

FIRST PERIODProvincial Grand Lodge of the Senior Grand Lodge of England
("Moderns")

Founded in the Eighteenth Century, St. Paul's Lodge of Montreal is an old lodge. The Eighteenth Century was of especial interest to the Craft as a whole; for it was in the beginning of this century that the first "Grand Lodge" was formed in London. Later in the same century, the second "Grand Lodge of Antient Masons" was formed, and in the latter part of this century the rivalry between these two opposition Grand Lodges became intense. And in the beginning of the Nineteenth Century, the two rival Grand bodies were peacefully united into the "United Grand Lodge of England", which exists today. St. Paul's Lodge was drawn in to the vortex of circumstances which attended this rivalry; and has therefore the unusual history of having been first "Modern", then "Antient", and finally "United".

In getting the Craft properly established in Canada, there were many changes in the early years. All subordinate Lodges used to report through Provincial Grand Lodges until the time of the beginning of the independent Grand Lodges in Canada, in the latter half of the Nineteenth Century. St. Paul's Lodge of Montreal therefore again had the interesting experience of reporting to four successive Provincial Grand Lodges. First, the first Provincial Grand Lodge of the Senior Grand Lodge of England ("Moderns"). Second, the Provincial Grand Lodge of Antients, during the period that H.E.H. the Duke of Kent was their Provincial Grand Master. Third, the Provincial Grand Lodge of Uniteds, from 1814 on, of which the Honourable Claude Denechau (formerly Deputy to the Duke of Kent) was Provincial Grand Master. Fourth, St. Paul's Lodge was active in promoting, and supported and largely officered the "Provincial Grand Lodge of the City of Montreal and the Borough of William Henry"; and stayed reporting to this last-named Provincial Lodge until (with the growth of independent Canadian Grand Lodges) Provincial Grand Lodges in Canada were given up in 1858; when St. Paul's began for the first time to report directly to the present Grand Lodge of England.

The first Grand Lodge was formed in 1717; and it is said that its records are vague for the first few years, but are complete and unbroken from 1723 on.¹ It was followed by the foundation of Grand Lodges both in Ireland and in Scotland. A number of Provincial Grand Lodges were started up; (at localities where travel was difficult to the City of London) these had their own Provincial Grand Masters, Wardens and other Officers, but were in all respects subordinate to the Grand Lodge itself. It also became customary to grant to the Officers of the British Line Regiments a Warrant authorizing the holding of subordinate Masonic Lodges at any locality where the Regiment happened to be stationed for a period. This was the general situation, when the first Provincial Grand Lodge was formed in the City of Quebec.

This first Provincial Grand Lodge at Quebec was formed at an important period of Canadian history, and under romantic circumstances. When Wolfe's soldiers arrived at Quebec in 1759, there were among the line Regiments a number with Military Charters. Quebec was captured on the 18th September, 1759, and on the 28th November, 1759 the Brethren met at Simpson's Coffee House in Quebec and decided to form a Provincial Grand Lodge for the proper carrying on of the Craft. All of these Regiments appear to have had their Military Charters from the Grand Lodge of Ireland; and it would have seemed most natural that they should therefore have asked for their proper Warrant or "deputation" from this Grand Lodge. Instead of which, they decided to operate without any Warrant at all until a favourable opportunity should offer for obtaining proper sanction from the Grand Master of England. The "Minute Book and Letter Book" of this first Provincial Grand Lodge (from its inception) is in the possession of the Grand Lodge of Quebec here in Montreal, and forms one of the most important of the records that they have in the Masonic Library in the new Masonic Temple at Montreal.

This Book was an actual Minute Book until Br. James Thompson was elected to be Provincial Grand Secretary, when he ceased

1) Daynes' "Birth and Growth of the Grand Lodge of England", Page 23.

using the book as a Minute Book, and began using it as a Letter Book in which copies of all letters sent and received were entered. The opening entry in the Minute Book reads as follows:

"Quebec on the 28th day of November 1759, and of Masonry 5759, which was as soon as convenient after the surrender of this place to His Britannic Majesty's Arms.

