

A BICENTENNIAL HISTORY OF THE  
GRAND LODGE A F + A M OF CONNECTICUT

**COURSE  
READINGS**

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Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Instructor: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

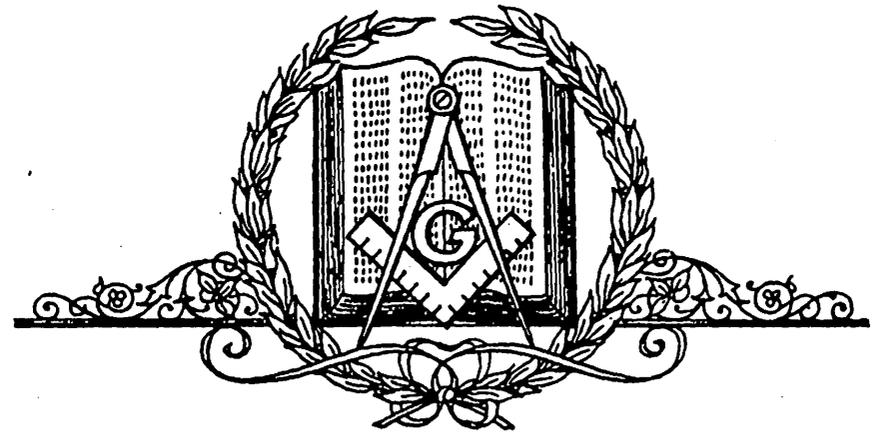
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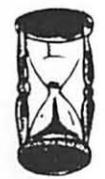
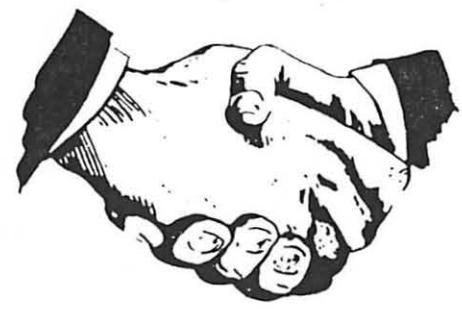
*Mr. Edwards"*

**A Bicentennial History  
of the Grand Lodge, A.F. & A.M.  
of Connecticut**



**James Royal Case  
Past Grand Historian  
and  
Merle P. Tapley  
Past Grand Master**

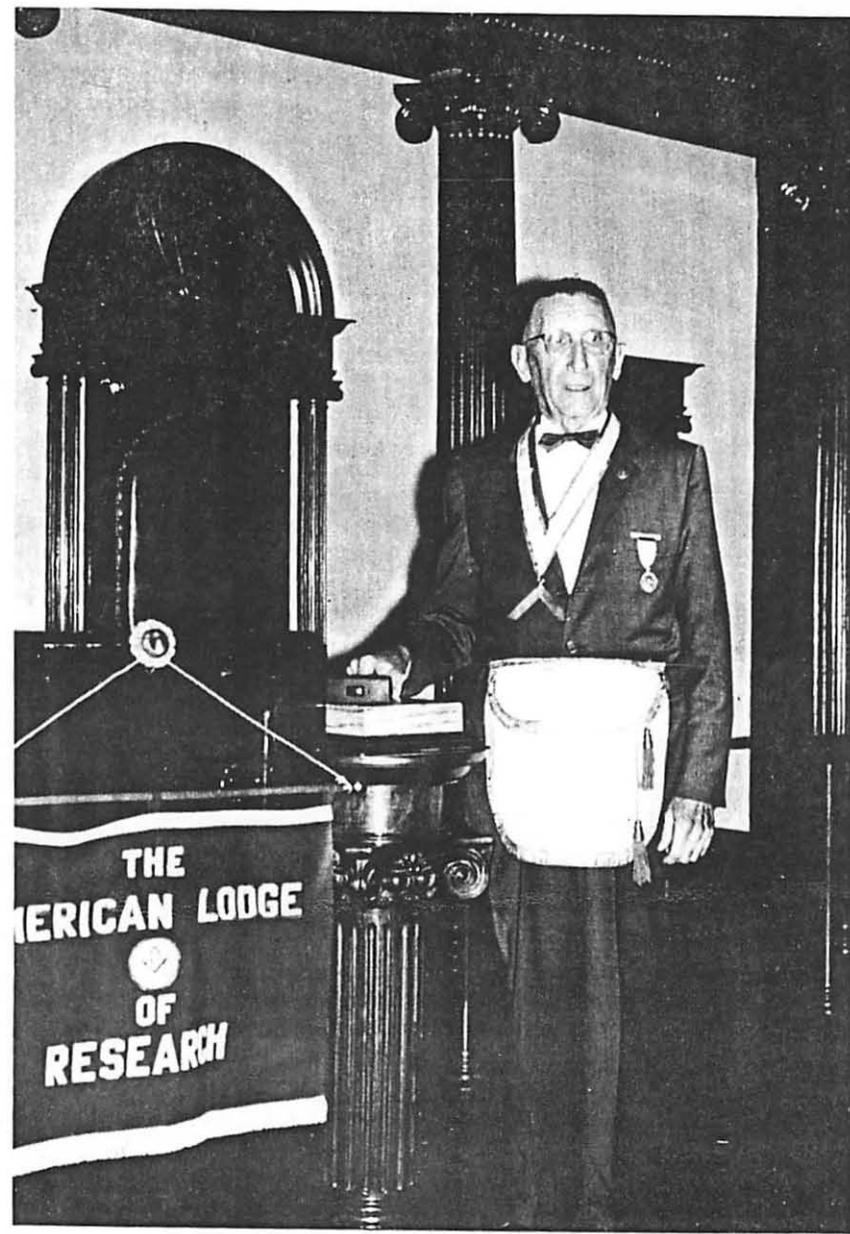
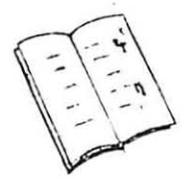
**1989**



# WHAT IS A MASON?



A MASON is a MAN and a BROTHER whose TRUST is in GOD. He meets you on the LEVEL and acts upon the SQUARE. Truth is his COMPASS and he is ever PLUMB. He has a true GRIP on all that is RITE. He is loyal to his ORDER, and whatever his DEGREE, he is MASTER of himself. In the LODGE of Life he wears unstained the white LAMB SKIN of Innocence. From his INITIATION as an ENTERED APPRENTICE he travels ever EAST toward the LIGHT of WISDOM until he receives the final—the DIVINE PASSWORD that admits him into the INEFFABLE PRESENCE OF THE ETERNAL SUPREME GRAND MASTER OF THE UNIVERSE  
**GOD**



James Royal Case as Worshipful Master of the American Lodge of Research in New York City in 1966 (At the age of 72.)



## A DEDICATION

To even consider any name other than that of James Royal Case as the subject of a Dedication for this volume of Connecticut Masonic History would be unthinkable.

Those who knew Jim (and their numbers are legion) can hardly pause to consider the subject of history without having his name come to mind.

He never claimed to be a Historian; he took the title of Historiographer: "one who practices the principles, or methodology, of historical study, and the writing of historical literature." It fitted him well. He had the inquiring and meticulous kind of mind which reveled in "excavating" historical detail from ancient archives and dusty tomes.

Jim brought this volume into being. That he was not here to finish the job was not of his choice or his own volition. He simply reached that place in time when a voice beyond our hearing said to him: "Bess is waiting for you, Jim. Come on home." None can refuse such a call — I don't think Jim had even the desire to question it. He had lived a long and full life; he had tasted many of life's pleasures; he had borne up under many of life's sorrows; the friends of his youth and young manhood were gone. Among thousands of friends, he was, in a sense, alone.

So this book, which was started as his last major effort, is dedicated to his memory. I wish I could say that all the writing within its covers was his own. I'm sure you will detect differences in style and language. This is inevitable when two people attempt to write the same volume.

If James Royal Case can hear me (and I'm quite sure that he probably does) I'd say: "Thanks, Jim, for over forty years of friendship; for the unstinting (and sometimes thankless) effort you have expended in recording for all time those things which, some day, everyone should remember — and treasure!"

For You, My Friend — Your Bicentennial Masonic History.

Merle P. Tapley, PGM,  
Your "hand-picked"  
and Grateful Co-Author

To Julie:

We need to thank someone for Jim and Bess Case. Each was a "One-of-a-kind" individual. Our unspoken appreciation is sent often to those with whom they now dwell in that "House Not Made With Hands". But in a more personal way, I thank *you* (the visible member of the Case family) for granting me — and thousands of others across the Nation — friendships that I shall treasure forever.

May they dwell in peace and eternal happiness — together!

Merle P. Tapley



## INTRODUCTION

James R. Case embodied the history of Masonry in Connecticut, and, in fact, far beyond our State's borders. This book was to have been a labor of love, started — and finished — in his own inimitable style. This was not to be. Long before its completion, he realized the frailties of life and the improbability of completing the task. Less than half-way through the job of writing, he asked me to work with him to edit his manuscript and put it in final form. I was happy to help.

Several months later, after a work-session with Jim, he looked at me and said quietly: "You know, I won't be here to finish this job. You've got to complete it. I can't."

I left him and drove home in almost total shock! I suppose it is not odd that an intelligent man of 91 should realize (and accept) the fact that time is not unlimited. That life has an end as well as a beginning. But this was the first time anyone had ever made this sort of statement to me in such a calm and matter-of-fact manner. Jim was a fixture; he was the continuum; the source of knowledge. We might question the limits of our own mortality — but not his! He was destined to be with us forever.

James Royal Case entered this life in Colchester, Connecticut, on November 28, 1894. He was the son of Grace Rebecca (Dawley) and James Samuel Case. He was educated in Bacon Academy, Connecticut Agricultural College (now the University

of Connecticut), and Teacher's College in Columbia. He had an active Military life; he was overseas during World War I with the 77th Division and in World War II he commanded a Field Artillery Battery in 1941. He served in the office of the Provost Marshal General in Washington, and retired with the rank of Colonel after the Korean conflict. He had been in the military service for 36 years with more than 12 on active duty.

As a Mason Jim took his Lodge membership with him to places where he expected to be for an extended period. His Mother Lodge was Uriel No. 24 in Merrow, Connecticut, which he joined in 1916. Stationed in Virginia in 1919, he transferred his membership to Army & Navy Lodge No. 306 at Fortress Monroe. But upon his return to Connecticut, he immediately affiliated with Wooster Lodge No. 10, in Colchester (December 5, 1920).

Somehow, in these active years of moving from place to place, Jim found time to find approval in the heart of Bessie Hall Randall of Lebanon, Connecticut. They were married on March 16, 1918. Two daughters graced this union.

His Masonic memberships encompass a myriad of affiliated Masonic Orders. Most of these Bodies have honored James R. Case for his contribution to Masonry, his Country, and his fellowmen.

Medals from around the Nation have been bestowed on this deserving individual. He has been invited to membership in many exclusive groups of scholars and writers. The Scottish Rite conferred the 33rd Degree upon him, and Honorary Degrees and Memberships were his by the dozens. All this attention and adulation was accepted with humility and without causing a change in his down-to-earth, human approach to life.

One cannot dwell on earth for over 90 years without experiencing sorrow and pain, as well as peace and happiness. Jim's wife of 52 years, his adored "Bess", died on February 13, 1970. She was loved and respected by all who knew her. The part of her personality that I remember best was her gentle way of making sure that no one ever felt strange and alone in a gathering. If someone found themselves in that situation, they soon found Bess Case at their side, making herself known to them and chatting comfortably until she could introduce the lonely one to someone to talk to — then she would move along to the next person who needed a friend. A lovely lady!

After four years of struggling with life alone, Jim found companionship with Nellie Stang Barhite, whom he married in 1974. Four years of new-found, comfortable happiness, and Jim was again alone, for Nell died on June 30, 1978. Eventually, he moved to a rental apartment in the former Wells Wing of the Masonic Home and Hospital. Here he finished his sojourn on earth.

When Thanksgiving Day, 1987, approached, Jim got in his car and drove alone to North Granville, New York, to spend the Holiday with his daughter, Julie (Mrs J. Richard Anderson).

On Thanksgiving Day, sitting at the kitchen table, talking with members of his family, Jim simply rested his head on his arm and quietly went home. Hardly a day passes, now, that I don't need a bit of information and, without thinking, say to myself: "Jim will know." A unique individual — an inquiring and meticulous mind — a staunch Mason — a firm friend.

We Miss Him.

This book of recorded history is, at best, only an introduction — a skimming of the surface. For between the lines on every page is hidden unique quirks of history; lives of strong and dedicated men; their desires; their foibles; their gentleness; their steadfast holding to duty; their unusual examples of Brotherhood, and sacrifice for others.

Individuals mentioned only briefly in the following chapters could, by their own lives, furnish material for a biographical novel.

The material which Jim Case had collected over many years, and which he furnished for this history, would fill many boxes. Much of it he had written about previously, and these individual articles were used, and blended together, to form many of the pages you will find ahead of you.

Without this vast store of information, I would have been hard pressed to finish the job which Jim so ably began.

Here, then, is the Bicentennial History of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut. I hope you, the readers, find some pleasure in delving into its pages.

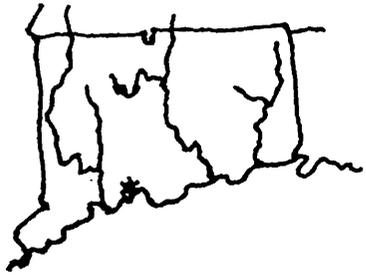
*Mark P. Inpley*

# HISTORY of FREEMASONRY in CONNECTICUT

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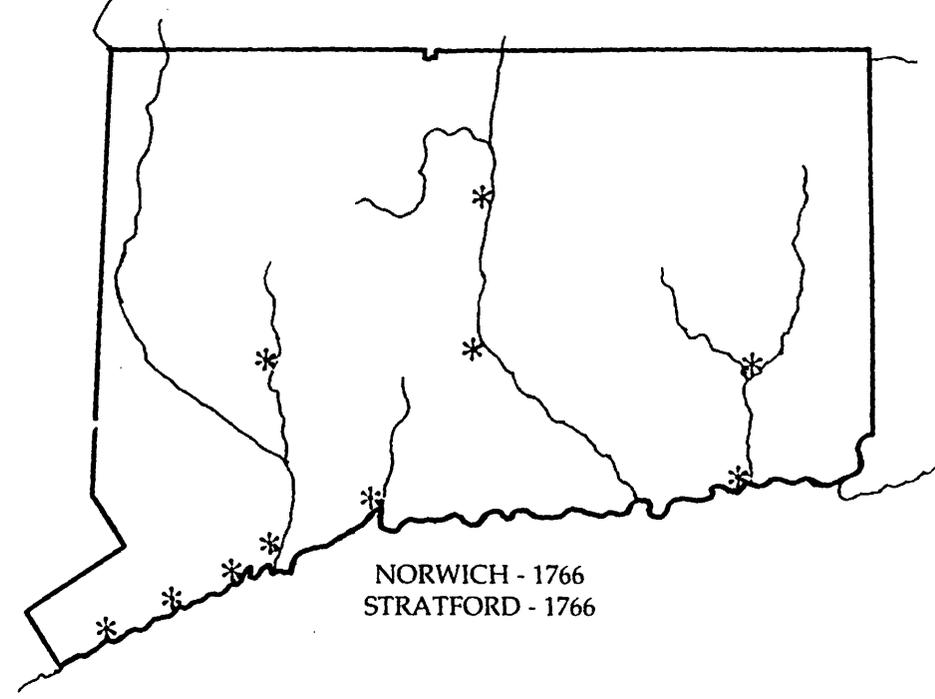
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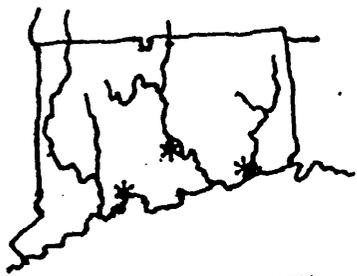
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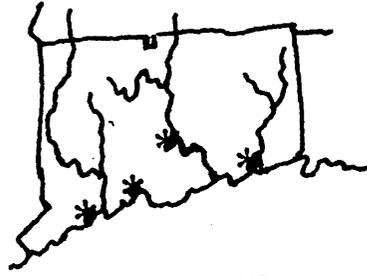
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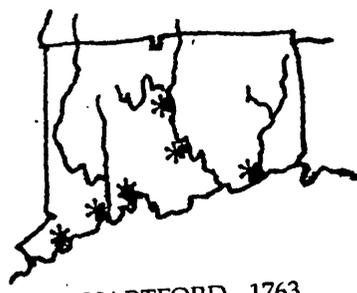
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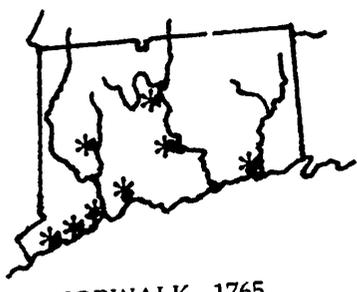
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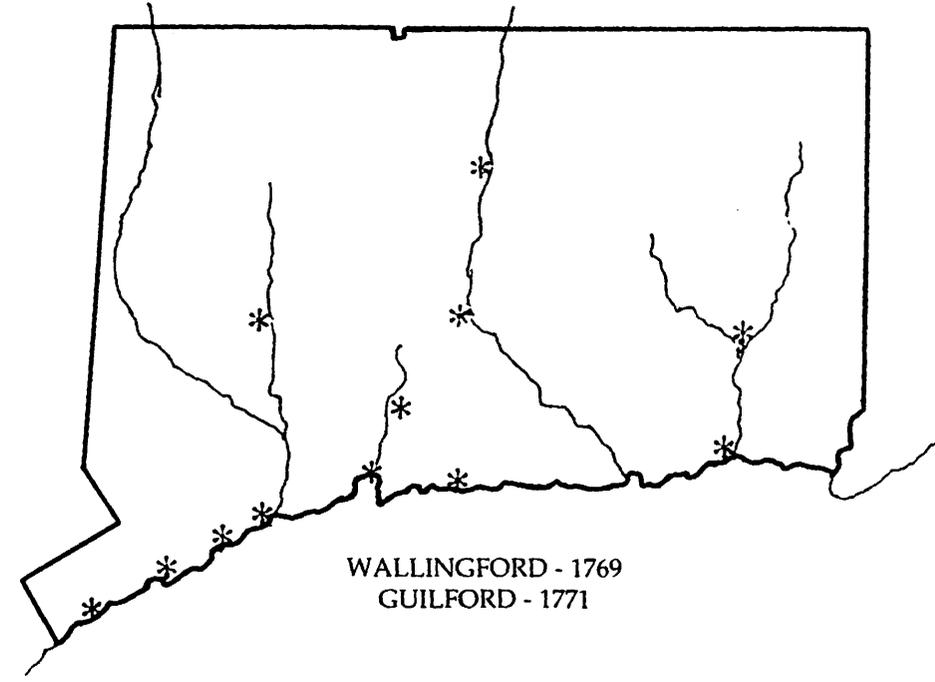
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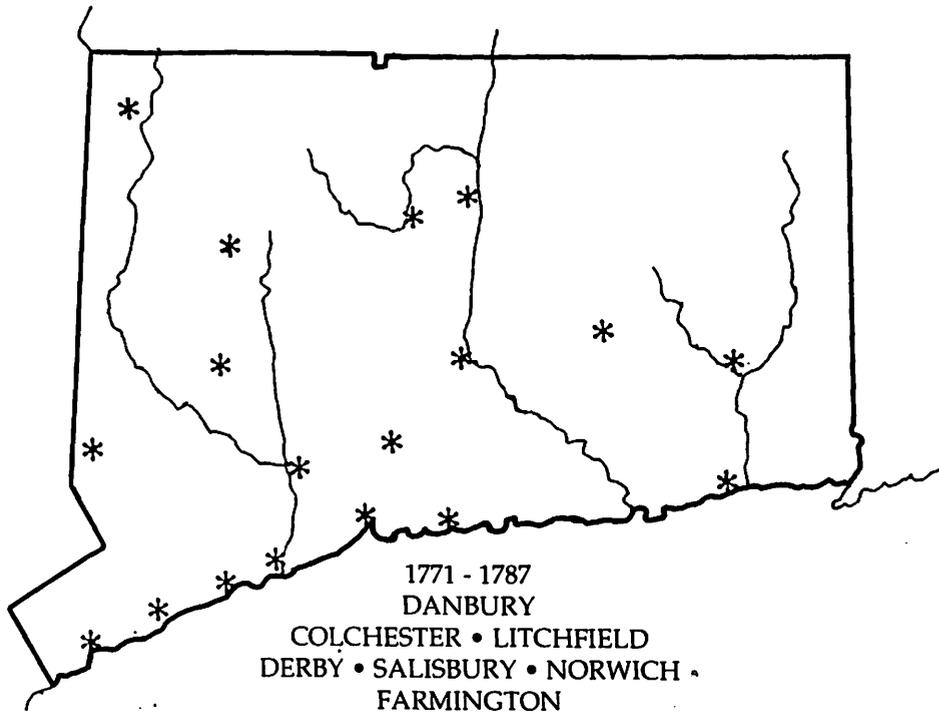
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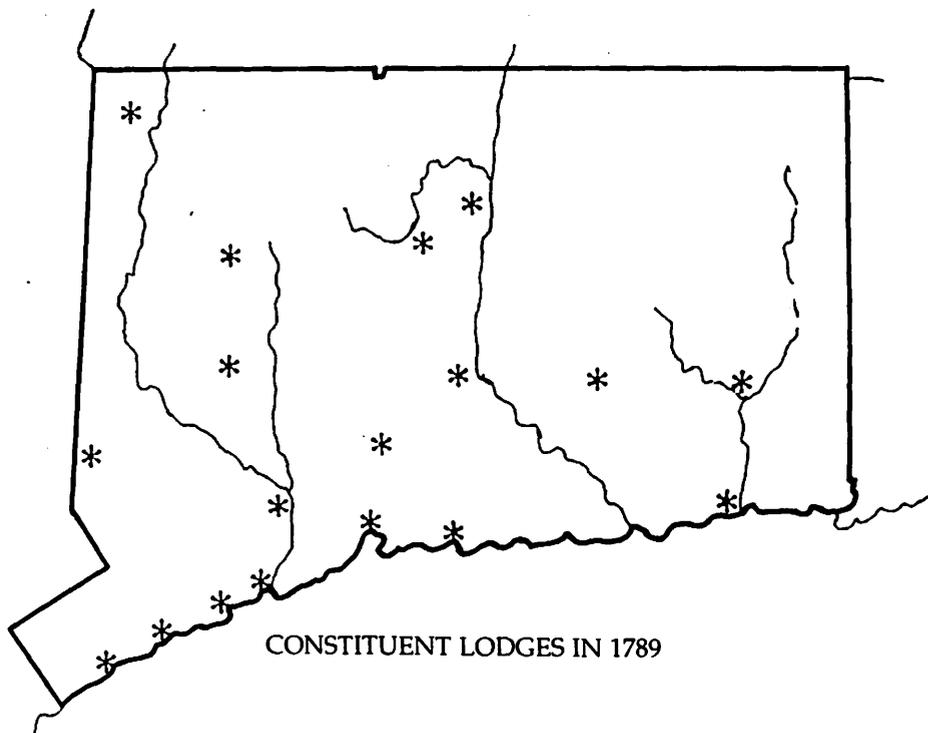
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# CHAPTER I

