded by our best governor, Colonel John Ready who did much for the farmer and fisherman. During his regime Central Academy, the forerunner of P. W. C. was established, and ice-boats began to carry winter mail across the Strait. Soon after, a little steamer called the Pocomontus began to ply the open season between Charlottetown and Pictou. Sir Aretas Young was the first governor to live at the newly-built Government House. He rests in his lonely tomb under the chancel of St. Paul's Church. In 1843 the corner stone of the Colonial Building was laid and soon after there occurred the

Belfast Election Riot

A popular governor was Sir Donald Campbell of Dunstaffnage who was buried beside Governor Young's tomb.

George Coles and Edward Wignall are our best examples of public spirited statesmen. They were the Fathers of Responsible Government in P.E.I. and gave us our free schools. Both also tried to get those dogs-in-the-manger, to absent landlords, to sell the land to their tenants, but the Land Question was not solved until the island entered Confederation and got the help of Canada. The one score years before Confederation was a glorious age of soil for this island a time when our ships and sailors were to be found in all ports of the world and every harbor, creak and bay echoed to the sound of the shipbuilder's hammer.

Confederation Conference

On September 1, 1864, the Charlottetown Convention held in the Colonial Building, gained for this city the title of the "Cradle of Confederation". But on the street at the fireside and on the platform, the people of this proud little sea-grit province said repeatedly that they did not want union. Then in 1871, the first sod for our snake-like railway was turned, and the pen that signed the Railroad Bill wrote FINIS to the Island's independence. For

Charlottetown celebrated Dominion Day with the waving of flags, the booming of guns and the pealing of bells. As twelve noon struck the Dominion flag was run up on the Provincial Building, telling all the world that Islanders had become Canadians and that henceforth the story of P. E. I. was the story of Canada.

—G. E. H.

WELCOME A. F. & A. M. TO CANADA'S GARDEN PROVINCE



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Prince Edward Islanders are always glad of the opportunity to give expression to that spirit of hospitality for which they are justly famous throughout the world. Today we are especially honoured in having with us the representatives of the British, American and Canadian Masonic Grand Lodges.

It is with pleasure that we join in extending our most cordial

GREETINGS

to the visiting members of the

ANCIENT FREE and ACCEPTED MASONS WHO ARE BEING ENTERTAINED BY

The Grand Lodge of Prince Edward Island, A. F. & A. M.

May Their Visit Be One Full of Pleasant Memories and New Friendship

S. A. MacDONALD

WELCOME TO PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND



Fraternal Greetings from W. G. HOGG Confederation Life Association

Every True Citizen of this GARDEN PROVINCE heartily joins in extending CORDIAL SALUTATIONS to such distinguished visitors as are the present guests of THE GRAND LODGE OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND A. F. & A. M. ALLISON MACLEOD LTD. FORD DEALERS