The Masons and Wardens of the following Lodges, viz: No. 192 in the 47th Regiment, No. 218 in the 48th Regiment, No. 245 in the 15th Regiment. Dispensation 136 in the 43rd Regiment, Dispensation 195 in the Artillery, all of the Registry of Ireland, and No. 1 of Louisburg Warrant; met in form at 6 o'clock in the evening when it was consulted and agreed upon as there were so many Lodges in this Garrison. That one of the Brethren present of the greatest skill and repute should take upon him the name of Grand Master from the Authority of the above Lodges until such time as a favourable opportunity should offer for obtaining a proper sanction from the Right Worshipful and Right Honourable the Grand Master of England, and in consequence thereof our True and faithful Brother, Mr. John Price Guinnett, Lieutenant in His Majesty's 47th Regiment was unanimously and to the great satisfaction of the whole Fraternity assembled proclaimed Grand Master for the ensuing year."

Apparently, these Military Lodges at first did not admit any civilians. But shortly afterwards the civilians of Quebec formed themselves into a Lodge known as Merchants Lodge No. 1, Quebec, and obtained a proper warrant or charter from the Grand Lodge in England. And at a meeting held on the 30th October, 1762, at which the Provincial Grand Lodge Officers were present, with the members of Select Lodge, No. 192 of Ireland (No. 10 in Canada); Lodge No. 3 of Canada; No. 6 of Canada; No. 11 of Canada; and as invited guests, "Merchants No. 1", Bro. Walker of the last named Lodge produced the Warrant that his Lodge had obtained from the Rt. Wor. and Rt. Hon. the Grand Master of Masons in England, and apparently caused the Provincial Grand Lodge to realize that it was quite easy to obtain a proper charter; and a committee was immediately formed to petition the

Grand Lodge of England to issue a proper warrant to the Provincial Grand Lodge to operate. This Committee consisted of the said Bro. Walker, now acting as Deputy G.M. in the Provincial Grand Lodge under G.M. Lt. G. Milburne Weste; and also Bros. Collier and Orr, the Provincial S. and J. Grand Wardens. The petition which was forwarded, is noted in full in this book, and dated the 8th November, 1762. This petition was signed by Wm. Paxton as Grand Secretary; and with the termination of this meeting he would seem to have ceased to act as Grand Secretary, the new Secretary, James Thompson, taking possession of the book.

Added to the Petition above referred to is this document, giving a "List of Lodges":

"We think it our duty to inform you that since our first convention we have on the proper application and after due examination into the worth and skill of certain Brethren at this place, Montreal, and others belonging to different Regiments, given the following dispensations, viz:-

Merchants Lodge No. 9 Quebec (This Lodge is that which is mentioned to have a warrant from England under the name of Merchants Lodge Quebec No. 1)

Military Lodges

x	"Select" Lodge		
	No. 2	Quebec	78th Regiment
x	No. 3	ditto	2nd Battn. Royal Americans
	No. 4	ditto	28th Regiment
	No. 5	ditto	3rd Battn. Royal Americans
x	No. 6	ditto	78th Regiment
	No. 7	ditto	Civil Branch of Ordnance (vacant)
	No. 8	ditto	35th Regiment
x	No. 10	ditto	Officers 47th Regiment
x	No. 11	ditto	Royal Artillery
x	No. 13	ditto	4th Battn. Royal Americans
x	No. 14	ditto	44th Regiment
x	No. 15	ditto	80th Regiment

No other Lodge in Canada but No. 192 from Ireland held in the 47th Regiment. N.B. Those marked thus x are at present in Canada and amount on the whole to about 150 Brethren.