*In the Beginning*

... to 1775



## CHRONOLOGICAL INDEX OF EVENTS ... TO 1775

### ORIGIN OF MASONRY IN NEW ENGLAND

1733. R. W. Henry Price, of Boston, appointed Provincial Grand Master; St. John's Lodge, chartered in Boston, the first Lodge in North America (originally called "First Lodge" and so shown on Grand Lodge of England records.) St. John's Grand Lodge formed in Boston under the Grand Lodge of England.
1734. Benjamin Franklin, of Philadelphia, constituted W. Master of the first Lodge in Pennsylvania,  
The "Holy Lodge of St. John," Portsmouth, constituted the first Lodge in New Hampshire,
1744. R. W. Thomas Oxnard appointed Provincial Grand Master of New England,
1749. The first Lodge in Rhode Island,
1750. Hiram Lodge, at New Haven, the first Lodge established in Connecticut  
The first Lodge in Maryland established at Annapolis,
1753. Dispensation granted for a Lodge at New London, Conn.,
1754. Charter granted for a Lodge in Middletown, Conn.,  
Death and funeral of R. W. Thomas Oxnard,
1755. R. W. Jeremy Gridley installed as Provincial Grand Master,
1756. Military Lodges formed in the expedition against Crown Point,
1757. Lodge incorporated at Providence, Rhode Island,
1758. Lodge established in His Majesty's 28th Regiment, at Louisburg,  
Military Lodges established in the expedition against Canada,  
Lodge established at Crown Point,
1767. Death and funeral of R. W. Jeremy Gridley,  
Lodges established in North Carolina,
1768. R. W. John Rowe appointed Provincial Grand Master for all North America,
1769. Charter granted for a Lodge in Wallingford, Conn.,
1771. Charter granted for a Lodge in Guilford, Conn.,
1774. Plan for liberal relief to indigent Masons, their widows and orphans,

### HISTORY OF MASSACHUSETTS GRAND LODGE.

1752. St. Andrew's Lodge, constituted at Boston,
1769. Joseph Warren appointed Grand Master of Masons,
1775. Grand Master Warren killed in the battle of "Charleston Heights,"

## IN THE BEGINNING ... to 1775

There are many and varied accounts of where Freemasonry began, most of them fanciful or contrived and all of them discredited by penetrative historians of the present day.

The Masonic Lodges in Connecticut can be traced back to the Lodge, shed, or lean-to which stood adjacent to the medieval cathedral or other edifice under construction by organized workers.

Here the Master Builder and Architect had their office with plans and tracing-board; the Fellows of the Craft received their daily work assignments; Apprentices were entered, initiated — hazed — instructed, and indoctrinated through a 'ritual' which grew and was elaborated as time went on. Words, signs, and tokens were communicated, by which they could prove themselves as sojourners when traveling in foreign countries. Usually all ate their meals around a common table. In the stone-yard just outside the Lodge, the skilled carver, 'entailleur', or tiler worked, and was the first to greet visitors, perhaps to challenge them.

As the cathedral building era came to a close, many of the working force remained in the vicinity and kept up their organization — now called a 'Lodge'. Associate members, patrons, and other individuals interested in the practices and traditions of the art were admitted. The Table Lodge became a supper club, and mutual assistance was expanded into widespread charity. A distinction between operative and speculative Masons arose.

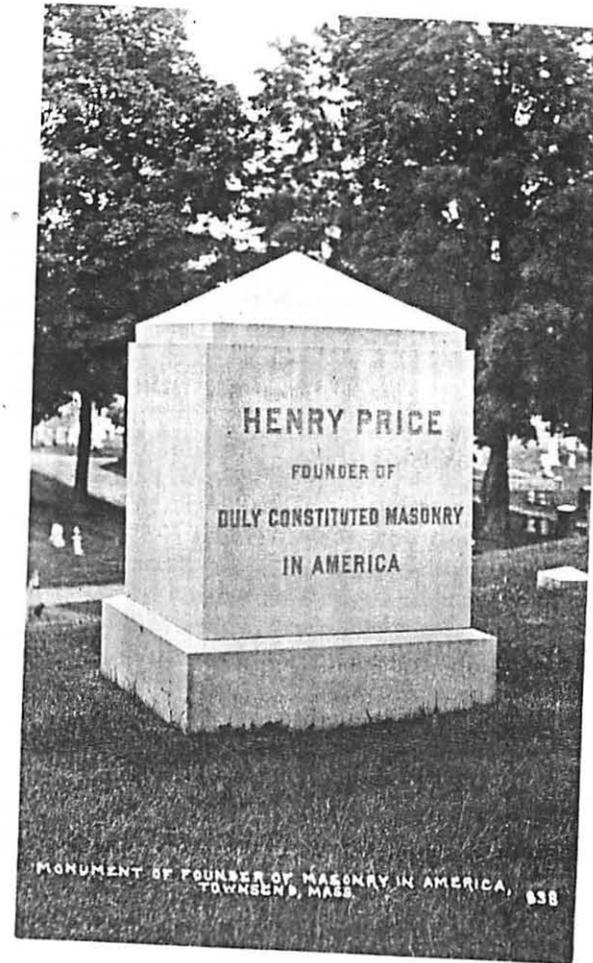
In London some of the errant Freemasons' Guilds got out of order, and conservative and serious minded members, to protect the reputation of the Masons, organized a supervisory, or 'Grand', Lodge which eventually prevailed. Philosophers and ritualists began to elaborate the Lodge structure and the movement grew more reputable as well. However, the name of Freemasonry has often been injured by irresponsible groups, whereby its good name has, at times, been dimmed in public favor.

Men of good repute were attracted to Lodges authorized under the Grand Lodge formed at London in 1717. Royalty became patrons and nominal Grand Officers, and the fraternity flourished. Grand Lodges were now formed in Scotland, where some vestiges of the former working Masons remained, and in Ireland. Here, where the British army was recruited and trained, Lodges were formed in many of the regiments which later carried Freemasonry around the world. The records found in the archives of the Cathedral at York, prove the line of descent and have given the name of the York Rite to the American system of today.

Freemasonry was brought to America in the 1730's, (traces being found at Philadelphia and Boston) by merchants, royal appointees (or "place men"), and the military. Appointment of Provincial Grand Masters soon followed. From the "History of St. John's Grand Lodge, Boston" comes the following quote: "In consequence of an application from several brethren, residing in New England, Free and Accepted Masons, to the Rt. Worshipful Anthony Lord, Viscount Montague,

## IN THE BEGINNING

Grand Master of Masons in England, in the year 1733, he was pleased to constitute and appoint the Rt. Worshipful Henry Price, Provincial Grand Master of New England, aforesaid.



Henry Price, called "The Father of Freemasonry in America", was born in London, England, about 1697, and came to Boston, Massachusetts, in 1723. He was the first "known" Freemason in America. He became prominent in many circles and in 1733, he convened the craft in Boston and formed the first duly constituted Masonic Body on this side of the Ocean. This act was within his province as he had been appointed "Provincial Grand Master of New England". In 1734 this authority was extended to cover all of North America. On May 20, 1780, at the age of 83, when splitting rails, his axe slipped, striking him and killing him on the spot. In 1888, his remains were disinterred and reburied in a more "appropriate spot", marked by the monument pictured here. Today, the highest award of the Grand Lodge of Massa-

chusetts is the Henry Price Medal.

"Upon presentation of a petition on July 3, 1733 from several brethren residing in Boston, "The First Lodge in Boston", or "St. John's Lodge", was constituted. Thus came Freemasonry to New England. There followed the granting of Charters to a group in Philadelphia, (headed by Benjamin Franklin); Portsmouth, New Hampshire; and Newport, Rhode Island. Then, in 1750, a group of brethren residing in New Haven, Connecticut, headed by Captain (later to be General) David Wooster, applied for a warrant to form a Lodge in New Haven. This was granted by R.W. Thomas Oxnard, Provincial Grand Master and dated at Boston, November 12, 1750. The Lodges functioned somewhat like luncheon clubs, making Masons with ceremony, and performing quiet acts of charity and relief for the needy. This was the example for the present day widespread benefactions of all 'Masonic' bodies, not limited to members by any means, but going for the general welfare.

Lodges came to Louisbourg with the British regiments and to the French and Indian camp. Many Connecticut Masons obtained their degrees in those Lodges, then applied for charters to organize Lodges in their home communities: New Haven, Middletown, and Norwich were such places. During and following the American Revolution there was a wave of great interest in the fraternity. Lodges and Grand Lodges have since been organized in every state, the growth being phenomenal. The four million Masons in the United States are in amity with as many more around the world, Amity which exists in the form of interrecognition.

The ritual of the Lodge had grown around the elaborated traditions arising from accounts of the building of King Solomon's Temple. Next appeared the Royal Arch Chapters which carried the temple tradition further through incidents of its destruction and rebuilding. From these traditions originated cornerstone ceremonies, dedications, etc., used on occasions today. The Council of Royal & Select Masters uses other Temple traditions and ceremonies in its ritual.

Every regular Lodge displays on the altar the Holy Bible, and/or the volume of Sacred Law peculiar to the country where held. The universal requirement for interrecognition is acknowledgment of the Great Creator and Ruler of the Universe. About 1800, a strong Christian element in the United States added the Knights Templar to the elaborated tradition, a highly reputable uniformed order. Their great charity is the Eye Foundation which supports research, and provides relief to many afflicted with sight problems.

In typical American manner, and to make possible greater participation as Lodges grew in number, auxiliary and appendant organizations soon appeared. The Eastern Star is one of several groups admitting female relatives of Masons, all having a distinctive ritual and particular philanthropy. The Shrine grew out of a supper club with a trick test for admission, wherein fun and fellowship are combined. They have erected and continue to maintain 19 Orthopedic Hospitals for crippled children and three Burn Institutes, at no cost to the families of the young patients, even though the cost of care may run into hundreds of thousands of dollars and require years of treatment. These hospitals are now strategically located throughout continental United States, Honolulu, Mexico City, and Montreal. Most of the other Masonically affiliated organizations also support philanthropic programs for research and treatment of eye disease, schizophrenia, and Muscular Distrophy, and other similar beneficial, charitable programs.

After World War I, youth organizations appeared and have been sponsored by the Masons and Eastern Star. DeMolay for boys and Rainbow for girls predominate, with several others on the same plan not as extensive. These are development groups for young Americans, without restrictions, and have been notably successful in making better citizens of many of the adherents.

Freemasonry in France during the 1700's developed along somewhat different lines. Some rites alleged an origin from the Stuart Pretender's followers, while others adopted the word Scottish in the name of some degrees. Brought into the United States from Lodges in the West Indian Islands, it grew into the Scottish Rite of today. It has the interest of many Masons, since the elaborate dramatization of dogma and incidents in basic Craft Masonry is very attractive, and provides more participative opportunities. In the United States today there are Supreme Councils of the Rite in both North and South, working together on patriotic, philanthropic, and educational lines.

The structure developed in America, commonly called the York Rite, starts with the Craft Lodge as its base. The Craft Lodge is usually called the Blue Lodge, for which there are several explanations. Perhaps the most logical is that the ancient craftsmen frequently met under the "Blue Canopy of Heaven". The Scottish Rite also has the Blue Lodge as its base. The York and Scottish Rites are separate and distinct but definitely not in opposition to each other.

Masonic charity and relief in Connecticut was first practiced in the local Lodges. As the social pattern changed, other changes became necessary, and, in order to spread the cost more equitably, the Masonic Home & Hospital was established at Wallingford in 1889. Since then, thousands of residents have been accommodated there because of health, financial, or social disadvantage. Still more are benefitted by home visitations and 'outreach' programs. Every Connecticut Mason is a contributor and so a 'stockholder' in the Homes which are maintained and operated at the highest standards.

Notables in Connecticut history and Masonry can be named by the dozen, some of whom are memorialized in Lodge names or by other means initiated by the fraternity. The only statue of George Washington in the State of Connecticut stands before the Masonic Home in Wallingford. In Danbury there is a splendid brownstone monument to David Wooster, Master of the First Lodge in the state, who died in the cause of American independence. To name a few others, Israel Putnam, Bishop Seabury, James G. Batterson, Samuel Colt, and Morgan G. Bulkeley were outstanding. Many Senators, Congressmen, Governors and local officials have been members of the Fraternity, their performance highly creditable as citizens and Masons.

Connecticut Lodges have had their ups and downs over the past 250 years, as shifting population, changes in means of transportation, and the growth and shift of industry dictated accommodations. They remain as components of a great fraternal, philanthropic, and patriotic movement which has prospered, endured, and survived over a long period of time, proving its worth in the American social pattern.

MAY IT SO CONTINUE FOR MANY YEARS TO COME!

## CONNECTICUT OCCUPIED

Regularly constituted Freemasonry came into Connecticut about the middle of the eighteenth century, Lodges being organized under charter from the Provincial Grand Lodge at Boston (known as St. John's Grand Lodge), and the Provincial Grand Lodge of New York. Both of these provincial Grand Lodges derived their authority from the Grand Lodge at London, whose organization was perfected on St. John the Baptist's Day in 1717. After the Revolutionary War, the Massachusetts Grand Lodge (of Scottish or "Antient" descent) chartered several Lodges in this state.

Twenty Lodges are known to have been in existence in America, before 1750, scattered along the Atlantic seaboard from Nova Scotia southward as far as Georgia and including several in the West Indies. Some of the British regiments which were sent to America for occupation or garrison duties are known to have had Masonic Lodges attached, authorized to be held wherever they sojourned.

### EARLY MASONIC LODGES IN AMERICA (Johnson)

- 1730 - A Lodge was meeting in Philadelphia
- 1733 - 'First Lodge' chartered at Boston
- 1733 - A Lodge was meeting at Norfolk, Virginia
- 1734 - Feb. 21 - A Lodge was assembled at Savannah, Georgia
- 1735 - A Lodge was meeting near Willmington, North Carolina
- 1736 - A Lodge was meeting at Charleston, South Carolina
- 1736 - June 24 - St. John's Lodge chartered at Portsmouth, New Hampshire
- 1738 - Dec. 22 - Masters Lodge constituted at Boston
- 1738 - A Lodge constituted at Annapolis, Nova Scotia
- 1739 - Lodges were meeting in New York City
- 1749 - Dec 27 - Lodge constituted at Newport, Rhode Island
- 1750 - Feb 15 - 'Second Lodge' chartered at Boston
- March 17 - 'Third Lodge' chartered at Boston
- April 13 - Lodge at New Haven on roll call at Grand Lodge, Boston
- Aug. 12 - Charter granted for Lodge at New Haven
- Aug. 12 - Dispensation to Lodge at Annapolis, Maryland
- Nov. 12 - Charter date for Lodge at New Haven

### GRAND LODGES ORGANIZATION DATES (Coil)

- 1733 July 30 St. John's Grand Lodge
- 1777 March 8 Massachusetts Grand Lodge
- 1778 Oct. 13 Virginia
- 1783 Dec. 27 South Carolina
- 1786 Sept. 26 Pennsylvania
- 1786 Dec. 16 Georgia
- 1787 Jan. 30 New Jersey
- 1787 April 19 Maryland

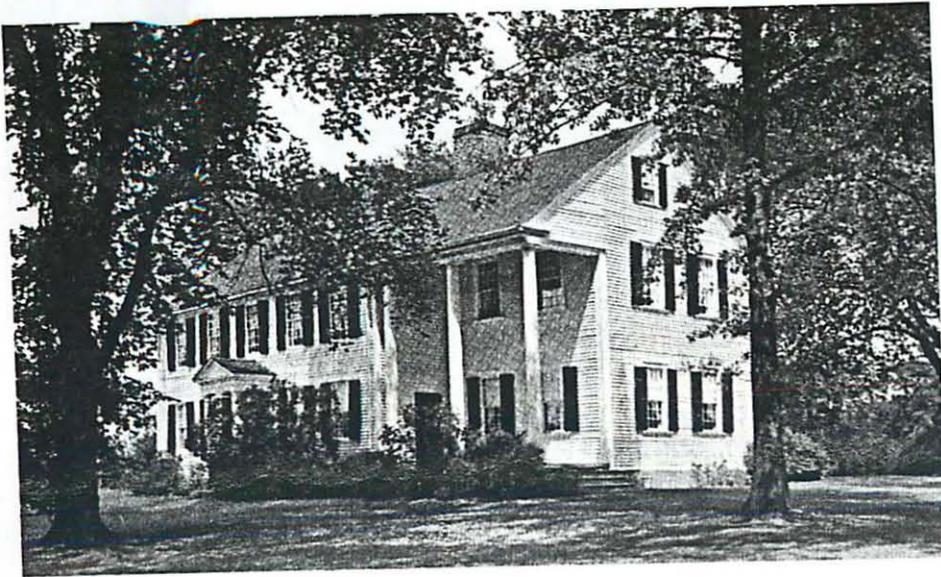
1787	June 6	New York
1787	Dec. 12	North Carolina
1789	July 8	Connecticut
1789	July 8	New Hampshire
1792	March 5	Massachusetts (Grand Lodge of Massachusetts)

Many of our earliest Connecticut Brethren were sea-faring men, or at least had traveled in foreign countries, and the exact places where they were made Masons has not always been possible to ascertain. Lodges in England, the West Indies, the Army, New York and Boston are all probable sources, but early records are not always available, and identification is often a matter of conjecture. Nearly five-hundred men are on record as Connecticut Freemasons before the Revolutionary War.