Quebec 8th November 1762."1

The Provincial Grand Masters at Quebec, prior to the granting of any Grand Lodge Warrant, were as follows:

28 Nov. 1759	Lieut. John Price Guinnett,	47th Regt.	Lodge No. 10
24 June 1760	Col. Simon Fraser	78th "	" No. 6
24 Nov. 1760	Capt. Thos. Augustus Span	28th "	" No. 4
27 Dec. 1761	Lieut. Milburne Weste	47th "	" No. 10

1) Note: Merchants No. 1 had its first Charter from the G.L. at London; but the new P.G.L. at Quebec apparently pre-empted the earlier numbers for their Military Lodges; and moved this No. 1 down to No. 9. Just why the 47th takes No. 10 is nowhere apparent; but might be explainable on the grounds of courtesy on the part of their Lieut. Guinnett, first P.G.M. The 47th was gone from Quebec by 1770, when the No. 10 was given to St. Paul's Lodge.

The first Deputation appointing Lieut. Milburne Weste to be Provincial G.M. of Canada was signed by the Rt. Wor. G.M. Lord Ferrers on the 5th of May, 1764. This Warrant was brought out to Quebec by sailing ship, the vessel was delayed by adverse winds at the foot of the Island of Orleans, some distance below Quebec. Several of the brethren of the Provincial Grand Lodge had gone down to meet the ship, and they returned without waiting for the ship in the ship's pinnace to Quebec. This was upset in a storm and the brethren, and the "Deputation" document also, were drowned. A letter to Grand Lodge dated 14th October, 1766, relates the loss of this Deputation; and prays for the issue of a new Warrant. There was much correspondence, and many delays about the issue of the new Warrant, the Grand Lodge in England claiming that it must be a new Warrant, the Provincial Grand Lodge of Quebec claiming that it should be a duplicate Warrant and they should only pay a duplicate fee in consequence. However, the new Warrant was actually issued in 1768, while the Duke of Beaufort was Rt. Wor. Grand Master; and from that date, this Provincial Grand Lodge was duly regularized and authorized.

When it became evident that the proper Warrant would be issued in London, however, this new Provincial Grand Lodge began to occur itself by giving Charters to new civilian Lodges. They established two Lodges, St. Andrew's and St. Patrick's in Quebec; and then the first lodge ever formed in Montreal, which was named St. Peter's Lodge. Later, about 1767 Bro. Edward Antill was appointed Deputy Provincial Grand Master for the City of Montreal.

As the Senior Grand Lodge of England is said to have scant records from 1717 to 1733, so St. Paul's Lodge in Montreal is without any records of the name of its first Master and Officers. On the 18th of May, 1775 there appears a letter which gives the name of the Secretary of the Lodge, James Doig; (which is the earliest record at present of the name of any of its Lodge Officers) and there is evidence of some question about the success of the existing method of remitting dues to the P.G.L. at Quebec. The letter, addressed to Mr. James Thompson, the Provincial Grand Secretary of Quebec, reads as follows:

"Dear Brother:-

We the Master, Wardens and Brethren of Lodge No. 10, present our compliments and brotherly respects to you and the rest of our unacquainted brethren.

Brother, we understand you act as Grand Secretary. Introducing us, to let you know our proceeding. We had the honour of being installed under the sanction of the above Warrant the 26th December, 1770, by the Master and Wardens of St. Peter's Lodge No. 4, for which we paid five guineas for the Warrant, and two dollars to the Secretary for drawing said Warrant, and from that time to this present date, each member has paid one Halifax shilling to the Grand Charity, for all which we have receipts from the Worshipful Bro. Antill, but have not had the satisfaction to know if we are registered in the Grand Lodge or not. We have wrought according to our Instructions, skill and Knowledge in Masonry. We beg you will be so good as to let us know if we are to be owned as lawful Brethren or not.

We remain in sincerity, your friendly Brethren,

By order of the Master,

Jas. Doig, Secretary."