Lodges were small in size, and the convivial element conspicuous, when considered according to present day standards. All business was done on the Entered Apprentice degree, and advancement was optional. In New Haven, however, a separate Masters' Lodge was in existence and carried on until 1805. By reading between the lines of the scant minutes and records which have come down to us, we find evidence of Masonic practices and customs which have existed from time immemorial and are today unchanged. Charity and relief were conducted in the usual quiet way, yet are notable for relatively frequent mention.

The ritual, secrecy, and good fellowship did not make Freemasonry attractive to our strictest Puritan forebears, and therefore Episcopalians appear to have been unduly prominent in some Lodges. In fact, Ezra Stiles, a strict Congregational minister and later president of Yale College, wrote the following uncomplimentary (and probably not wholly unbiased) entry in his diary in 1759: "We see this spirit of Episcopal Intrigue already working with great Cunning. It has set up and recommended the Fraternity of Free Masons and is pressing them apace into a Subserviency and Subordination to the great End of increasing the Church ... The Freemasons have already within about a dozen years increased from three to 13 or 14 Lodges."

With approach of the Revolutionary War political differences were sharpened, and divided loyalties caused dissension in many circles, even within families. Harmony was disturbed and the cement loosened. The logical way to prevent disruptive discord within the Fraternity was to suspend labor. This happened in almost every Connecticut Lodge, although there were, of course, many other local factors which influenced the course of events.



HOME OF OLIVER ELLSWORTH  
Windsor, Connecticut

OLIVER ELLSWORTH (1745-1807) — Third Chief Justice of U.S. Supreme Court; first U.S. Senator from Connecticut. b. April 29, 1745 in Windsor, Conn. He entered Yale U. in 1762, but afterward went to Princeton U. where he was graduated in 1766 with high honors. It was while a student at Princeton that he became a charter member of St. John's Lodge at Princeton, N.J. on Dec. 27, 1765. He studied theology for a year and abandoned it for law, being admitted to the bar in 1771. In 1778 he took his seat as a delegate to the Continental congress, serving until 1783. In 1784 he accepted the assignment of judge on the Connecticut superior court and held it until he became a member of the Constitutional convention of 1787. It was through his insistence that the words "national government" were removed from the draft and "government of the United States" substituted. He was an advocate of state's rights at the convention, but did not have an opportunity to sign the Constitution as he was called home at that time. He was U.S. senator from Connecticut from 1789 to 1796 and was on the committee for organizing the U.S. judiciary, the bill being in his own handwriting. He was the Federalist leader in the senate. The mission of John Jay to England in 1794 was at his suggestion; and in 1799 was named with Patrick Henry and William R. Davie for a special mission to France to negotiate with that country at a time of strained relations. He later served as chief justice of the supreme court of Connecticut, but ill health forced his resignation after serving a short term.

He died on November 26, 1807.

The following is extracted from Early history of the Massachusetts Grand Lodge: On December 27, 1769, at the Festival of St. John, a Commission was read from the Rt. Honorable and Most Worshipful George, Earl of Dalhousie, Grand Master of Masons in Scotland, bearing the date the 30th day of May, 1769, appointing Joseph Warren to be Grand Master of Masons in Boston, New England, and within one hundred miles of the same; whereupon the Brethren proceeded, according to ancient usage, to install the Right Worshipful Grand Master Warren; who afterward appointed and invested the other Grand Officers. This new Grand Body was given the name of "The Massachusetts Grand Lodge". Until 1792, it co-existed with the descendent of "St. John's Grand Lodge" which had been chartered by the Grand Lodge of England in 1733.

There are some confusing details relating to the background of the present Grand Lodge of Massachusetts. These have given rise to disagreement between some historians and between Massachusetts and Virginia as to which is older. These are given in brief here. Not in an attempt to adjudicate or to influence opinion, but to present them as part of the background history of Masonry for the readers interest. The St. John's Provincial Grand Lodge was founded by Henry Price in 1733, by dispensation of the Grand Lodge of England. John Rowe was Provincial Grand Master but, due to the war and other circumstances, the Grand Lodge had not met from 1775 to 1787. In 1787 John Rowe died. Due to talk of a merger of the Grand Lodges existing, no Grand Master was elected.

Meanwhile, in 1769, Joseph Warren had received a warrant from the Grand Lodge of Scotland which named him Provincial Grand Master. He, in turn, organized the "Massachusetts Grand Lodge" and appointed the other necessary Officers. On June 17, 1775, Joseph Warren was killed at Bunker Hill. The rule governing such an event stated: "Upon the death (or other removal) of a Provincial Grand Master, the Office would remain vacant until the Mother Grand Lodge had appointed a successor". Without regard for this regulation, the Massachusetts (Scottish) Grand Lodge met and elected Joseph Webb as Grand Master. Probably because of this irregularity, the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts (English) had never accepted the legality of the Grand Lodge under Webb.

On March 5, 1792, the two Grand Lodges in Massachusetts were to unite. However, following the vote to unite, and even as the formality was taking place with papers being signed, the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts voted to continue their stand that the rival Grand Lodge was illegal. So, instead of uniting, the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts voted to dissolve. This was done and there was never an actual merger. This, then, is the basis for the question of the age of the "new" Grand Lodge, known since 1792 as "The Ancient and Honorable Society of Free and Accepted Masons of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts".

Simply stated, the two contentions are these: 1) The Grand Lodge, having been descended from the St. John's Provincial Grand Lodge of 1733, was 250 years old at the time of the Celebration in 1983. — or — 2) The Massachusetts Grand Lodge (Scottish) being illegal, its date of March 8, 1777, could not be used, and because the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts (English) had dissolved, it had not entered into the merger so it could not claim the July 30, 1733, date. Therefore, the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts must be dated from the date of organization — or March 5, 1792. Obviously these two diverse opinions have not been resolved, nor have they been

taken as "life-or-death" matters, for the relations between the two Grand Lodges has been amicable with no drawn swords or spilled blood.

Such historical details make for interesting reading and much speculation. The resulting decisions mean that the Grand Lodge of Virginia is either first, second, or third in rank; and the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts is either first or thirteenth.

An agreement on facts is not expected! However, as stated above, no one is guarding their rights with drawn sword, and Masonic Friendship and Brotherhood will continue to exist.

The following are brief accounts of the activities of several Lodges organized before the war for American Independence began in 1775. Histories have been written for most of them and give much more detail than these accounts.

#### NEW HAVEN — 1750

The earliest evidence of the existence of a Masonic Lodge in Connecticut appears in the minutes of St. John's Grand Lodge of Boston for the quarterly session of "13 April 1750". When the roll of Lodges was called "no body appear'd for the Lodge at 'New Haven in Connecticut'". This indicates that before this date their petition for a charter had already been sent in, or that they had been meeting according to ancient usage.

At the next quarterly Grand Lodge session on August 12, 1750, it is recorded that a "constitution" had been granted by Grand Master Thomas Oxnard, naming, as Master, Captain David Wooster (since known as the Father of Freemasonry in Connecticut). The charter finally issued under date of November 12, 1750, was for a Lodge with jurisdiction over all Connecticut, is still preserved in the archives of Hiram Lodge No. 1, and is believed to be the oldest Lodge charter in existence in America.

The earliest meeting of record was on the Festival of St. John the Evangelist, December 27, 1750, with Wooster in the chair. Two others of the original twelve members were present, and visitors who were probably made in a British Military Lodge in Garrison at Louisbourg around 1749 or 1750. All efforts to trace the remainder have so far been unsuccessful.

One might think that an occasion as auspicious as the first meeting of the first Lodge in Connecticut (and one very early in the country) would warrant full and complete records of the proceedings with, perhaps, a bit of the flowery and formal language which was the hallmark of correspondence in those days. No so! From Volume I of the Grand Lodge records, which carries the historical accounts of Masonry before the Grand Lodge was formed, comes the following brief and unpretentious account of the first meeting of Hiram Lodge No. 1 in New Haven.

#### EARLY LODGES IN CONNECTICUT [1750]

At a Lodge of Free-Mason's, held at Jehiel Tuttle's in New Haven, at the Festival of Saint John the Evangelist, A.L. 5750, the following brethren were present, viz: — David Wooster, W.M.; Samuel Mansfield, S.W.; John Elliot, J.W.; Nathan Whiting, Elihu Lyman, Archibald McNeil, Jehiel Tuttle, Joseph Goldthwaite, John Harpin, Eleazer Fitch, Benjamin Appleton, Israel Abbot.

Each brother paid 30 shillings; Benedict Westcut paid 100 shillings advance money; Lodge received of Bro. Lyman 2 doz. gloves at £10 12s 6d = £21 5s.; received of Bro. B. Westcut, in full for admittance, £9.

The following additional comments were written at a later date, probably by E.G. Storer, Grand Secretary from 1836 to 1861, when he compiled and printed the old records of the Grand Lodge.

The above is a copy of the record of the first Lodge meeting ever held, by authority of a charter or warrant, in Connecticut. From this simple beginning, "Hiram Lodge" has continued its regular communications, until its initiates have become an exceeding great multitude, "which no man can number." The Lodge continued its regular communications through the War of the Revolution, and through all adverse "excitements."

At the organization of the Grand Lodge, in 1789, the first Grand Master and the first Grand Secretary were taken from Hiram Lodge, and she has ever since been honored with her full share of the Grand Officers. Upon the numbering of the subordinate Lodges, which took place in 1796, this Lodge, in consequence of the early date of its charter, took rank as "number one", and has since attained the distinctive and familiar appellation of "Old Hiram."

One thing can be said of Hiram Lodge, No. 1, which cannot be said of any other Lodge in the State — that in no instance, since the formation of the Grand Lodge, has she failed of being represented and making returns at the Grand Communications of that body. Another thing is also true — that in no instance has her own regular communication been omitted.

#### NEW LONDON — 1753

Thomas Oxnard, Grand Master of St. John's Grand Lodge at Boston, granted a charter to 'Sundry Brethren Residing at New London' on January 12, 1753, and appointed "Andrew McKenzie their first Master". He apparently was a Boston merchant who was located at New London for a few years. The Lodge is mentioned in Grand Lodge records occasionally until 1767. The membership was quite apparently drawn from custom-house appointees, sojourners, and visiting merchants, and did not include many local residents.

Another early Master was Nicholas Lechmere, a Customs official in New Haven (where he was made) and later in New London. His mother was a Winthrop. He was afterwards transferred to Newport, was a loyalist during the stormy days preceding the Revolution, and finally removed from this country to England.

The earliest recorded public appearance of Freemasons in Connecticut, as well as the first known Masonic funeral, is mentioned in the Diary of Joshua Hampstead for "16 June 1754". " ... at the funeral of Newport who was buried in pomp. Not only pall bearers but 6 men followed the Corps with white leather aprons (Freemasons). Mr. Graves the Church Minister led and performed Service". William Newport was "the Taylor". Matthew Graves was the Episcopal rector.

This early New London Lodge, the second chartered in Connecticut, does not appear to have been very active. Many Masons in New London County, formerly thought to have been made at New London, are now known to have been made in the Lodge at Middletown. This Lodge was very busy during the few years preceding the Revolution, when that town was the business center of the State.

Although the records are imperfect from 1755 until 1762, entries of financial transactions and minutes of Masters' Lodge indicate that meetings were continuous. The name 'Hiram' first appears in the 1767 version of Lodge By-Laws. One hundred and twenty-six names appear on the records at the end of 1775. This number included the last candidate of the year, initiated on December 28, who was none other than Pierpont Edwards, later to become the first Grand Master of Masons in Connecticut.

Being an alternate capital of the State, with a seaport and Customs Office, and being the seat of Yale College, New Haven attracted legislators, business men, and many other prominent visitors. Consequently, Masons were made from many different towns. Among the early offshoots of Old Hiram, before the Revolution, may be counted the Lodges at New London, Middletown, Waterbury, Wallingford, and Guilford.

The Lodge first met at the inn of Jehiel Tuttle on College Street. In 1752 it moved to Joseph Goldthwaite's where it met for several years. From 1762 to 1768, meetings were held at Christopher Kilby's "Fountain Tavern". In 1769 they met for a time at Bro. Robert Brown's, from whence it moved to the "Masons Arms". A year later they were at Brother Lathrop's house and, after a sojourn of 17 months, at the home of Bro. Fairchild. During the next several years they moved four times from Fairchild's to Lathrop's (with an occasional jaunt to the Masons Arms). In the latter part of 1801, Amos Doolittle offered the use of a Lodge-room which he had furnished in his home. The rental of the room to pay the interest on money he had borrowed to furnish it. The Lodge accepted and met there from Dec 17, 1801 until 1813.



AMOS DOOLITTLE'S TAVERN IN NEW HAVEN.

Doolittle was born in 1754 and was Raised in Hiram Lodge (No. 1) on July 20, 1792. He designed many Masonic jewels and is recognized as an early American engraver of note. He died on January 31, 1832.



MAJOR DAVID WOOSTER (1711-1777)  
The Father of Freemasonry in Connecticut  
First Master of Hiram Lodge No. 1  
(later Brigadier General)



**MIDDLETOWN — 1753**

Under date of "6 November 1753", eight Freemasons of Middletown, citing the "hardship of going twenty-eight miles to work", applied to St. John's Grand Lodge at Boston for a Charter, which was granted "4 February 1754" by order of Grand Master Thomas Oxnard. This document of which only a transcript has survived, named Jehosaphat Starr, "an old and well experienced Master Mason of mature age", as the Master.

The by-laws adopted in 1754 are the oldest extant in Connecticut and contain several curious provisions for government of the Lodge. The public appearance of sixteen members in procession to Divine Worship on June 24, 1757, is the earliest record of such an observance in this state.

In contrast to the practice in New Haven, where a separate Masters' Lodge existed, the Lodge at Middletown conferred all three degrees. On May 5, 1754, the sublime degree of a Master Mason was first worked in Connecticut at Middletown. Situated in the most flourishing town in the state, this Lodge drew members from many surrounding towns, and included a number of seafaring men.

Although the French and Indian Wars caused some financial difficulties, work of the Lodge went on regardless. In fact, a considerable number of French prisoners of war detained in Middletown under parole were accepted as members of the Lodge.

The political conditions preceding the Revolution depressed Masonic activity in Middletown as elsewhere, and the last meeting of record for a number of years was held June 24, 1772. In less than twenty years, however, nearly four hundred meetings had been held, and one hundred-thirty-eight members added to the rolls. This is a truly remarkable record and marks Middletown as the busiest Lodge in the state during this quarter-century we are considering.

**FAIRFIELD-BRIDGEPORT — 1762**

St. John's Lodge, in the County of Fairfield, and in the Colony of Connecticut, was chartered by "George Harrison, Esq., Provincial Grand Master of the Most Ancient and Honorable Society of Free and Accepted Masons in the Province of New York in America" on February 12, 1762. Through the ravages of war, and other wear and tear, many documents have been lost or damaged. Thus this charter is the oldest surviving original of all such New York Masonic documents.

The Master named in the charter was Eleazer Hubbell, who, with Joseph Knapp and Isaac Young, composed the original membership. Where these men were made Masons has not been ascertained, but it was probably in New York. R.W. Arnout Cannon of New York presided at the institution.

Early meetings were held in Stratfield, then part of Fairfield, and for many years within the city limits of Bridgeport. However, most of the meetings up until the Revolution were held in various locations near or in "the Town" of Fairfield, then the county seat, notably the Bulkeley Tavern on the ancient Fairfield Green. (In 1982, the Lodge moved to Trumbull.)

Fifty-four additions to their membership are listed for the first eleven years. No Masons were made, however, during the period 1774-1777 when political differ-

ences caused much dissension in Masonic circles as elsewhere.

**HARTFORD — 1761**

The funeral of Nathan Payson on April 20, 1761, and the subsequent obituary (reproduced below) in the Hartford newspaper, was largely responsible for the formation of St. John's Lodge at Hartford.

Hartford, April 23, 1761

On Monday, the 20th Instant, was decently Interr'd here NATHAN PAYSON, Esq; 2d. Col. of the First Regiment of the Provincials of this Colony; the Procession was headed by a Company of Militia, followed by the Brethren of the Ancient and Honourable Society of free and accepted Masons, the Bier was supported by the Soldiers of the same Regiment, and the Pall by the Majors and Captains of the Provincials, followed by the Mourners and the Officers of the Army, and the Gentlemen of this and the neighbouring Towns: — Here was the greatest concourse of People that has been known on such an Occasion in the Memory of the oldest Man among us. The whole was Conducted with the greatest Regularity, Decency, and good Order; and indeed the Militia performed to Admiration. — His Sickness was Short and Painful, which he bore with the Patience, Fortitude, and Resignation of a Christian Soldier. He has left us a striking instance of his Charitable Submission. He liv'd Belov'd, and died Lamented by all who had the Pleasure of his Acquaintance: And in him the Government have lost a faithful and an experienced Officer.

In consequence of the happening above, Masons in Hartford and vicinity made themselves known to each other in sufficient numbers so that a petition for a charter was circulated.

Twelve fellows of the craft, "craving a deputation" from Grand Master Jeremy Gridley, addressed a petition to St. John's Grand Lodge in Boston in 1762. Their charter was granted under date of "21 March 1762" but the "deputation" was not read nor was any record of a meeting made until "19 January 1763".

The charter Master, John Townley, was a merchant who moved to Hartford from Boston where he probably was made. Eight of the charter members were affiliates from the Lodge at Middletown, one was made in a Military Lodge and two have not been traced.

Up until 1769, when there seems to have been a decline of activity, the names of forty-four members appear on the roster, as well as several visitors. Absence of meeting records, however, does not prove that any lapse occurred.

The cash books of the Lodge are of considerable value in developing the early history. The Holy Bible, printed in 1756, and which St. John's Lodge has used ever since 1763, is undoubtedly the oldest relic of the sort in the state.

**STAMFORD-GREENWICH — 1763**

A "Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons, to be held in the town of Stamford and Horseneck, and parts adjacent in the Colony of Connecticut" was chartered "18

November 1763" by George Harrison, Provincial Grand Master of New York. Some time later it acquired the name of Union.

The records are lost for the years between its organization and 1783, but early members appear to have been admitted from Rye, Bedford, New Rochelle, Darien, and New Canaan, as well as from Stamford and Horseneck, or Greenwich. The Lodge presumably met in Stamford in the early days.

The charter members are presumed to have been made in New York. The Master named in the charter was Sylvanus Waterbury of Stamford.

From early returns, Josiah Utter and Daniel Mead are understood to have been the first Wardens. Early Masters who may have served before or during the Revolution were John Anderson, Israel Knapp, and Jabez Fitch.

Southwestern Connecticut was the scene of much military activity and a great deal of underground warfare during the entire Revolution, and it is doubtful that the Lodge met and worked during this period.

#### WATERBURY-WOODBURY — 1765

A charter for a Lodge in Waterbury was granted by Jeremy Gridley, Grand Master of St. John's Grand Lodge at Boston, on July 17, 1765, upon application by Joel Clark, James Reynolds, and sundry other brethren. This charter, which named John Hotchkiss as Worshipful Master, is now in possession of King Solomons Lodge, No. 7 of Woodbury. The Lodge was authorized to make, pass, raise, and admit Masons in regular form, and to keep, or cause to be kept, the Feasts of both Saints John. It is noted in the Grand Lodge records for 1765 and a few years following.

The earliest known newspaper notice of a Masonic meeting in Connecticut appears in Issue No. 494 of the Connecticut Gazette, published in New Haven, and reads as follows:

NEW HAVEN, December 12, 1765

Public notice is hereby given to the brethren of the Ancient and Honorable Society of FREE and Accepted MASONs, that the Right Worshipful Lodge of FREEMASONS, (assembled in due Form, at the House of Capt. George Nichols, in Waterbury in Connecticut) have agreed to celebrate the FESTIVAL of St. JOHN the EVANGELIST, at the same Place, on Wednesday the 25th Day of Instant, December, who are invited to give their punctual attendance.

By Order of the Master,  
ISAAC JONES, Secretary

The public house of George Nichols was in Salem Society or parish, a part of present day Naugatuck.

The by-laws adopted at this meeting are printed in the History of King Solomons Lodge and the original is in possession of the Lodge. They were signed by fourteen Masons, of whom two are known to have been made in New Haven, and two others in Middletown. The rest have not been definitely traced. No minutes for

the first ten years have survived. The Lodge quite apparently did not lapse, as there has been handed down a list of twenty-one Masons made during that period. On December 27, 1775, the Lodge assembled at the house of Brother Peter Gilchrist in Woodbury. Worshipful Master Joseph Perry was in the chair and was reelected for the ensuing term.

That first meeting was quite clearly a congregation of sojourners who were conveniently in Waterbury. Christmas Day, a joyful occasion among Church of England adherents, was not in the Puritan tradition then prevailing in Connecticut.

The charter is said to have simply been "taken over the hill" when the Master who had it in his possession moved his residence and place of business.

#### NORWALK — 1765

The original charter bears the signature of R.W. George Harrison, Grand Master of the Provincial Grand Lodge of New York, and dated May 23, 1765: "— to be held in Norwalk only, and that until such time as a Grand Master shall be appointed for the Colony of Connecticut." The original charter seems to have been hanging on the walls of the Lodge room at the time of the Centennial Observance in 1865, but has long since disappeared.

The charter Master was Benjamin Isaacs, who continued in that office until his death late in 1775. He and the other charter members had probably been made in New York, where Norwalk merchants had their business connections, or possibly in Union Lodge at Stamford.

The records before 1779 are missing, presumably burned during the British raid on Norwalk that same year. From other evidence it appears the Lodge had been at work since its organization.

#### STRATFORD — 1776

"St. John's Lodge No. 1" of Stratford was chartered by George Harrison, Provincial Grand Master of New York, on 22 April 1766. The first Master was Joseph Clarke, who appears to have been the one made in Middletown. Most of the early members however, had been made in the Lodge at Fairfield.

At the very first meeting several affiliates were raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason and elected to various offices. A dispute between the Secretary and the Master resulted in the former being deprived of Masonic privileges, one of the earliest records of Masonic discipline in the state.

Together with the Lodges at Fairfield and Norwalk, (and possibly others), St. John's Lodge participated in several Fairfield County "conventions" long before a Grand Lodge was organized in Connecticut. They also issued a certificate to their members for convenience when visiting. Although work was suspended in 1774, thirty-one members had been added to the rolls in less than ten years.

#### NORWICH — 1766

At a meeting of St. John's Grand Lodge in Boston, June 24, 1764, a recommendation was received from "the Master, Wardens and Brethren of Lodge No. 7 in His Majesty's 55th Regiment of Foot, dated 5 March 1762", which mentioned "Lieut.

Daniel Moulton; Lieut. Samuel Mott; Doctor Phillip Turner. Master Masons of our Lodge ... together with nine other Masons ... as highly worthy ... for holding a Lodge ... in the Colony of Connecticut".

According to Charles W. Carter in his history of Somerset Lodge, Doctor Turner, together with other Freemasons in and about Norwich, in 1766 obtained from St. John's Grand Lodge, a charter for a Lodge to be located in Norwich. The Grand Lodge records for October 24, 1766, make mention of this Lodge, and again the following year.

No further trace of pre-Revolutionary Freemasonry in Norwich has come to light. Presumably the Lodge worked for a few years but lapsed at the outbreak of war.

#### WALLINGFORD — 1769

A petition to St. John's Grand Lodge in Boston was presented February 24, 1769, signed by fifteen Masons of Wallingford, asking for a charter and recommending John Barrett for the first Master. Barrett and two others had been made in New Haven and six of the petitioners in the Middletown Lodge. Two were from the Lodge at Waterbury, but where the rest were made has not been ascertained.

On April 28, 1769, John Barrett appeared in person when the petition was read in St. John's Grand Lodge, and it was resolved to recommend the petitioners to Grand Master John Rowe, "for a Constitution". The charter was issued on "1 May 1769".

Barrett shortly after removed to western Massachusetts and Vermont, where he was active in Masonry. While the records for the early days of Freemasonry in Wallingford are unfortunately missing, it is known that the Lodge was at work in 1771, the year in which Jonathan Heart recorded he had been made. Quite probably work lapsed with the outbreak of the Revolutionary War.

#### GUILFORD — 1771

On June 24, 1771, a Brother Rockwell (probably Samuel of Middletown) presented a petition to St. John's Grand Lodge in Boston from sundry Brethren for a Lodge to be held in Guilford. The charter was granted by R.W.G.M. John Rowe under the date of "10 July 1771".

Three of the nine petitioners are known to have been made in New Haven and the others presumably in Wallingford. The charter Master was Bilious Ward, a famous silversmith.

At the first meeting three candidates were admitted and during the next few years a total of twenty-one names appear on the membership list. The last meeting of record before the Revolution was in May 1775.

In their petition for restoration of privileges some years later it was stated that "from the general calamities of the war and their exposed situation to the ravages of the enemy, they became ... depressed ..." This statement explains the situation in the several coastal towns of the State where Masonic activities lapsed generally at about this time.

## CHAPTER II

### *Years of Revolution*

1775 - 1783

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- 1779. Washington Lodge chartered to travel in the American Army,
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## CONNECTICUT MASONS IN THE REVOLUTION —1775—

The extent of the influence of Masonry, as an institution, during the period of unrest which preceded the American Revolution, is one question on which Masonic writers are not in full accord.

Some appear to believe that the Masonic Lodge was a hot bed of rebellion where resistance was advocated; where demonstrations were planned; and where, later, leaders in armed revolt stood up and took command. Other writers emphasize the fact that individual Masons were conspicuous in the resistance movement and in the conflict, but discount any concerted subversive activities by the Fraternity at large.

When the British Ministry decided to make a show of military might in 1768, they sent troops to Boston and New York in force to discourage the rebellious spirit manifested after passage of the Stamp Act. The Boston Massacre occurred March 5, 1770, and the Sons of Liberty clashed with the soldiers in New York City that same year. While events in New York and New England are of chief interest to Connecticut readers, it must be understood that indignation was aroused in all the colonies, although not mentioned here in detail.

In 1772, the customs schooner 'Gaspee' went aground while running up Narragansett Bay, and a group of Providence men went down, attacked the crew and burned the vessel. There were Masons among the boarding party, it became known later, but identification of the participants was never revealed to the British authorities. Sons of Liberty were active in other incidents up and down the Atlantic seaboard.

The Boston Tea Party was held December 16, 1773, and while some would like to believe that invitations went out like a summons to a Lodge meeting, it has only been shown that there were Masons among those who "poured". It is noted, however, that the regular meeting of a local Lodge was not held because there was no quorum present — a situation without precedent. There were 'tea disorders' in almost every port of entry, and local tea consignees were terrorized in many places. Not all the tea was destroyed by any means. Much taken into protective custody was clandestinely distributed. There was a great demand for tea — if untaxed.

In 1774, one of a long list of coercive acts of Parliament closed the Port of Boston and restricted trade of the American colonies to that with Britain and her colonies in the West Indies. It also barred New Englanders from the North Atlantic fishing grounds, while a quartering act authorized the billeting of troops in private houses. Most irritating of all, Canada was accorded liberal concessions denied to the English colonies. Committees of Correspondence had now been generally organized in all the colonies and the First Continental Congress assembled in Philadelphia. Although sentiment was not unanimous, it was resolved that there should be no conformance to the coercive acts; economic sanctions against the British were recommended; local governments advised to collect and retain taxes; and the people exhorted to obtain arms and form their own militia. Local Committees of

Safety were organized in many communities to further those objectives.

British army units had seized cannon and powder stored at Cambridge and Charlestown, and while the militia rallied, there was no open conflict. Boston Neck was fortified as a security measure, closing approach from the countryside. At Portsmouth, New Hampshire, the removal of munitions from Fort William and Mary by the British was anticipated, but a party of colonials under John Sullivan got there first. The powder was used at Bunker Hill, where it proved to be not quite enough. A raid by the British against Salem, Massachusetts, was thwarted by local militiamen.

The Massachusetts General Court in 1775 had constituted itself a Provincial Assembly, and now made overt preparations for armed revolt. The first clash came at Lexington and Concord, and while the minute men were alarmed only within a radius of 100 miles, the news that hostilities had broken out sped southward and aroused sympathy, and response. This occurred only a few weeks after Patrick Henry had made his famous 'liberty or death' speech and, starting then, action became the order of the day.

Military action began in earnest with the capture of Fort Ticonderoga on May 10, 1775, followed on June 17th by the Battle of Bunker Hill. Washington was named Commander-in-Chief by the Continental Congress and immediately went to Cambridge to take command of the forces now besieging Boston. Events began to move rapidly as other troops moved to the vicinity of New York, an expedition was sent up the Champlain valley against Canada, and Arnold marched on Quebec through the Maine woods. Fully aroused and supportive of the trend of events, Congress authorized a navy. Some of the high spots of 1775 will be taken up in more detail later.

Developments in Connecticut Masonry between 1770 and the beginning of warfare five years later were such that the historian must read between the lines of scanty Lodge minutes (those few extant) and make an estimate of the situation in the light of other events.

There were twelve Lodges in the Colony — ten of them located in tide-water towns which were accessible either by sea or coastal water transportation. They were not closely bound to each other, having been chartered from both Boston and New York by Provincial Grand Masters. Conviviality was a prominent feature, and their charities were local. Among the members at that time, Royalists, Loyalists, and Episcopalians were conspicuous among the less than 500 Masons in the Colony.

In New Haven, meetings became infrequent from 1774 on. In 1777, when activity increased, it was voted that "all conversation in the Lodge room was to be considered a Secret of Freemasonry and kept as such". Many of the outspoken Tories had been interned and a number of New Haven Masons were in the Continental service. What the conversation may have been which was to be kept secret is not known — it having been kept secret to this day.

There are no existing records of the Lodge formed at New London in 1753, the "Crown Officers" in the Customs House were generally Freemasons and were forced to leave town just before the Revolution, as was the Episcopal minister. Several patriot members like William Coit, Samuel Holden Parsons, William

Adams and others were in the field at the earliest alarm. With so many of its Officers and members unavailable, Masonic activity probably stopped. Masonry, at least as an organized Lodge, did not reappear in New London until Union Lodge was chartered in 1795.

In Middletown the records of the Lodge stop with a meeting on June 24, 1772, but resume on the very next page with a meeting held December 27, 1781. The first entry then made reads that "for certain reasons" meetings had "been neglected". There were many Episcopalians in the Lodge at Middletown and they, of course, were generally Royalists. Perhaps harmony was disrupted at the Festival of St. John in June, 1772, and restored at a love feast on St. John's Day in December 1781.

The Lodge at Fairfield was quiet between 1774 and 1777, presumably for the reason that if harmony did not prevail when the Masons met at a table Lodge, the best thing to do was not to bring the dissidents together at all. The same Master, Jonathan Bulkeley, was the one who resumed work and made a number of Masons from among the officers stationed at the defense works at Black Rock.

As in so many other spots during wartime, the records of the Lodge in Hartford are missing from February 22, 1769 until September 1, 1779. We do know that some Masons were made during that period but assume that early in the war years the Lodge was dark. John Townley and Roger Viets and others were conspicuous Tories. Townley was sent out of the country and Viets was interned until he could leave.

The Lodge at Greenwich and Stamford, of which Union Lodge (5) is the present day successor, was located in the war zone, and we have no records of its activity until 1780, although it had been chartered in 1763 and is known to have made Masons from a wide area in Connecticut and nearby New York towns.

Norwalk was raided by the British in 1779, and, in this year, the existing minutes of the Lodge, now St. Johns (6), begin, although the Lodge was chartered 16 years earlier. It no doubt experienced some decline just before the war, but later had support from Masons among the officers in the garrison at the harbor defense works.

The Lodge at Woodbury, located inland, appears to have been at work since the time it was chartered in 1765, but the records now extant do not commence until ten years later. A membership list of early members does exist. Now known as King Solomons (7) it has carried on without a break from that time, and was the source from which Masonic light spread to all the surrounding towns.

Minutes for the Lodge at Stratford are rather scanty from its Organization in 1765, and entirely missing from March 28, 1774 until January 13, 1778. There was a strong Episcopal group in Stratford and lack of harmony was apparent among the members within the Lodge and undoubtedly an equal amount outside. This probably accounts for the lapse in the minutes.

A Lodge in Norwich was authorized by the Grand Lodge at Boston in 1766, but there is no remaining record of its activity, nor is it known that a warrant was issued. While we do not know of any work done, we do know the identity of several early Masons in the town, all patriots and conspicuous during the Revolution, among them Dr. Philip Turner at Bunker Hill and Colonel Samuel Mott at Ticonderoga.

A Masonic Lodge was chartered at Wallingford in 1769 and was quite large in numbers at the outset. It was another inland Lodge and unfortunately we know very little about its early history, as the records are missing up until 1822. It is safe to assume there was some dissention in the Lodge just before the Revolution as was the case elsewhere.

Guilford had a Lodge chartered in 1771 but it ceased work in 1775. When a petition came in to the Grand Lodge in 1797 asking for permission to resume work, the twenty year lapse was attributed to the "general calamities of the war" because of which Masonry "became depressed". We know that some of the members were notorious for their Loyalist sentiments.

The Boston Port bill was protested in May, 1774, by resolution of the Connecticut General Assembly, in which there were not a half dozen Masons. Similar action was taken in many towns, where paper resolves and patriotic words were soon followed up by substantial donations. Bread stuff was sent by the cart-load to Boston and livestock driven in to relieve the food shortage among the residents. As many as 250 sheep were sent from Windham alone in one drove.

Some of the more conspicuous and outspoken Royalists were targets of demonstrations. The highly vocal Reverend Samuel Peters of Hebron was visited by a crowd of several hundred protestors from Eastern Connecticut and persuaded to publicly renounce or disclaim the sentiments he had written in support of Parliamentary procedure. An effigy was burned at Farmington. Reverend Samuel Seabury was kidnapped from his White Plains home by Isaac Sears and others and brought into New Haven for questioning.

Many towns erected liberty poles, with friendly rivalry among them to see who could top off at the greatest height. East Haddam seems to have established the record with one that was 147 feet high. The union flag then flown displayed a representation of Liberty struggling against Tyranny. The three newspapers in the state, all owned by Masons, were outright in their patriotic sentiments.

In the spring of 1775, the militia was reorganized with six regiments being designated for the defense of the Colony. David Wooster was named Major General, Joseph Spencer and Israel Putnam the Brigadeers.

The Lexington alarm brought out some of the companies and many volunteers were paid for two or three weeks service. Who has not heard the story of the venerable Brother Putnam leaving his plow in the furrow and galloping off to Boston in his shirt sleeves, he was so anxious to get in the fight. Named one of the original eight Continental Major Generals, he was the only one of them to serve throughout the Revolution.

The second Company Governor's Foot Guard was organized early in 1775 and chartered by the General Assembly March 2nd. Among the early members were Benedict Arnold, Amos Doolittle, Pierpont Edwards, Eleazer Oswald, Elias Shipman, and a dozen other Masons. Arnold was chosen the first Captain commandant. On April 21st news of the affair at Lexington reached New Haven, and many of the Foot Guard volunteered to march to Boston under the name of the New Haven Cadets, being reinforced by a number of Yale students. Lacking powder and ball, they demanded that the local Committee of Safety supply their needs, and threat-

ened to break into the powder house if they were not given the keys. Thus originated the "Powder House Ceremony" re-enacted on New Haven Green every spring. The company was paid for 28 days service on this expedition, but Arnold did not return with them, as will be seen in the following paragraph.

Connecticut men who had served at Ticonderoga during the campaigns against the French and Indians knew about the great number of artillery pieces in storage there, and that only a small garrison was on duty to guard them. The remote situation of the fort made it unlikely that news of developments at Boston had reached that far. David Wooster, Samuel H. Parsons and others arranged for a loan from the colony treasury to finance Noah Phelps and Edward Mott to go to Berkshire county, Massachusetts. There they were to raise a force sufficient to take the fort and secure the cannon. Learning that Ethan Allen and Seth Warner had assembled a group of the Green Mountain Boys at Bennington, the party from Connecticut, and the volunteers they had picked up, joined forces with the Vermonters. Meanwhile, Benedict Arnold had got wind of what was proposed, had obtained a commission from the Provincial authorities in Massachusetts, and with their approval set out for Berkshire county intending to raise a force and move against the fort. Accompanied by Oswald, he found that the Connecticut party had preceded him, and then that his Massachusetts commission was not recognized in Vermont. He accompanied the party which entered the fort on the morning of May 10th, side by side with Allen. Arnold then had to content himself with a water borne adventure against St. Johns at the foot of Lake Champlain. Frustrated by the turn of events, when superseded by officers arriving with reinforcements, he returned to Cambridge. Seth Warner had been sent down the lake to take Crown Point, which surrendered with no resistance from the small garrison. The prisoners of war were sent to the Hartford jail until parole or exchange was effected.

Connecticut units under command of General Putnam, numbering about 400 men, were at Bunker Hill on the 17th of June. Disciplined regulars overcame inexperienced militiamen defending an improvised strong point on the summit and brought the days' fighting to an end. One of the defenders killed that day was none other than the Grand Master of Antient Masons in Massachusetts, Dr. Joseph Warren. Several Lodges and a Royal Arch Chapter in Connecticut took his name. A commemorative postage stamp issued a few years ago, shows our Brother Thomas Grosvenor of Pomfret, and his body-servant Peter Salem, with the caption "Battle of Bunker's Hill". This is a small corner taken from the painting by John Trumbull, in which the central figure among twenty individuals portrayed, is the dying Warren, the full title being "The Death of Joseph Warren at Bunker's Hill."

(Note) — On June 14, 1775, Dr. Joseph Warren was elected Major General of the Mass. forces, but three days later he was killed in the Battle of Bunker Hill while fighting in the ranks as a volunteer. His body was buried near the spot where he fell, and remained there until it was found and identified on April 4, 1776. On April 8, the Grand Lodge convened for the purpose of burying the remains of its late Grand Master. The remains were reinterred in the tomb of George Richard Minot, a friend of the Warren family, in the Granary Burying Ground, Boston, where they remained until 1825. Then they were removed to the Warren tomb in Saint Paul's Church,

Boston. On Aug. 2, 1855, the remains were deposited in an urn and placed in the family vault at Forest Hills Cemetery, Boston.