This was answered by Provincial Grand Secretary James Thompson on the 17th July, 1775, as follows:

"Your favour of 18th May last I received, and no doubt you have since been looking for an answer to it; but the nature of it is such that I could not with any propriety do, till I had the Grand Lodge's opinion thereon. I have therefore waited until the Quarterly Communication, which was held in ample form on Tuesday the 20th June last; when I laid your letter before them, the purpose of which among other things complained of, brought on a resolution, a copy of which you have herewith.

(This resolution calls each Lodge to make a full return to Quebec of all Officers, admissions, expulsions; and brotherly advice for the general good of the Craft). Pray what induced No. 10 to suspect they were not owned by the Provincial Grand Lodge here? it is true we do not communicate with you nor No. 4, (St. Peter's Lodge)

but with Bro. Antill who was appointed by the Grand Lodge to preside as Deputy Grand Master over all the Lodges within the District of Montreal. To lay your apprehension in this respect aside, I beg leave to acquaint you that you were always owned by the Grand Lodge here, and acknowledged by the Grand Lodge of England; and that when any donations are remitted from hence to England for Charitable Purposes, it goes in the name of No. 10, as well as those here. Tender my brotherly respects to your worthy Lodge when assembled."

Secretary Thompson then writes to Deputy P.G.M. Edward Antill at Montreal on the 30th August, 1775, as follows:

"A Committee of the Grand Lodge assembled at Mr. Prentus': on the 24th ulto. agreeable to appointment. In consequence of their proceedings, I was ordered to make some requisitions to the Master of every Lodge in the Province. I have done so, a copy of which I forwarded to you at the same time; and waited for answers from the two Lodges at Montreal, and that of yours until the 24th instant, when I assembled the Committee, and among other things laid before them a report from Lodge No. 10, which came to hand the day before.

In it are copies of Receipts from you and Mr. Beck, for dues, donations, etc., from 26th December, 1770, to 21st November, 1774, which amount to a considerable sum. The Committee have therefore agreed that you should be acquainted therewith, and has adjourned until return of post, when they expect your answer, that no deficiency on your part may appear on their report to the Grand Lodge, which is to meet in the course of next week. I am, with due respect, Sir,

Your very humble servant,"

(That there was friction existing is apparent to a Mason from the terms used in the signature of this letter).

Edward Antill replies to Mr. James Thompson, Quebec, on the 4th September, 1775, as follows:-

"Sir,-

I received yours of 30th ult. and in answer thereto, now mention that I had before both by letter and in person acquainted you that I had money in my hands for the Grand Lodge of Quebec; but the exact sum I never could ascertain on account of the breaking up of "St. Peter's Lodge" there, and the absence of Mr. Beck whom I had appointed acting Grand Secretary for this district, with whom the money was sometimes left indiscriminately with myself. However you will be so good as to draw upon me for the amount of my receipts, which Draft shall be duly paid; if you will let us know the amount of Mr. Beck's receipts, I will endeavour to produce that money for the Grand Lodge also. I have been at some expense in postage of letter, about 8/- Lawful; which I think should be deducted. With my respects to the Committee, I remain, your most obedient servant,"

On the 7th November, 1776, Grand Secretary, James Thompson writes a letter of encouragement to St. Paul's Lodge as under:

"Brethren of St. Paul's Lodge, No. 10, Quebec, Montreal,

We a Committee appointed by the Grand Lodge to look into and endeavour to raise the low state of Masonry in this Province, towards its wonted splendor, do most earnestly recommend to all and every of you on your parts, to be assisting as far as it is in your power, not only in punctual opening of your lodge, and working at the stated times, but that each one will where he has an intimate acquaintance, warmly remind him in a brotherly manner of his Duty and interest to rejoin his Lodge. This will redound to the honour of the Craft in general; but much more so to your own Lodge, at a time when you have no Deputy presiding over you, which we trust will not be long; as the Rt. Wpfl. G. Master told us at last Grand Lodge it was in his mind, and shall be done now soon as he can with propriety effect it. We also desire you will send by first opportunity a detail of your Lodge as it now stands; together with what dues and

donations you have at this time belonging to this Grand Lodge,
to our Br. Grand Sec'y.