General David Wooster and troops from western Connecticut were ordered in May to proceed to the outskirts of New York City, where Tory sentiment was strong. Lacking an invitation from the Provincial Assembly they did not enter the city, but did act to prevent raiding of cattle and theft of grain from Long Island. In September Wooster was ordered to join the expedition sent into Canada by way of Lake Champlain, under command of Philip Schuyler. Yankee and Yorker never saw eye to eye except in a confrontation, and this instance was no exception. The situation improved when Richard Montgomery succeeded Schuyler in command. While Wooster stayed in Montreal as military governor and in charge of the service of supply, Montgomery marched against Quebec and lost his life during the assault attempted on New Years eve.

Meanwhile the ambitious and audacious Arnold had been commissioned by Washington to command a supporting expedition to move through the Maine woods, and undertake to surprise the citadel of Quebec. When discovered they had to await Montgomery and his troops, and then took part in the ill fated attack. Among the many Americans made prisoners of war were a number of men later prominent in the fraternity, notably Return Jonathan Meigs. Meigs was a Connecticut man who moved to Ohio in 1788 with his father. He became a Federal Judge; Chief Justice of Ohio's Supreme Court; U.S. Senator from Ohio; Governor of Ohio' and Postmaster General of the United States. He and his father were initiated the same night in American Union Lodge in Marietta, Ohio in 1791.

The Continental Congress did not complete their plans for a naval force until November 1775. Meanwhile the colonials, aroused by British depredations, began arming private vessels. Transports and wood-ships destined for Boston were intercepted. At Machias local daredevils took over a British supply schooner while the officers were ashore attending church services.

General Washington on his own authority ordered a number of vessels to be fitted out as privateers. Captain William Coit of New London and his company of "marines" who had been at Bunker Hill, marched to Plymouth and manned the 'Harrison' which carried four carriage guns and two swivels. Coit took two vessels carrying supplies for Boston and sent them as prizes into Roxbury.

At Boston the Continental army under Washington tightened the siege lines. As the situation stabilized and officers had more and more leisure, Masons in the Connecticut brigade organized American Union Lodge. The story of this famous military traveling lodge will be recounted later.

— 1776 —

New Year's Day 1776 found 300 Americans being held as prisoners of war at Quebec. The ill-fated assault on the Citadel, made the night before, faltered with the death of Major General Richard Montgomery. Colonel Benedict Arnold was wounded

at the head of a party storming the gates on the opposite side of the city, but was carried off the field and directed the siege throughout the winter. Brigadier General David Wooster remained at Montreal as Military Governor until April, when he went down and took command at Quebec, being relieved shortly by Brigadier General John Thomas.

When Montgomery's body was recovered it was recognized and given decent burial by a British officer and brother Mason. While Lodges had been established years before at both Montreal and Quebec, and while there were Masons in both the invading and defending forces, no intimation of Masonic activity or intercourse in Canada during the early part of 1776 has come down to us.

Boston was ringed with siege works of the Continental army. The capture of Ticonderoga had yielded 175 pieces of artillery, many of which were sledged over the snow under direction of Colonel Henry Knox. When the mortars were emplaced on the heights surrounding Boston and brought to bear, the British realized the predicament they were in and decided to evacuate the city. They departed on March 17th, still observed as a holiday in Boston and Suffolk county.

The Continental army had now been organized into regiments, of which Connecticut had recruited eight. The forces at Boston were for the most part from nearby colonies. As conditions of the siege became more or less static, and with time on their hands, the troops began to busy themselves with various pastimes. Masons in the Connecticut regiments decided to meet and work as such, and accordingly obtained authority from John Rowe, Grand Master of St. Johns Provincial Grand Lodge, to form and work as a regular Lodge.

This was made possible by issuance of a 'commission' or warrant to Colonel Joel Clarke, dated February 15, 1775.

By virtue of authority invested in me, I hereby, reposing special trust and confidence in your knowledge and skill of the Ancient Craft, do appoint and constitute you, the said Joel Clark, Esquire, Master of the AMERICAN UNION LODGE, now erected in Roxbury, or wherever your Body shall remove on the Continent of America, provided it is where no Grand Master is appointed.

You are to promote in your Lodge the utmost Harmony and Brothery Love, and to keep up to the Constitutions, for the reputation of the Craft. In your makings you are to be very cautious of the Moral Character of such persons, and also of visitors, and such as desire to become Members of your Lodge, (such as were not made in it.) You are to transmit to the Grand Lodge a fair account of the choice of your officers as well present as future. Any matters coming before your Lodge that cannot be adjusted you are to appeal to and lay the same before the Grand Lodge for a decision. You are, as often as the Grand Lodge meets, to attend with your two Wardens; of the time and place the Grand Lodge shall meet, you will have previous notice.

In order to support the Grand Lodge, your Lodge is to pay into the hands of the Grand Secretary, each Quarterly Night, the sum of 12 shillings lawful money; all of which you will pay due regard to.

This Commission to remain in full force and virtue until recalled by me or my successor in office.

Given under my hand, and the hands of the Grand Wardens, (the seal of the Grand Lodge first affixed.)

(L.S.) this the 15th day of February, Anno Mundi 5776, of Salvation 1776.

Richard Gridley, D.G.M.  
William Burbeck, S.G.W.  
\_\_\_\_\_, J.G.W.

Per order of the Grand Master

Recorded, Wm. Hoskins, Grand Secretary.

While most of the members were from Connecticut, other Masons in units stationed conveniently near the place of meeting, Waterman's Tavern in Roxbury, were also admitted. The Senior Warden chosen was from Delaware, and the Junior Warden a Boston man. Fifteen meetings were held before the army removed to New York City, anticipating its occupation by the British.

Upon arrival off Halifax after leaving Boston Harbor, the British command found that transports had come in with Hessian auxiliaries. It was decided to move towards New York forthwith, drive out the Continentals, and establish general headquarters there. Debarking on Staten Island, the infantry recuperated from the long sea voyage and then crossed to Long Island. Here on August 27th the sturdy and steady Hessian grenadiers with their fire power, bayonettes, and weight of numbers routed the Americans. The retreat to Manhattan was made successfully under cover of darkness and a blanket of fog, in boats manned largely by Colonel Glover's 'amphibians' from Marblehead.

When American Union Lodge reopened in New York city with conditional permission from Deputy Provincial Grand Master Dr. Peter Middleton, who was a royalist, they met as "Military Union Lodge". Another fifteen meetings were held before disaster struck and caused suspension of all activity. The story is best told by quoting from the record book—

"The British Troops having landed with a Large Body on Long Island the Attention of the American Army was necessary to repel them therefore the Brethren did not meet— On the ever Memorable 27th of August, the Right Worshipful Joel Clark, Elisha Hopkins, Ozias Bissell, Joseph Jewet, Nathl Gove being taken prisoners— & on the 13th of Sept Brother James Chapman & Micajah Gleason killed, Willm Cleveland & John Palsgrave Wyllys taken prisoner— & Brother Otho Holland Williams taken Prisoner at Fort Washington by which Misfortunes the Lodge was deprived of its Master & some most worthy Members— & many other Brethren were called to act in Separate Departments wherefore the Lodge Stood Closed without Day —

Jona. Heart Secty."

Not until two and one half years later did American Union Lodge resume labor, then at the cantonment of the Connecticut Brigade in Redding, Connecticut. A complete history of the Lodge was written by Charles S. Plumb and published in 1932. Biographical notes on all the men whose names appear on the records were printed in the Transactions of the American Lodge of Research, Volume VI, Number 2, pages 356-401.

During its short six months of labor in 1776, no less than fifty men signed the by-

laws, two thirds of whom were from Connecticut. Twenty eight visitors were listed, eleven while at Boston and seventeen while at New York.

Brief mention can be made here of only a few of the early members. Joel Clarke, the first Master, had been initiated in the Lodge, at New Haven, now Hiram (1) and was later a member (and possibly Master) of King Solomons Lodge (7) of Woodbury. He was taken a prisoner of war during the Battle of Long Island, and confined in the prison ship 'Jersey' where he died of neglected wounds. Samuel Holden Parsons, the Treasurer, was made in Middletown, crafted in New Haven, and raised in American Union, after his election! A later Master of American Union Lodge and of St. Johns Lodge (2) at Middletown, he lost his life while surveying Ohio land grants. He became a Continental Major General before leaving the army. Jonathan Heart, the Secretary, was made in the Lodge at Wallingford, now Compass (9). Sitting as Master of American Union Lodge between 1779 and 1783, he became, without doubt, the most conspicuous Mason in the Continental army. He revived American Union Lodge at Marietta, Ohio in 1790 but the next year, while serving as Major in the regular army, was killed in action at St. Clair's Defeat during a campaign against the Indians in the North West Territory.

One of the first candidates was Ebenezer Huntington of Norwich, a later Congressman, among other distinctions. He, with David Nevins, later a Norwich industrialist, were charter members of Somerset Lodge (34) in 1795. Identified with the Lodge at Hartford were Ozias Bissell, Daniel Cotton, John Hopkins and Samuel Wyllys. John Palsgrave Wyllys, a class mate and intimate friend of Nathan Hale, was killed in action during a campaign against the Indians in 1790 while a Major in the army. John Cole and Ezekiel Scott were later charter members of Frederick Lodge in Farmington. Charles Whittlesey was a member of King Solomons Lodge and charter Master of King Hiram Lodge at Derby. Stephen Keyes became a charter member of Montgomery Lodge in Salisbury and was active in Masonry when he removed to Vermont. No less than six members were killed in action or died of wounds. Two who were made Entered Apprentices at New York were killed a week later in the Battle of Long Island. Another made at that time was killed at Stony Point in 1779.

One of the more notable members of American Union Lodge was Moses Cleaveland, born in Canterbury, Connecticut in 1754. He became associated with Connecticut's Western reserved lands in Northwestern Ohio and led an exploration and survey party there in 1796. He selected a mile square site on the Cuyahoga River and laid out the streets of a city. He ventured to predict it might grow to the size of Windham, his county seat in Connecticut. His prediction was a marvel of understatement: Windham today has changed but little from the town he knew, but the city he laid out numbers over a million residents and bears his name — Cleveland, Ohio.

Returning to the Canadian campaign—early in May a fleet of British war vessels and troop transports arrived off Quebec, and the Continental forces began retirement, with several attempts to stand and fight. Forced back to Montreal, they were unable to hold any position against the British advancing up the St. Lawrence, and withdrew in disorder towards Lake Champlain. Some Connecticut men were

involved in the several holding actions and in the affair at the Cedars, May 19th. On the lake the energetic Arnold took command of some hastily built gunboats in an attempt to delay the water borne advance of the British. While defeated at the naval battle off Valcour Island October 11th, when their fleet was annihilated, the Americans were able to hold the forts at Crown Point and Ticonderoga over the winter. The flotilla had been built by artisans sent up from Connecticut and was manned largely by experienced Connecticut mariners.

Three Connecticut regiments of Continentals were assigned to the northern army and served as part of the garrisons at Ticonderoga and Fort Stanwix. General Wooster had been ordered back to Philadelphia to testify at a Congressional investigation of the failure of the military to hold Canada. While he was exonerated of all blame for the defeat, he had "talked high" before the committee and was not again assigned to a Continental command. He took over the defense of the western border of Connecticut as the senior officer of state troops, ordered out and stationed in or near Greenwich, then called Horseneck.

The Declaration of Independence was adopted on the Fourth of July, but none of the Signers from Connecticut happens to have been a Mason. Robert R. Livingston of New York was a member of the committee to draft the document, but did not sign after the New York Provincial Congress failed to approve it. He was later Grand Master of Masons in New York and as Chancellor of the state administered the oath of office to George Washington as our first president. On the other hand, some men who signed the document after its adoption, had not even been present at the time of the debate or vote. Nine of the fifty-six names appended to the Declaration are those of men known to have been members of the fraternity, and are memorialized in a Digest of the Masonic Service Association.

Following the retirement from Long Island late in August, the Americans, retreating from New York City, fought a delaying action at Harlem Heights September 16th, and a full scale battle at White Plains October 28th. The patriots were no match for the disciplined Hessian and veteran British soldiers. In these actions the forces under Washington were mostly Connecticut troops, as thousands of militia were called out for reinforcement of the Continentals, although the levies did little more than make a show of numbers.

The capture of Fort Washington on Morningside Heights November 16th forced the abandonment of Fort Lee across the river on the Palisades, and a retreat across New Jersey followed. The objective of both armies was the occupation of Philadelphia. The main force of the northern army, under Washington, resisted the British advance and made good use of the light horse regiment from Connecticut for scouting and communication. Some Connecticut units were with Putnam when he hurried into Philadelphia ahead of the British. Parts of three regiments remained with Washington and took part in the surprise attack on Trenton the day after Christmas, when nearly 1000 Hessians were taken prisoner.

Connecticut had a twenty-seven foot sloop cruising coastal waters with orders "to run from place to place, to carry intelligence, discover the enemy &c", aptly named "Spy". In February 1776 the brig "Defense" was launched at Chatham or Middle Haddam, sailed under Captain Seth Harding, and was later commanded by

Captain Samuel Smedley. Cruising off Boston harbor, she took several valuable prizes. A number of gun boats or galleys were built and a start made on war vessels. A frigate was laid down at Essex, named the "Oliver Cromwell", the command of which was first given to Captain William Coit of New London.

As far as the record shows, only the Lodges at New Haven, Fairfield, and Woodbury were at work during 1776 and that rather listlessly, there being other interests of greater urgency to take the attention of the Craft. Pierpont Edwards, our first Grand Master, had been made a Mason in Hiram Lodge on St. Johns Day in December 1775 and his leadership may have begun to be felt as he became Master a year or two later. While a number of loyalists and royalists appear among the pre Revolutionary Masons, and some were later luke warm patriots, by far the greater number of the craft were active under arms or otherwise, engaged in the struggle for American independence.

"I am apt to believe that it (the signing of the Declaration of Independence) will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations from one end of this continent to the other from this day forward forevermore."

JOHN ADAMS July, 1776.

(From a column printed in 1951)

#### 1776—One hundred seventy five years ago.

Connecticut lodges generally were not active during the Revolution if we can judge by the records they have left. This year Hiram Lodge admitted or made 16 Masons, the New London Lodge had lapsed, in Middletown the records are missing, St. John's in Fairfield (now No. 3 in Bridgeport) continued their master in office, Hartford was at work, the records of Union Lodge in Stamford are lost, those in Norwalk were burned, the Norwich Lodge was dormant, Woodbury was at work, Stratford records are lost, Wallingford records are also missing and Guilford admitted discontinuing work this year.

But Connecticut Masons at the Siege of Boston had carried their enthusiasm into the field. There at the Roxbury camp a group of Masons were chartered as American Union Lodge in the Connecticut Line. Col. Joel Clark was the charter master but the fall of Boston and the rush to defend New York prevented much work being done. Clark was taken prisoner at the Battle of Long Island and died in captivity. The lodge resumed its meetings at winter quarters in Redding, Connecticut, in 1779, working later in New York and New Jersey as well. It is one of the best known of the Revolutionary traveling lodges and extracts from its minutes may be seen in Volume I of the Connecticut Grand Lodge Proceedings. Capt. Jonathan Heart was custodian of the charter and having it with him when he went to Ohio with the Army in 1790 invoked it for the organization of the present American Union Lodge No. 1 at Marietta.

—1777—

Little more than a week after the surprise attack on the Hessians at Trenton, in which three Connecticut regiments took part, Washington suddenly struck the British garrison at Princeton, January 3, 1777. Among the casualties in that action was Brigadier General Hugh Mercer, a member of the Lodge at Fredericksburg where Washington had been made a Mason. Mercer was one of the Masonic martyrs of the war whose memory was toasted in American Union Lodge, some of the members having served under him.

After the Princeton encounter, Washington retired to winter quarters at Morristown, New Jersey, keeping outposts on a line from Princeton to the Hudson Highlands. Of the Connecticut general officers, Putnam that winter commanded the right sector of the outposts in New Jersey, Wooster was in command of the defenses on the western border of Connecticut, Joseph Spencer and Arnold were on Rhode Island, and Samuel Holden Parsons was organizing the new formations being recruited and assembled at different staging areas in the state. Of those named above all were members of the craft except Spencer.

In January 1777 Colonel Samuel Wyllys' battalion was ordered to rendezvous at Hartford and the Selectmen of the town were directed to render all assistance possible in quartering, etc.

The execution by hanging of Moses Dunbar, a Tory officer sentenced for recruitment of loyalists for the British army, was a gala event at Hartford, March 17th, and brought in crowds from the countryside. Among those present were a number of officers about to take the field. St. John's Lodge was dark at the time, so an occasional lodge was opened by Samuel Wyllys and others at Flagg's Tavern and a single candidate made. That was an easy way to find someone to pay the cost of an evening's fun and food. The chosen victim was Captain William Judd, "about to go on active duty". He was later passed and raised in American Union Lodge, was a charter member of Frederick Lodge in Farmington in 1787, became Grand Master 1791-7, and was Grand High Priest in 1800. Wyllys was then Senior Deacon of American Union Lodge, never Master of a lodge, but Grand Senior Warden and Deputy Grand Master under Judd.

(Exact copy of original Minutes of American Union Lodge - March 19, 1777.)

at A Lodge at Mr. Flaggs on Wednesday the 17th of March 1777

Present Br Wyllys M  
Br John Hopkins SW  
Br G Burr JW  
Elisha Hopkins Treasr  
Jona Heart Sec,ty  
Danl Hinsdale

William Judd was proposed the Deposit paid & on account of his being about to leave the State Soon was ballotted for & made. Lodge adjourned till Wednesday at this Place at 6 oClock

The remainder due the Lodge £ 2..0..0  
Expenses £ 0..4..0

The Particular Situation of the Army making it necessary that the Officers of the Army Join immediately the Brethren did not meet — till 1779

The raid on Danbury by a British force under General Tyron, April 25-28, aroused the militia of the state west of the Connecticut river. The most notable casualty in the fighting was Major General David Wooster, the Father of Freemasonry in Connecticut. He was the subject of a brief biography in the historical annex to the Grand Lodge Proceedings for 1968, which was reprinted as a separate pamphlet by the Philosophic Lodge of Research. Benedict Arnold distinguished himself during the day-long battle waged up and down the length of Ridgefield street. During the retreat to the ships and embarkation at Compo, artillery from New Haven under Eleazer Oswald harassed the Red Coats. Among the medical men who gathered around Wooster's death bed were Philip Turner, a conspicuous figure in early Masonic lodges in Norwich, and John R. Watrous, later prominent in Colchester Masonic bodies, and who rose to the stations of Deputy Grand Master, Grand High Priest and Grand Commander of Knights Templar.

In retaliation for the Danbury Raid, Brigadier General Parsons, from his headquarters at New Haven, ordered Lieutenant Colonel Return Jonathan Meigs to proceed to Sag Harbor and destroy the shipping and supplies which the British had collected there. Leaving Guilford harbor with 170 men in 13 whaleboats under escort of two armed sloops, the commando force landed at Southold, portaged their boats eight miles to Peconic Bay, and hid out for the day. Crossing Peconic Bay, they made a successful night attack, burning a dozen vessels in the harbor as well as a great assortment of stores and merchandise, including 100 tons of hay and a quantity of rum. They returned by land and water as they had come, with 90 prisoners of war to portage and row the boats. Meigs received the thanks of Congress and an elegant presentation sword. Meigs was not made a Mason until American Union Lodge was revived at Marietta, Ohio in 1791. On St. John's Day that year he was back in Connecticut and was the orator of the day at Wooster Lodge (10) in Colchester where it was voted, that "as a Testimony of their Approbation of the Oration . . . they present Br. Meigs with being raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason gratis".

On June 14th the Continental Congress adopted a pattern for a flag of the Confederation, which was to be 13 alternate red and white stripes and carry 13 white stars on a blue canton. Among the many claims and traditions of priority in display of the flag, is one that such a flag was made and flown early in August at Fort Stanwix, where the garrison included some Connecticut units. Arnold commanded a relief force which drove off the British and Indians besieging that key point in defense of the Mohawk Valley. In the fighting, there fell another Masonic martyr in the person of Nicholas Herkimer, remembered along with Warren, Montgomery, Mercer, and Wooster, at table lodges in the army.

Note: In 1891, with strong support from Senator Joseph R. Hawley and Congressman Dwight Loomis from Connecticut, June 14 was officially designated Flag Day. The pledge to the flag which we use originated with Reverend Brother Francis Bellamy, then an Editor of the Youth's Companion.

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The advance of the main invasion force of British and Hessians from Canada had started down the Champlain Valley in 1776 but was held up by naval forces on the lake until the winter season brought the advance to a halt. The fort at Crown Point was an easy mark and Ticonderoga readily taken when the defender, St. Clair, was outgeneraled. Burgoyne sent a raiding party into Vermont to obtain horses for his dragoons, but Major General John Stark of New Hampshire, and Colonel Seth Warner, a Connecticut native, met, defeated and took captive the force of about 700 men at the Battle of Hubbardston or Bennington. In that engagement Colonel Nathan Hale, who commanded a regiment of New Hampshire militia, was a casualty. He was a member of St. John's Lodge at Portsmouth, and the appearance of that name on Masonic rolls has led to his confusion with the martyr spy of the same name, a Connecticut boy not a member of the craft.

The main force of the British advanced to the vicinity of Saratoga where a series of engagements followed. Thousands of Connecticut militia marched to the combat area, lending weight of numbers if not of fire power. No Connecticut regular troops were at Saratoga. The Governor's Horse Guard or some Connecticut mounted men were in the field under Major Thomas Y. Seymour, who is portrayed in Trumbull's painting of the surrender. They were also part of the escort guarding the convention troops to the detention center near Boston.

When British General Howe decided to move against Philadelphia over the water approaches, he sent the troop transports up the Delaware and Chesapeake bays. Connecticut regulars were not engaged in the defence of the city initially, although contingents of dragoons and artillery took part in the Battle on the Brandywine September 11th, and three regiments came down to fight in the fog at Germantown October 4th. Still others were at the defense of Forts Mercer and Mud Island, which were finally evacuated, freeing the Delaware river approach to Philadelphia for passage by British war vessels. Light troops under Lafayette were engaged at Red Bank in December and then retired to Valley Forge, where winter quarters were occupied by six Connecticut regiments among others. Crowded conditions and primitive facilities were such as not to encourage or permit any Masonic activity. Lamentably no record has ever been found of such at Valley Forge. General von Steuben appeared during that memorable winter and became "Drill Master" of the Continental Army. He was later conspicuous in Masonic circles in New York.

During 1777 only three Connecticut lodges left any record of meetings and work. The harbor defenses of New Haven became a rendezvous and training station for artillery, and there were a few initiates in Hiram Lodge, one being Captain Thomas Wooster, son of the General. The Black Rock Harbor in Fairfield was a

convenient refuge for privateersmen and Long Island traders and raiders, and the lodge there was kept open. Woodbury was a busy inland supply point and transportation center, and the lodge there was very active and made Masons from miles around.

The frigate "Trumbull", carrying 28 guns, was built at Middle Haddam and went to sea under Captain Dudley Saltonstall. The frigate "Confederacy", carrying 36 guns, was built at Brewster's Neck and sailed under Captain Seth Harding. Privateersmen and their financial backers were numerous among those seafaring men, many being prominent in Masonic circles after the war.

The year 1777 was a difficult one and with the few exceptions noted above there was little time for lodge meetings or festivity. Fighting called the activists elsewhere, and no Lodge worked in the army while duty called for work on the field of battle.

*(From a column printed in 1952)*

#### 1777— One hundred seventy five years ago.

The records for this year are exceedingly scanty, being missing for most of the eleven lodges previously chartered in the state. The Revolutionary war had caused the suspension of activity in many, but "Old Hiram" is known to have worked, making a baker's dozen Masons during the year. The records of King Solomon's Lodge indicate that this year it began to work at Woodbury, having been removed from Waterbury where it was organized ten years before.

An extraordinary meeting of American Union Lodge was held at Flagg's Tavern in Hartford on March 17th. The candidate, whose making was hastened as he was about to leave the state on military service, was none other than William Judd of Farmington, later a Grand Master of Masons in Connecticut. Presiding was Col. Samuel Wyllys of Hartford, in whose regiment Judd was then a captain, and who later was prominent in Grand Lodge circles.

The Independent Grand Lodge of Massachusetts (Antient) was organized this year, Joseph Webb becoming Grand Master in succession to Joseph Warren who was slain at the Battle of Bunker Hill two years before.

On April 27th, while driving British raiders back from their incursions against the depot of Continental supplies at Danbury, and while leading his troops in an attack against the enemy at Ridgefield, Major General DAVID WOOSTER, the Father of Freemasonry in Connecticut, was shot from his saddle, dying five days later on May 2nd, at the age of 66 years.

#### — 1778 —

As the year opened, Connecticut regular or Continental soldiers were quartered in huts at Valley Forge. With little likelihood of any movement in strength by the British forces holding Philadelphia, liberal furloughs and leave for the men and officers became possible. There is no record of any Masonic activity at Valley Forge that difficult winter. In Connecticut only the lodges at New Haven, Fairfield and Woodbury left any minutes of their activity.

France agreed to an alliance with the American confederation in the war against Britain early in the year, and Benjamin Franklin was appointed the first minister to France from America. A French fleet of war vessels sailed for the American sea-coast and this forced a decision by the British high command to consolidate their forces at New York as a base of operations.

The British left Philadelphia on a march overland through New Jersey, and Washington at once marched out of winter quarters in pursuit. The two columns collided at Monmouth June 28th and a running battle was fought. While it was not a victory for the Americans, there was an opportunity to prove the tactics taught at Valley Forge by Steuben. The Continentals now demonstrated their proficiency and effectiveness in use of the bayonet in mass formation. They were never again at a disadvantage in using that weapon against Red Coat and Hessian. Among those distinguishing themselves at Monmouth was Eleazer Oswald of New Haven and his artillery command.

The Continental Army next moved to the vicinity of White Plains and took up positions from which Washington felt he could observe and contain the British efforts to fight their way out of the city, and to keep an eye on naval activities. The British garrison on Rhode Island was threatened during the summer of 1778 by a few hundred regulars under command of Lafayette, and a few thousand militia from nearby states under command of Major General John Sullivan of New Hampshire. An attack was planned with support from the French fleet under Destaing, but like many an attempt at combined operations, failed from lack of coordination. A hurricane dispersed the fleet and the land forces were compelled to withdraw. The British later quit the island without further molestation.

In other places far from Connecticut, noteworthy events were taking place. The Wyoming Valley in Pennsylvania was raided in July when the Connecticut settlements near the present Wilkes-Barre were attacked by a force of Indians and Tories. Cherry Valley in New York was raided in November, and in both places treatment of the settlers was characterized as a massacre. Fighting was also taking place in the south at Savannah and in the Carolinas, and George Rogers Clarke was leading an expedition into the Illinois country.

On the high seas only single units of the Continental Navy were in action, although many privateers had been fitted out and were diligent in their sweep of coastal waters. John Paul Jones began his series of daring exploits this year, raiding the English sea coast.

After a year during which American accomplishments were slight, and army morale low, the several wings of the Continental forces moved into winter quarters. The locations chosen were Morristown, New Jersey, West Point on the Hudson, and Redding, Connecticut. In the last named cantonment the Connecticut and New Hampshire brigades under Putnam were to be "huttled", getting under cover just as the year ended.

Here American Union Lodge was to be resuscitated and to attain full vigor.

(From a column printed in 1953)

175 years ago — 1778

The Revolutionary War was at its height and Masonic activity low indeed, except in some of the towns more remote from the sea coast. Of course, steady Old Hiram was carrying on, although it only met five times and made but a single Mason. The lodge at Woodbury was flourishing but records of our other early lodges are missing. Harmony, the strength and support of all institutions, more especially this of ours, could not be maintained when violent differences of political opinion prevailed among the brethren, and accordingly was generally suspended.

— 1779 —

"Seventeen seventy-nine was a year without a pitched battle or a stirring campaign", one historian of the Revolution wrote, but there were numerous events of interest and importance to Connecticut people, and some of unusual Masonic interest.

Agreeable to a summons issued by Jonathan Heart, Secretary of American Union Lodge, the members and "other gentlemen, Brethren of the Ancient and Honourable Society of Free and Accepted Masons", assembled at Widow Sanford's Tavern in Redding on February 15, 1779. Three members, five visitors and the Tiler were present, with Heart in the chair. It was three years to the day since the time when Joel Clarke had been commissioned to form the Lodge at Roxbury, Massachusetts. The lapse was occasioned by severe losses during the fighting around New York during the summer and fall of 1776, including the Master who died, while confined as a prisoner of war, from wounds suffered in the Battle of Long Island.

Four of the visitors were admitted to membership and the Lodge proceeded to the choice of officers. Brigadier General Samuel Holden Parsons, commanding the Connecticut brigade, was elected Master, Heart the Senior Warden, and Elihu Marshall the Junior Warden. Isaac Sherman was elected Treasurer and William Judd, Secretary. As the Master was absent on special duty, expanding the coastal defenses of New London, Heart continued to preside for the business of revising the by-laws, and action on three proposals for membership.

Two days later three candidates were made Entered Apprentices. In the case of one who had been made in a clandestine lodge, one half the deposit and fee was remitted. Three more candidates were proposed and one affiliate accepted. During the following ten weeks the Lodge was very busy, holding fifteen meetings. All in all, while at Redding, nineteen officers of Connecticut regiments were made Masons, seven brethren admitted, and eight different visitors listed, most of them from the New Hampshire brigade.

A dinner, followed by a talk on Friendship, toasts and songs, was held on March 26th. Twelve of the Craft were present with an equal number of guests, "ladies and gentlemen." Another dinner and program was held on April 7th, attended by twenty-one of the Craft and "a number of respectable inhabitants, gentlemen and

ladies". Among those toasted were Washington, and the Masonic martyrs — Warren, Montgomery and Wooster. A procession was formed for each occasion, with the "youngest Brother carrying the Bag" so that Charity was not overlooked.

For the feasts, Inside and Outside Tylers were named "to share equally the profits of Tying the Lodge", one to mix and the other to serve the refreshments. One evening some oversight or excess occurred. A Captain of Artillery was proposed, elected and initiated, but "having appeared in Lodge in a situation unbecoming the character of a Mason", he was thereafter excluded, never to be considered a Brother.

Rev. Dr. Israel Evans, a Chaplain who had been invited to deliver a discourse at the April 7th dinner, was proposed and elected April 15th, made a Mason the next night, passed and raised on the 21st. This was fast work but he had been ordered elsewhere, and as a clergyman he was made gratis. General Parsons was back at headquarters and presided at some of the April meetings. In May, the Connecticut brigade quit the Redding cantonment (the "Valley Forge of Connecticut") and moved to the vicinity of West Point.

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The next meeting of record was held at West Point on St. Johns Day in June, with deferential mention in the minutes of Provincial Deputy Grand Master Peter Middleton, as the Lodge was meeting in New York Territory. The Lodge was opened in the cantonment area of the Connecticut Line on Nelson's Point and held the semi-annual election. Jonathan Heart was chosen Master and continued in the office until the Lodge went dark at the end of the war. As such he became the best known Mason in the Continental Army, at least in the Northern Department.

Crossing to West Point, the Lodge met at General Patterson's quarters and paraded to the Red House. Joined here by Washington and his staff, dinner was served under a bower, followed by a sermon from Rev. Dr. Enos Hitchcock, and an address to the Brethren in particular by William Hull. Washington was escorted back to his barge by the Lodge and the music, and was rowed away to New Windsor with cheers from the shore answered by the same from the boat - three times three.

Twelve meetings were held during the next few weeks in the Connecticut cantonment at Robinson's House or with the garrison at West Point. Nearly forty Masons were made during that period, including many officers from Massachusetts and Pennsylvania. Work was suspended when the Connecticut troops were ordered into winter quarters at Morristown, New Jersey, a strategic location chosen because it was nearer Philadelphia, then occupied by the British.

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During the early summer, in an effort to draw Washington's army away from West Point (the "Key to the Continent") and force him to fight the British, General Clinton had sent a strong land and naval force to take Kings Ferry, between Verplanck's and Stony Point. This was thirteen miles south of West Point, on the lower route used for intercolonial communication. Washington did not take the bait. Reinforcements expected from England did not arrive, and Clinton withdrew the bulk of his forces after manning and fortifying Verplanck's and Stony Point,

leaving a blockading frigate in the Hudson.

Clinton next attempted to draw Washington out of the Highlands by a diversion to the eastward, which ended in Tryon's infamous raid on New Haven, Fairfield and Norwalk. Tryon's orders restricted him to destruction of ships and stores, and impressment of cattle. The situation got entirely out of hand with wholesale looting and gleeful arson on the part of the troops, many of whom were Hessian. Two hundred forty dwellings, seven churches, numerous barns and mills, quantities of stores, shops and vessels were put to the torch.

In New Haven there were but few structures burned. General Wooster's house was emptied of everything movable, whereby there were forever lost, the valuable personal papers of Wooster, and those of his father-in-law, Dr. Thomas Clap, former president of Yale. Fairfield suffered most heavily, the vandals ranging far inland. Norwalk suffered almost as badly, but the defense was stiffening when the raiders put ashore there. The several harbors were defended only by small shore batteries. Many of the officers stationed there were members of the Lodges at New Haven, Fairfield and Norwalk, all actively at work that year.

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Washington could not afford to uncover the stronghold in the Hudson Highlands nor could he tolerate occupation of the fortifications on Verplanck's and Stony Point by the enemy. His decision was to retake Stony Point, from which Verplanck's, at a lower elevation, and the blockading vessel, would be easy targets of artillery fire. Thorough reconnaissance was made to insure the success of a night attack.

The light infantry or ranger companies were drawn from all the regiments and organized into four detachments of 340 men each. These were the elite of the army, the commandos. The Connecticut units were under command of Colonel Return Jonathan Meigs, the battalion commanders being Lieutenant Isaac Sherman and Captain Henry Champion. William Hull commanded the Massachusetts battalion. Others taking part were Robert Allyn of Groton, Ezra Selden of Lyme (wounded), Henry Ten Eyck and John Tiffany.

The attack was a complete success and not too costly, only fifteen men being killed and eighty-three wounded in the attacking forces. The 17th Regiment of Foot had garrisoned Stony Point, and among the booty was found the chest of the Lodge attached to the regiment. This was later returned by order of General Parsons under an appropriate escort.

A dozen or more members of American Union Lodge took part in the action at Stony Point. Henry Champion later became charter Master of Wooster Lodge at Colchester, and was Grand Treasurer for thirty three years. For a long time "Stony Point Day" was annually celebrated at his house in Westchester, any and all veterans being welcome for the reunion. A rum and cider toddy could be had by giving the password — "The Fort's Our Own!"

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When it became known that the Connecticut brigade was to be sent to winter quarters at Morristown, New Jersey, and that the Massachusetts brigade would

remain at West Point, those Massachusetts officers who had been made in American Union Lodge joined with others in petitioning for a charter to hold a Lodge in their own brigade.

Jonathan Heart was deputized to institute the Lodge and install the officers and did so on November 11, 1779. The first Lodge to bear the name of Washington, this group was very active during the next few months, reporting 109 members on the semi-annual return in July 1780. A history and roster of this Lodge was published in the Transactions of the American Lodge of Research in Volume X page 250 and following.

(Note: For reasons that will be apparent, the first two meetings of American Union Lodge at Morristown, held on December 15th and 27th, will be included under the account for 1780.)

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The year 1779 was an important period in Connecticut Masonry. The Lodge at Hartford resumed work after a lapse of a few years. The Lodges at New Haven, Fairfield and Norwalk were at work. So was the Lodge at Woodbury, which, on St. Johns Day in June, assumed the name King Solomon's. At the Redding cantonment of Putnam's Division of the Continental Army, the "Valley Forge of Connecticut" where three brigades were stationed, American Union Lodge resumed work after a two and one half year period when the members were busy making war. They went to work with fervency and zeal, and in three months time they initiated 19 candidates and affiliated three Brothers. Among those made were a later Grand Master of Connecticut; a Grand Treasurer who served for 33 years; two who became Grand High Priest of Royal Arch Masons; one served as Grand Secretary for 26 years; there was the eulogist at Israel Putnam's funeral; a Grand Treasurer in Massachusetts; a later Grand Chaplain in New Hampshire; and many who became Masters of Lodges when they went home after the war. (Note: The First Masonic District of Connecticut commemorated activities of American Union Lodge at a 200th Anniversary program held at Old Well Lodge on April 21-22, 1979, with appropriate events on both days.)

— 1780 —

During the winter 1779-80, a very severe one weatherwise, the Connecticut Line regiments were among the formations in cantonment at Morristown, New Jersey. The tight situation as far as shelter was concerned did not permit such degree work to be performed, except on one occasion when, with only six members of the Lodge present, two Entered Apprentices were advanced to the Fellowcraft step.

The record book has minutes of only six meetings but they were very important ones, as a plan for a National Grand Lodge was formulated and sent out for consideration by all Grand Lodges then active in the several states. It began on

December 15, 1779 when the semi-annual election was held. All those chosen were Connecticut men, Jonathan Heart being continued as Master, who was also appointed to meet with a committee from the different Lines of the army at Morristown to take into consideration some matters respecting the good of Masonry.

Just what those matters were became apparent at an Entered Apprentice Lodge held to celebrate the Feast of St. John the Evangelist. There were thirty-three officers and members present and twice as many visitors, including General Washington. After attending services in the meeting house and partaking of the usual collation at Arnold's Tavern a petition was read addressed to the several "present Provincial Grand Masters", asking them to take some action towards nomination of a Grand Master for the United States.

The nomination was to be submitted to "our Mother Lodge in Britain" unless the several Grand Masters took "such other manner as shall appear most eligible". The petition was to be circulated throughout the several Lines and a committee of representatives from Lines and Staff was to meet in February. The implication of subordination to the Grand Lodge in Britain stamps the proposal as the brain child of Jonathan Heart, as such an approach is revealed in his correspondence at other times. That attitude defeated the proposition as most Grand Lodges then formed in America considered themselves independent and autonomous. A similar failure to agree on procedure to be followed, caused postponement of the final organization of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut from 1783 until 1789.

It was at this meeting on St. Johns Day in December 1779 that George Washington was traditionally solicited to become General Grand Master. There is no doubt that he was first in the minds of all for that exalted station, but the schedule of meetings for committees and delegates, and the final Convention Lodge dispels the notion of any short cut. The famous painting by John Ward Dunsmore "The Petition" is a fanciful representation of what was probably a table lodge.

On January 31, 1780, American Union Lodge approved the petition and Heart was appointed to represent the Lodge and the Connecticut Line in the next committee meeting and the Convention to follow. The committee met on February 7th and approved the slightly amended petition. Representatives attended from the Massachusetts Line and Washington Lodge; the Connecticut Line and American Union Lodge; the Lines (Continental formations) of New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware and Maryland; St Johns Regimental Lodge (New York), the Staff of the Army; and the Artillery Corps. General Mordecai Gist was president and General Otho Holland Williams secretary of the committee. These two men were later Grand Masters of South Carolina and Maryland respectively.