We are, etc., etc.,

(Signed) Thos. Aylwin, D.P.G.M.
Miles Prentus, M. No. 3 St. Pat.
Jas. Thompson, M. No. 2
St. Andrews.

From this letter it is evident that Edward Antill has
been removed from his position as Deputy P.G.M. at Montreal.

The Historical Committee who compiled the "History
and By-Laws of St. Paul's Lodge", (published in 1870, and familiarly
known as the "Blue Book") did wonderful work at that time; but the
Minutes books of St. Paul's Lodge (which would have given invaluable
details of the progress of the entire Craft in Canada in the early
days) had been destroyed with the destruction by fire of the
"Masonic Temple" in Montreal in 1833. The original "Minute Book
and Letter Book" of the first Provincial Grand Lodge at Quebec had
not been discovered; and all Masonic historians were groping in
the mists of the past. This first Committee, however, were suc-
cessful in setting up a complete list of the successive Masters of
the Lodge from 1770 up to the date of their publication. This list
is headed by the following note:

NOTE: St. Paul's Lodge was first established in Montreal by
Warrant dated 8th November, 1770, granted by the R.W. and Hon.
John Collins, F.G.M., for Canada, by virtue of a Patent from
His Grace, Henry, Duke of Beaufort, M.W. Grand Master of
England, and continued to work under that Warrant until 1797,
when a new one was granted, according to the customs of Free
and Accepted Ancient York Masons, by the Grand Lodge of Canada,
under the patronage of H.R.H. Prince Edward, afterwards Duke
of Kent, who was installed Grand Master of Canada, at Quebec,
22nd June, 1792. The Register of proceedings of the first
seven years could not be found; the following list, therefore,
begins with the election in December, 1778, at which time
Robert Gordon was Master.

Now, in the comparatively recently discovered Provincial "Minute
Book and Letter Book" referred to, the last entry gives a list of
the Lodges actually in good standing in 1777. Thus we are able,
from this book, to verify the dates of the foundation of St. Paul's
Lodge in 1770, and also to have evidence that the Lodge was still
in good standing in 1777; and from that date on to the present
time, to furnish a complete list of its successive sitting Masters.

The last entry in the Minute Book and Letter Book referred to is a copy of a letter to the Grand Secretary in London, and reads as follows:

"Quebec, 5 September 1777.

We have received printed copies of the transactions of two Grand Quarterly Communications since our last of 7th November 1776, to which letter we have had no reply. As a token of our obedience, we now send one guinea; and believe it will be handed you either by Thos. Aylwin, our Deputy Provincial Grand Master, or by Chas. Grant, Grand Treasurer, who are very capable of informing you minutely of the state of the Craft.

At foot is a list of lodges actually in being here.

We are, Brother, etc., etc.,

(Signed) James Thompson,

Grand Secretary.

No. 1 Merchants Lodge at Quebec
No. 2 St. Andrew's " "
No. 3 St. Patrick " "
No. 10 St. Paul's " Montreal
Harmony " " Detroit
(whose warrant is from the P.G.L. of New York)"

All the Military Lodges at Quebec had disappeared. England was still in the midst of her troubles with France, and had the American War also on her hands; and of all the regiments who had formed this original Provincial Grand Lodge in Quebec in 1759, not one remained in 1777. They had all been drawn away for more active service elsewhere. In both Quebec and Montreal, there were only four Lodges left in good standing. "Merchants No. 9" had got back to her old number, "Merchants No. 1, Quebec". And it is easy to see how St. Paul's No. 10 got its new Provincial Number 4 in 1786.