On March 6, 1780, a Convention Lodge met with Jonathan Heart in the chair, when the proceedings of the committee were approved. Copies of the petition were sent to the several existing Grand Lodges with a covering letter. While meeting with mixed reaction at first, the proposal failed for lack of unanimous agreement, as all such similar proposals have since.

The last meeting of American Union Lodge at Morristown was held on March 27, 1780, when two members were raised. Because the units were moving back to Hudson Highlands, the semi-annual election could not be held until July 20th. Two

more meetings were held near Robinson's House (present day Garrison) on July 25th and July 29th, when four members were raised to the Master Mason degree. No more meetings of the Lodge are recorded until 1782, the several Lines being active in the field.

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Chance, the fortunes of war, and the fraternal nature of Masonry, had thrown together at Danbury a number of Masons who felt themselves animated by a desire to pursue the Grand Design of the institution of Freemasonry in a regular Lodge. The town was a supply depot, a staging area for recruits and replacements, and the location of a military hospital. Of the eleven applicants in the petition, partly phrased as above only three were residents of the town. More than half of them were doctors or surgeons in the army.

Dr. William Eustis, a later Governor of Massachusetts and Secretary of War, carried the petition to Boston and submitted it to Joseph Webb, Grand Master of the Massachusetts Grand Lodge (Ancients). Webb was reluctant to exercise his chartering authority beyond the 100 mile distance which had limited his predecessors. The charter was issued by John Rowe, Provincial Grand Master of St. Johns Grand Lodge (Moderns) although that body had suspended meetings when the loyalist Grand Secretary fled to Halifax, taking with him all the records and seals.

On the anniversary of the Battle of Lexington and Concord, the brethren met to accommodate Dr. Josiah Bartlett, a Surgeon's Mate from Massachusetts, whose inclination to be a Freemason was so great that he was determined if possible, to be initiated so as to join Union Lodge on the day appointed for institution and installation. On that occasion the Masters of the Lodges at Fairfield and Woodbury conducted the ceremonies. Rev. Israel Evans, made the year before in American Union Lodge at Redding, was conveniently near and preached the sermon. Josiah Bartlett was chosen secretary and acted as such for a short time before he left the service. He was later Master of King Solomons Lodge at Charlestown, Massachusetts, the moving spirit in erection of the first monument over the spot on Bunker Hill where Warren fell, and later became Grand Master of Masons in Massachusetts.

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During 1780 the lodges at New London, Middletown, Stratford, Norwich, and Guilford are known to have been dark. We have minutes or other evidence of work being done at New Haven, Fairfield, Hartford, Stamford, Norwalk and Wallingford. The Lodge at Woodbury was especially active being located on the main supply route, and making Masons in anticipation of Lodges being erected at Litchfield and Derby.

Another event of importance during 1780 was the arrival of the French army under Rochambeau at Newport, Rhode Island. The French officers met in at least one lodge in the winter quarters at Newport and again the following winter when they were at Williamsburg, Virginia.

Benedict Arnold defected at West Point in September 1780. One friend and Brother, Eleazer Oswald, expressed the prevailing sentiment among many in the following words — "Happy for him, and for his friends, it had been, had the ball that pierced his leg at Saratoga, been directed thro' his heart; he then would have finished his career in glory but the remainder of his wretched existence must now be one continued scene of horror, misery and despair . . . all good men will unite in exacerbating his memory to the latest posterity. Even villains, less guilty than himself, will not cease to upbraid him, and tho' they approve the treason they'll despise the traitor". How truly prophetic were those words.

When Andre, the spy and a reputed Brother who was made the scape-goat, was tried for his part in the infamous deal to surrender West Point to the enemy, the court martial was made up of fourteen general officers, of whom no less than nine were Freemasons. On the night following his capture, the officer assigned to watch his every move was Lieutenant Joshua King, later active in Danbury and Ridgefield lodges.

A company of Artificers, largely composed of Connecticut artisans was requested by General Nathaniel Greene for service under him in the southern campaigns. These were the only troops from Connecticut to serve below the James River.

*(From a column printed in 1955)*

#### 175 Years Ago — In 1780

Owing to the unsettled conditions of the Revolutionary War period, only the Lodges at New Haven, Fairfield, Norwalk, Woodbury and Stratford are known to have been at labor this year. Records are missing in several other localities although it may well be that work was in progress at Wallingford.

But Masonry was strengthened in the Western part of the State by the organization of Union Lodge in Danbury, whose anniversary is being observed this year on Saturday, April 23. Their first initiate became Grand Master of Massachusetts only a few years later. The brethren in Danbury clung to their old charter and first allegiance for several years after the Grand Lodge of Connecticut was organized. When they finally yielded, they were obliged to take the number 40 rather than 10, to which their seniority entitled them.

#### — 1781 —

American Union Lodge held no meetings during 1781 if we can rely on the records extant. There is no blank page between the minutes for July 29, 1780 and May 9, 1782, both meetings being held at the Connecticut "Hutts", a cantonment area across the river from West Point. Movement in the field was taking place and other developments were not conducive, or lent no encouragement, to Masonic labor during those years. Yet it is surprising that no explanation of the lapse was entered on the minutes.

A consolidation of Continental units took place January 1, 1781, the Connecticut regiments being reduced from eight to five in number. There was no decrease in the total number of enlisted men, but many officers became supernumerary, or resigned. During the next few months liberal furloughs were granted, but training of the recruits was intensified.

Rochambeau's army had arrived from France and was quartered at Newport, Rhode Island from July 1780 until June 1781 when it moved across Connecticut in preparation for a planned attack on New York. In June the American forces took the field and moved down below Peekskill in preparation for coordinated action against the British.

Cornwallis was advancing from the Carolinas northward into Virginia and in February General Lafayette was sent south with a division of light infantry to support the militia and other forces opposing the British. The elite companies from the Connecticut Line, numbering ten in all were sent to serve in Tidewater Virginia and to check Arnold's invasion beyond Norfolk. Six of the companies were officered by members of American Union Lodge, men later prominent in Connecticut Masonry and public affairs. Among them were Robert Allyn, Samuel A. S. Barker Stephen Betts, Elijah Chapman, Wills Clift, Jedediah Ensworth, Jonathan Heart, Ebenezer Huntington, Aeneas Munson, and John Palsgrave Wyllys. When Arnold left the state, Lafayette's brigade was ordered to remain in Virginia to watch, delay or thwart every movement of Cornwallis' force. Too few in numbers to undertake the offensive, the only action other than extensive skirmishing took place at Green Spring July 6th.

When intelligence was received that DeGrasse had sailed from the West Indies toward the Chesapeake Bay with the French fleet, and several thousand troops on transports in convoy, Washington abandoned the close investment of New York, and the allied forces hastened overland to the southward. Cornwallis had taken a position on the York peninsula and was cornered there. The siege of Yorktown followed with surrender taking place on October 19th.

The light companies took the post of honor on the left of the line of investment. They were the only Connecticut troops at Yorktown, the regiments from which they were detached having been left behind to hold the Hudson Highlands. Washington moved the main army back north from Yorktown in December and they went into winter quarters at the old cantonment area in Connecticut Village. Jonathan Heart had been named brigade major and inspector, an assignment which for a time kept him on the move.

The influence of American Union Lodge was again felt in Connecticut when Wooster Lodge was chartered at Colchester by the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts under date of January 23, 1781. All except one of the twelve men named in the charter are on record in American Union Lodge, and apparently the petition was drawn up in camp. The first Master was Henry Champion, who had distinguished himself at Stony Point. Colchester was then at the cross roads of eastern Connecticut, early lodge meetings resembled a veterans' reunion, and the lodge became the source from which a dozen lodges sprang within the next few years.

The Lodge at Litchfield, now St. Pauls, also chartered by the Grand Lodge of

Massachusetts in 1781, was formed by fourteen Masons, all except four of whom are known to have been made in King Solomons Lodge at Woodbury. Most of them are credited with war time service as patriots, although the local Episcopal rector and others were probably reluctant rebels. From Litchfield, the county seat, Masonic influence fanned out into several towns in the county.

On September 5-6 the renegade Benedict Arnold was in command of a punitive expedition against New London, which harbored a considerable number of privateers during the Revolution. It was also planned as a diversion when Washington took the main army to Virginia. The town of New London was deliberately put to the torch, while in taking the defense works on Groton Heights the attackers were merciless. William Coit was among the hostages carried off and later exchanged. Avery Downer, only a teen-age apprentice surgeon at the time, was among those tending the wounded. He was later a prominent practitioner, and active in St. James Lodge while it sat in Preston.

There were only nine lodges at work in the state as the year came to a close, but interest was beginning to increase. Lapse of activity can be explained in nearly every community, but its long continuation in Middletown is difficult to understand.

### — 1782 —

A lull in military action followed the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown. The Connecticut Line, along with other units of the main army, enjoyed extended leaves and furloughs during the early part of the year. Some further reduction and consolidation was taking place.

With little new material to work on, meetings of American Union Lodge became less interesting. The minutes are abbreviated and show little, sometimes "no business transacted". Several members were advanced but there were no new Masons made. Attendance at the seventeen meetings recorded during the period January to July averaged less than twelve brethren. Some of the meetings were in the "Assembly Room", others in "Bro. Grosvenor's Hutt".

The last recorded St. John's Day observance by the army lodges was a joint meeting of Washington and American Union Lodges at West Point in June 1782. Only twenty-five officers, members and visitors attended with American Union Lodge. The orator of the day was Colonel John Brooks, Master of Washington Lodge and a later Governor of Massachusetts. We have only references to the event, no minutes of the day's program.

A new ministry had come into power in Britain, and preliminary peace talks began with agreement on terms reached in November. Dress, drill and discipline of the Continental army was improving. To keep up the morale with something out of the ordinary drill and fatigue, Washington planned a mass movement by water from West Point down to Verplanck's Point. After field exercises in that vicinity the Connecticut Brigade moved back to garrison West Point.

During April, Major General Samuel Holden Parsons, a Past Master of Ameri-

can Union Lodge, retired from the army, and other officers and members of the Lodge were doing the same, going home to establish themselves in a civilian career. Jonathan Heart continued in the service and his leadership of American Union Lodge, dwindling in membership as it was. No record of meetings during the second half of the year 1782 has come down to us.

Among the Connecticut Lodges we know those at New London, Norwich and Guilford were still dark. With the return of many Masons to their home communities, local interest in Masonry was soon to increase.

### — 1783 —

The war was coming to an end, the Article of Peace having been signed at the Hague by delegates from the States, Britain, France and Spain on January 20th.

Reduction of the Continental army was continuing. The five Connecticut regiments were consolidated into three and ordered to garrison duty at West Point. Many furloughs in June were followed by formal discharges in October and November. A token army was retained over winter but by mid 1784 the "Army" consisted of a single caretaking detachment at West Point.

An interesting event took place at the Verplanck House near Fishkill on May 13, 1783, when the first steps were taken towards organization among the officers of the American army of a Society of Friends, to endure as long as they should endure and then to be carried on by their oldest posterity. The Society of Cincinnati took that name to commemorate the character and example of Lucius Quintus Cincinnatus, an illustrious Roman citizen, farmer and soldier.

One of the principles adopted was "to render permanent the cordial affection subsisting among the officers. This spirit will dictate brotherly kindness in all things and particularly extend to the most substantial acts of beneficence, according to the ability of the Society, towards those officers and their families who unfortunately may be under the necessity of receiving it." This expression of brotherly love and relief led Roger Morris, through "insight into the motives of the framers" to find the Society "an effort of Freemasonry". Others discount that estimate.

Beginning with Washington as President-General and Henry Knox as Secretary-General there were many other Masons among the office holders down through the years. The same was true in the Connecticut State Society where Samuel H. Parsons, Samuel Wyllys, Ephraim Kirby, Thomas Grosvenor, Thomas Y. Seymour, John Mix and Ebenezer Huntington were among the officers during the first twenty years.

There was early opposition to the Society, one critic saying it "created a race of hereditary patricians or nobility". As the 1400 original members aged, and other responsibilities absorbed their attention, many of the state societies lapsed, although the General Society continued. It is recognized today as the oldest and most distinguished among the many hereditary patriotic societies in the United States.

Evacuation of New York by the British military units began in August, the

troops leaving by transport ships for Halifax where they were regrouped and posted elsewhere or sent home to Germany, if Hessian. Thousands of Tories or loyalists were likewise transported as rapidly as availability of vessels permitted. The final move came at noon on November 3rd when General Washington and Governor Clinton marched down the Bowery with a token military force under the command of Major General Henry Knox. The British flag had been nailed to the greased flag staff at the Battery, but a nimble sailor soon had new cleats nailed on, and old glory was then run up.

A number of regimental lodges had been at work while in New York city and several local lodges had resumed their activity. A Grand Lodge had been chartered by the Atholl or Ancient Grand Lodge in London and continued in effect after the departure of the British and assumption of office by residents.

In the American army Masonic activity dropped to a low level with reduction of the forces and discharge of many officers. In the spring of 1783, and in the vicinity of West Point, American Union Lodge, Independent Royal Arch Lodge and St. Johns Regimental Lodge were continuing. American Union recorded only five meetings in 1783 with an average attendance of twelve members and visitors. Washington Lodge left no record of work in the Massachusetts Line during 1783 and soon after was listed as "Extinct". Connecticut men had been members of, or had taken degrees in all the above named lodges.

Within the state St. Johns Lodge at Middletown resumed work in September 1783, having been dark since 1772, the "Lodge having been neglected . . . for certain reasons". King Hiram Lodge at Derby was chartered by the Massachusetts Grand Lodge under date of January 3, 1783 the first Master, Charles Whittlesey, having been made in American Union at Roxbury in 1775. Montgomery Lodge at Salisbury was chartered by Massachusetts under date of March 24, 1783, the first Master being Hezekiah Fitch, a past master of the lodge at Fairfield, who had moved to Salisbury. Revolutionary war veterans were among the early members. The Lodges at New London, Norwich and Guilford continued dark until the 1790s.

Initial steps towards organization of a Grand Lodge in Connecticut were taken on March 18, 1783 when a convention of delegates from twelve lodges met at Middletown. Later meetings were held to obtain agreement on just how to proceed in organizing a Grand Lodge. Samuel Holden Parsons and Jonathan Heart, both Past Masters of American Union Lodge, were influential at these conventions and had contacts with the Masons in New York city. Rev. William Walters, the Master of Atholl Grand Lodge was a classmate of Parsons at Harvard. They had a charter which had come from a "Mother Lodge in Britain".

Instead of going ahead with the formation of an independent Grand Lodge, it was thought expedient to obtain a charter from London as the New Yorkers had done. Provisionally, officers were chosen but apparently there was some lack of communication, or lack of complete agreement or understanding. The Grand Lodge was not finally empowered by the constituent lodges until July 8, 1789, the accepted date for organization. By this time Parsons was dead, and Heart far away with the army in the west where American Union Lodge was revived and seated at Marietta, Ohio, while Frederick Lodge in Farmington had been formed by veterans of the

Revolution and former members of American Union, notably William and John Mix.

Another interesting development took place in Middletown — the establishment of the first Chapter of Royal Arch Masons to be organized as such in America. John Lewis DeKoven, a Hessian officer detained at Middletown, seems to have been the moving spirit, but among the nine companions who did meet and agree to form the Chapter, the majority stated that they had been arched "in the American army". Here at Middletown we also find the first record of the Mark degree being conferred anywhere in the western hemisphere.

From the end of the Revolution and well into the 1800s, Masons made in American Union Lodge were prominent in Grand Lodge, Grand Chapter and in Washington Commandery of Knights Templar. Their record in Masonry, as well as in the war, was highly complimentary.

"God built Him a continent of glory  
And filled it with treasures untold.  
He carpeted it with soft rolling prairies,  
And columned it with thundering mountains.  
He studded it with sweet flowing fountains  
And traced it with long winding streams.  
He planted it with deep shadowed forests  
And filled them with song.  
Then He called unto a thousand peoples  
And summoned the bravest among them.  
They came from the ends of the earth,  
Each bearing gifts and a dream.  
And out of the bounty of earth and the labor of men,  
Out of the longings of hearts and the prayers of souls,  
Out of the memory of ages and the hopes of the world,  
God fashioned a nation in love,  
Blessed it with purpose sublime  
And called it . . . America."

by Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver

(From a column printed in 1958)

#### 175 Years Ago — In 1783

Stiles, who kept a watchful and suspicious eye on the institution of Freemasonry, calculated 187 Lodges in America this year and estimated an average membership of 30, an assumed total of about 5,600, which other authorities think is twice the probable figure. King Hiram Lodge at Derby and Montgomery Lodge at Salisbury were chartered by the Massachusetts Grand Lodge of Ancients. Preliminary conventions, considering the organization of a Connecticut Grand Lodge were held at Middletown March 18th and April 29th, and at Middletown, September 30th. Ralph Pomeroy was delegated to confer with the Grand Lodge at New York and to ascertain how to obtain a Grand Lodge charter from England.

**APPENDIX A**  
to  
Chapter II

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FREEMASONRY IN CONNECTICUT

**WOOSTER LODGE**  
Colchester

*Chartered*  
*January 23, 1781*

## AT THE "CROSS ROADS" IN COLCHESTER

### *The First Half Century of Wooster Lodge*

Colchester in 1781 was a cluster of no more than fifty houses centrally located in a township which then included most of the present day Salem and Marlborough, set off later as separate towns. There was another neighborhood grouped around the meeting house at Westchester. Population of the area did not exceed 3000 inhabitants.

Overland travel routes from Norwich and New London to Hartford, converged at Colchester and went on to the ferry at Wethersfield over the centuries-old Hockanum Path of the Indians. From Windham and points east travelers going to New Haven followed the Machimoodus Path to the Haddam ferry. Colchester was at the cross roads of southeastern Connecticut.

Masonic lodges had been erected at New London in 1753 and at Norwich in 1766, but circumstances led to their going dark by the time the struggle for American Independence broke into open warfare in 1775. American Union Lodge, chartered in the Connecticut brigade at the Siege of Boston, became the mother lodge for dozens of Connecticut officers serving in the Continental army.

Just who took the initiative to prepare a petition for a lodge in Colchester is not known. The signatures of eleven men were obtained but they were scattered at a number of places where they were on duty in the field. The petition was presented to the Massachusetts Grand Lodge at Boston on January 23, 1781 with "H. Holdridge, Andw Fitch & others dated Colchester November 80 requesting a Dispensation and recommending Henry Champion as Master". The charter bore the date of January 23, 1781.

The first meeting was held on July 6, 1781 at 5 o'clock in the morning for election and the installation of the officers and institution of the lodge, the Master of the Lodge at Hartford having been deputized for the purpose. The hour of assembly may seem unusual, but the sun was already an hour high, breakfast had been eaten, and a festive day was in prospect.

The charter Master was Henry Champion, who had been made a Mason in American Union Lodge at Redding and had served as Deacon. He was discharged from the army on January 1st as a Captain and was serving as an assistant to his father who was Commissary of Purchases for the Continental Army in Connecticut.

The lodge was given the "name, title and designation of Wooster", in honor of Major General David Wooster (1711-1777) who had been fatally wounded at Ridgefield, while driving the British raiders on Danbury back to their ships at Compo. Several of the charter members had served under him and two of the medics who were later members of the lodge had attended the old general on his death bed.

Initially Wooster Lodge drew its membership and initiates from all surrounding towns within a radius of forty miles. Many men, removing to new homes in New Hampshire, Vermont and New York were made Masons on visits back to the area. As time went on, lodges with one or more charter members from Wooster Lodge

were erected in Windham, Preston, Rocky Hill, East Haddam, Warehouse Point, New London, Lebanon and Lyme, with others in the second generation.

In 1790 Eliphalet Bulkeley, then 44 years old, was initiated and for the next ten years was a most zealous workman in the Fraternity. Master in 1791-1797, he brought not less than 15 Bulkeleys and cousins into the Lodge. He was co-founder of Chapter and Commandery. After moving to New London he organized the Chapter there, and acquired some knowledge of the Right of Perfection (Scottish Rite of today). He removed to Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, taking his Masonic interest with him. At his death he is said to have been in possession of every degree known on this side of the ocean.

Van den Broeck Chapter, organized in 1796, held aloof for a few years but later took the number five. The Council of Royal & Select Masters bore the name of Watrous, honoring the first TIM. Washington Commandery alternated between Colchester and New London.

As was the custom in the late 1700s, St. John's Day in June was a gala day in Colchester. A tiled session and degree work, a procession to church for praise and thanksgiving and a dinner filled the day, usually ending with a "glow of fellowship, harmony and decorum". Speakers in those days included such men as Bishop (and Brother) Samuel Searby, the poet Dr. Albion Walden, and the war hero Colonel Return Jonathan Meigs.

The lodge at Colchester prospered for decades and proudly fostered the spread of Masonry throughout eastern Connecticut through daughter lodges, but it could not withstand the anti-Masonic storm and minutes of the lodge cease abruptly in 1829. Lodge, Chapter, Council and Commandery died. Not until more than twenty years later, when the Hayward Rubber Company located a factory in town, and with satellite activities caused a boom, was Wooster Lodge revived, since which time it has carried on creditably.

A full length history of Wooster Lodge was compiled by Dr. Cyrus E. Pendleton and the 400 page typed volume deposited in the Cragin Memorial Library in Colchester. The historical file of the Lodge in Grand Lodge archives contains much souvenir material and a transcript of the early minutes.

During the first half-century Wooster Lodge could claim the following high officeholders among its members or initiates, some of whom had dimitted to other lodges:—

GUY BIGELOW (1785-1868) made EA in 1808, farmer, local official and legislator, served as Grand Senior Warden in 1818.

ELIPHALET BULKELEY (1746-1816) farmer, later taverner in Colchester, New London and Wilkes-Barre, was Grand Junior Warden in 1796-97 and deputized for institution of Uriel and Somerset Lodges.

HENRY CHAMPION (1751-1824) charter Master, became a well to do land owner, local official, banker, etc. He served as Treasurer of the Grand Lodge for a record 33 years and of the Grand Chapter for fourteen.

SYLVESTER GILBERT (1755-1846) made EA in 1789, dimitted to Uriel Lodge. Legal light, Congressman, local official, etc. Grand Senior Deacon in 1791.

SAMUEL HUNTINGTON (1765-1817) made EA in 1793, dimitted to Somerset

Lodge. Removed to Ohio where he was Governor 1808 and Grand Master 1809.

LYMAN LAW (1770-1842) made EA in 1794, dimitted to Union Lodge in New London. Legal light, local official, Congressman et al. Became Grand High Priest in 1818-1822, was Most Puissant GM 1819, and Grand Master of Masons in Connecticut 1821-1822.

WILLIAM LITTLE (1749-1831) charter member and early Treasurer of the lodge, removed to Boston where he was a merchant and banker. Treasurer of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts 1789-1796.

AMHERST D. SCOVILLE (1798-1837) made EA in 1819, was a lawyer, local official and Past Master. Served as Deputy Grand Master 1828-1830 and was an officer in both General Grand Chapter RAM and Grand Encampment KT.

JOHN RICHARDS WATROUS (1754-1842) charter member, was a physician, dentist and surgeon of more than local reputation. Also farm operator, deacon in the church, held many local offices, was co-founder of Bacon Academy (for years attracting many out of state students). He was Deputy Grand Master in 1814, Grand High Priest for eight years, and first Grand Commander of Knights Templar.

## APPENDIX B

to  
Chapter II

FREEMASONRY IN CONNECTICUT

ST. PAUL'S LODGE  
Litchfield

*Chartered*  
*June 1, 1781*

## ON A "HIGH HILL" AT LITCHFIELD

### *Notes on the Early History of St. Paul's Lodge*

In 1781 Litchfield was a village of only a few dozen homes in the center of a township with less than 2000 inhabitants. Settled only 50 years earlier, it was the county seat with a courthouse and jail, and as such, was a trading center for surrounding towns.

More important in relation to the subject of the short story, was its location on the most direct route from Boston and Hartford to the ferry at Fishkill, West Point and the southern colonies. Also the most traveled route between New Haven and Albany when horseback riding was the rapid transit of that time.

As a transportation center, a safe distance from Long Island Sound, during the War for American Independence the town had been made a depot for commissary, ordinance and quartermaster supplies; a place of rendezvous or muster of Continental army recruits; and a detention area for prisoners of war or internees for whom tight security was expedient.

Not far distant was another army supply depot at Woodbury, and here King Solomon's Lodge had been erected, entertaining sojourners as they passed through, and soon attracting candidates from the countryside, especially from Litchfield, with which business contacts were frequent.

On May 22, 1781, Ashbel Baldwin appeared in the Massachusetts Grand Lodge at Boston as "suppliant" with a petition from 13 other signers, and was named charter Master for a regular Lodge in Litchfield, Connecticut under date of June 1, 1781 with the name of "St. Paul's".

It is not unlikely that Ashbel Baldwin himself chose the name of St. Paul for the Lodge. He had left the Congregational meeting, of which his father was minister, for adherence to the Episcopal church; he was of slight build; he limped from a childhood illness or accident; his facial features were not handsome, but his genial countenance and felicitous manner were conspicuous features, along with his cheerfulness. Coincidentally, and apochryphally, Saint Paul — a convert to Christianity — was of low stature, had crooked thighs, was hollow eyed with an ugly nose — but "full of grace".

The first meeting of the Lodge was held on June 13th when officers were elected, and within the next few years the Lodge had grown to more than 100 in number. Among the home-coming veterans of the continental army who affiliated or were initiated, was Ephraim Kirby. He soon became Secretary and for the next 20 years was a most important individual in the expansion of the fraternity in the state.

To Kirby can be given credit for establishment of the lodge library, at a time when books were hard to come by and harder to pay for. The surviving volumes are in reserve at the public library in Litchfield today.

During the next quarter century the spread of influence from old St. Paul's reached out into Warren, Harwinton, Norfolk, Washington, Torrington, Kent, Goshen and Cornwall, where all except three of the daughter lodges are still at labor, with several more added in the second generation.

The mother lodge remained the rallying point for all-day observances of St. John's Day in June, when the county court was usually in session with many visitors in town. There was an elaborate civic and Masonic program on February 22, 1800, commemorating the death of Washington, one of those ordered to be held in every county seat in the state.

The early decades of the 1800s were a "Golden Age" for Litchfield and for Freemasonry. The town became a cultural center with seminaries for young men, and young women as well. Here was the famous Litchfield Law School which drew students from all over the nation. Well-to-do merchants and men of affairs built pretentious, some beautiful mansions, many of which are still to be seen along the spacious streets expanding towards the east, west and south — and to the north — from the central green.

Associated bodies came into Litchfield with the organization of Darius Chapter of Royal Arch Masons in 1815, and Adams Council of Royal and Select Masters in 1825. Clinton Commandery of Knights Templar met for a few years in nearby Washington. The anti-Masonic frenzy was disastrous to Freemasonry in Litchfield and elsewhere, beginning with the mysterious disappearance of William Morgan from Batavia, N.Y. in 1826. St. Paul's Lodge was quiescent, and while no initiations took place over a period of 19 years, only twice did the Lodge fail to be represented at Grand Lodge. A faithful few kept up the organization, safeguarded the charter and minutes, and resumed work with renewed enthusiasm and with great success.

A detailed history of St. Paul's Lodge over the first 150- years was compiled by A. William Pruner and published in 1932, with acknowledgement to the Centennial Address by Dwight C. Kilbourn in 1881 for much of the material. Therein may be seen a transcript of the original charter from Massachusetts, bearing among others, the signature of Paul Revere; the "Instructions" issued to the Lodge at the time of the charter was granted; and the original by-laws. Developments during the last half century are recorded in Grand Lodge Proceedings.

The first steps toward organization of a Grand Lodge in Connecticut were taken in 1783, but halted upon removal or death of some of the prime movers, and lack of agreement of procedure. When the Massachusetts Grand Lodge in 1787 began a purge of delinquent lodges outside of that state, those which had "neglected their representation", St. Paul's Lodge took the initiative in calling a state convention in Connecticut which led to final organization of the Grand Lodge at New Haven on July 8, 1789. It is acknowledged that Ephraim Kirby's zeal for Masonry and his ability as counselor and organizer were important factors in the event.

Among the notables of the first half century only a few of the more reputable ones will be mentioned here. The Reverend James Nichols (1738-1829) first among the petitioners, was rector of St. Michael's Church who later moved to Vermont and New York. He was succeeded in the pulpit by then Reverend Ashbel Baldwin (1757-1846) charter Master of the Lodge; among the first clergymen to be consecrated by Bishop (and Brother) Samuel Seabury; and active in Lodge and Chapter for more than 50 years wherever he lived. Ephraim Kirby (1757-1804) prominent in Connecticut legal and political affairs; compiler of the first Law Reports for Connecticut; first General Grand High Priest of Royal Arch Masons; died in government service in

Alabama. Benjamin Hanks (1755-1824) noted engraver, clock maker and bell founder. John Allen (1767-1812) Congressman and Justice to the state Supreme Court. Reverend Roger Searle (1775-1826) first High Priest of Darius Chapter; Chaplain of Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter in Connecticut, and in Ohio, whither he removed. Julius Deming (1755-1833) the first Fellowcraft raised in a lodge; a merchant prince and very successful in the China trade; built the most imposing home on North Street. John Cotton Smith (1766-1845) last Federalist governor of the state; a staunch adherent during the anti-Masonic excitement. His successor as Governor was Oliver Wolcott (1760-1833) born in Litchfield (son of the signer of the same name) installed as Grand Master following his inauguration as Governor.

There were giants in those days!

**APPENDIX C**  
to  
Chapter II

**FREEMASONRY IN CONNECTICUT**

**KING HIRAM LODGE**  
Derby — Shelton

*Chartered*  
*March 5, 1783*

## LAUNCHED IN A SEA PORT

### *Two Full Centuries for King Hiram Lodge*

A rather surprising total of twenty-seven Masons signed the petition for a charter to hold a regular lodge in the sea-port town of Derby in late 1782. Many of them were sea-faring men or sojourners, as is apparent from the fact that one-third of those whose names were on the petition never appeared in Lodge or on the minutes.

Derby was a sea-port at that time, and in addition to coast-wise traffic in farm produce and trading goods, exports of house frames, lumber and staves were to be carried to the West Indies in exchange for sugar and molasses. King Hiram of Tyre had sent his vessels to carry cedar timber to Joppa, to be hauled up to Jerusalem for use in the Temple. Perhaps that co-incidence was the inspiration for the name chosen for King Hiram Lodge.

Many of the petitioners had been made in King Solomon's Lodge at Woodbury, a center of inland trade, and with the recommendation of that Lodge, Reverend Brother Ashbel Baldwin went to Boston and presented the application in person to a special communication of the Massachusetts Grand Lodge on January 3, 1783. The charter was signed, sealed and delivered before the day was over. Baldwin was deputized to institute the Lodge and install the officers, and that was done two months later, with the Master of King Solomon's Lodge acting as Marshal. The charter was to remain in force until a Grand Lodge was formed in Connecticut, actually then being considered. This was the earliest formal organization of a Connecticut lodge of which a report has come down to us.

The first Master was Charles Whittlesey (1745-1783) made in King Solomon's Lodge ten years earlier, an officer in the Continental army, and raised in American Union Lodge. He was the local School Master and died before his term of office ended, being succeeded by men who were leaders in the business community. The Lodge flourished, working the Mark degree occasionally until King Solomon Chapter of Royal Arch Masons was convoked, drawing their membership from miles around.

Grand Master William Judd and Grand Secretary Ephraim Kirby made an official visit in 1793, soon after they took office, after which the Entered Apprentice was required to pass an examination before being advanced. In 1795 a Lodge Hall was erected, the corner-stone being placed ceremoniously. So was the corner-stone of St. Paul's church in Huntington a few years later. A Lodge Library was started with an initial \$100 contributed.

At the time of the Centennial of 1883 a fine history of the Lodge was compiled by John H. Barlow, Past Master and later Grand Master. The book contains a complete roster of all members up until that time. A devastating fire on January 12, 1879 caused the loss of Charter, Jewels, furniture, part of the records, and the sword of Col. E.S. Kellogg, killed at Cold Harbor. The Chapter and Council also suffered great losses. This prevents enlargement of many interesting references in the early development of the Lodge, and extension of the personal records. Lodge historians

have added to the original book in later printed by-laws and rosters. One fine feature is a record in photographs of meeting places of the Lodge for many years back. A single volume history of the second 100 years is much to be desired.

It is interesting, sometimes irritating, to find references to men who came from out of the unknown and disappeared the same way. An example is George R. Marshall, who was elected Master at the very first meeting where his name appears on the minutes. He served for five years and then just mysteriously disappeared. It has not been ascertained from whence he came, or whither he went, although there is some indication he traveled due north into Vermont.

Sea-borne traffic was halted during the War of 1812 when Long Island Sound was blockaded, the Housatonic river silted in, a bridge was built at Stratford and business went elsewhere. Yankee ingenuity came into play, upstream water power was exploited, and a variety of metal products were fabricated, making Derby at one time known far and wide for tacks, pins, and novelties. Masonry had spread out from Derby into Monroe, Woodbridge, Oxford, Millford and up the river into the mill villages which developed. The lodge moved about as the railroad brought population shifts, finally coming to rest in Shelton, still within the greater urban area.

King Hiram Lodge is one of the few in the state which tiled with such extreme caution they survived the anti-Masonic frenzy. Every year the lodge was represented or made returns at Grand Lodge session. During the dark days of the 1830s observance of St. John's Day in June was not abandoned, and as many as twenty new members added to the roll of honor. There were fifty-six staunch Masons who signed the Declaration of Principles in 1832.

For one short period in 1855-56 abuse of the ballot-box caused the suspension of King Hiram's charter, and formation of Friendship Lodge UD by a few who had the welfare of the fraternity at heart. A reconciliation took place within a year or two and Friendship Lodge never matured.

King Hiram has seen two of its members attain the chair of Grand Master, John H. Barlow and Henry K. Plumb. There were other notables, especially Ralph C. Naramore, Founder of the Masonic Veterans Association in 1870 and its Venerable Master for 9 years.

**APPENDIX D**  
to  
Chapter II

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FREEMASONRY IN CONNECTICUT

**MONTGOMERY LODGE**  
Salisbury - Lakeville

*Chartered*  
*January 3, 1783*

## IN THE NORTHWEST CORNER

### *How Montgomery Lodge Began Its Existence*

Iron ore was discovered in Salisbury by the pioneers early in the 1700s and during the American Revolution the production of the mines and forges was tremendous for the times and location. Camp kettles, salt pans, anchors, cannon, and the chain across the Hudson at West Point were made there. Wood cutters, charcoal burners, furnace men, founders, carters, and teamsters by the hundreds were employed in the enterprise.

Into this thriving community came business men, lawyers, doctors and managers of the several mine operations. The town was remote from waterborne transport, goods moved by ox team, people moved on horseback. There was a tavern in the town.

An early arrival was Hezekiah Fitch (1737-1797) of Fairfield, son of a former governor; merchant, lawyer, former county sheriff, and Past Master of old St. John's Lodge, then sitting at Fairfield, seat of the government of the county of the same name. In Salisbury he was active in the war effort and representative to the General Assembly for twenty years or more, known as 'Esquire' and 'Honorable', but apparently with no militia title.

Salisbury was an important way station on the road from Hartford to Hudson river points, as well as the overload route from New Haven to Albany. It was the last place in Connecticut where supplies could be had by the pioneer parties streaming north through Berkshire county to the settlements in present day Vermont, then commonly known as New Connecticut.

In 1782 the time was ripe for organization of a Masonic Lodge in such an active village, and at some time that year a petition was drawn up, forwarded to Boston and presented to the Massachusetts Grand Lodge on March 5, 1783. A charter was granted on that date. Payment of the fee was recorded March 24th but a change in the office of Grand Secretary delayed completion of the formalities. The charter was finally engrossed, the seals attached, and instructions issued on July 7th, when the document was ready to be sent along to the appointed Master, after about three months in the works.

It was a long journey to Boston from Salisbury, and Montgomery Lodge was never represented at a Quarterly Communication of the Grand Lodge, not even by proxy. But they dutifully sent their 'quarterage' when they had money to spare, and a payment was received at Boston after the lapse of three years, during August 1786, when it came as a surprise. A committee, verifying the list of lodges chartered, were instructed to "... inform themselves of the Erection of a Lodge ... at Salisbury by the name of Montgomery whose time of Creation & Record of Charter is not to be found in the G.Lodge Books ..." It was also a long way from Salisbury to New Haven, and nothing was known about any lodge in the faraway hill country when steps were being taken toward organization of a Grand Lodge.

Hezekiah Fitch congregated the Brethren on November 25, 1783 and probably read the Charter. Not all the petitioners were among the fourteen Brethren present

but others appeared from the countryside and were in attendance. Officers were appointed, a Tiler was qualified to guard the outer door, and a Steward named to provide inner refreshments. There was no ceremony of institution, consecration or installation recorded. But with six candidates proposed the Lodge was soon at work.

The first election was held in January 1784, by-laws were adopted, and a record book purchased for six shillings, into which the minutes, made on scratch sheets, were ordered to be revised, corrected and transcribed. It contains many interesting entries for the first decade. Hezekiah Fitch retired after three years in the Master's chair, and a Past Masters jewel was ordered to be presented to him. His death went unnoticed in Lodge records three years later, although there are many references to Masonic courtesies to Widows and acts of charity to needy.

The early membership was drawn from a radius of ten or fifteen miles, which included towns in New York and Massachusetts. The residence of all members has not been ascertained, but many of the names appeared among charter members of lodges formed at Sharon and Norfolk in Connecticut, at Amenia and Millerton in New York, and at New Marlborough later Sheffield in Massachusetts.

The Lodge at Salisbury took the name of Major General Richard Montgomery, who lost his life at low twelve during the ill-fated assault on the Citadel of Quebec on New Years Eve 1776. A number of men from Salisbury had joined the party taking Ticonderoga by surprise in May 1775, and served in the later invasion of Canada under Montgomery and Wooster. Salisbury was also the base for organization of one of the few, and the most famous, mounted units of the Continental Army, Sheldon's Dragoons.

Freemasonry slumbered in Salisbury from 1831 until 1860. Then the railroads came through, one crossing the town from east to west, another line following the Housatonic river valley. The iron works increased production, newcomers moved in and a revival took place in Masonry. The centennial observance of the charter date brought in literally thousands of people for the celebration, held at the resort facilities which had been developed at Lakeville. A complete history of the first century appeared in print and will be supplemented by an account of the second one hundred years of a lodge whose cornerstone was laid in the northwest corner of the state.

Montgomery Lodge went along with the usual ups and downs of a Masonic Lodge during a half century in rapidly changing Connecticut. The St. John's Day observances were great social events, but charity and relief were not neglected. The Lodge was represented at formation of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut at New Haven on July 8, 1789 and flourished until the disastrous anti-Masonic excitement caused it to go dark for a while. The attitude taken by respectable Masons in those troublous times is represented by statements in a letter from former Governor and Brother John Cotton Smith of Sharon to the minister at Canaan, the Rev. Brother Leonard W. Lathrop. Smith felt that those members who now viewed the institution as anti-Christian and intended to recede, should not post themselves in the newspapers, not disclose the secrets of the order, not enter any anti-Masonic combination, and not join any political engine. One could satisfy his conscience by a

resolution to hold no more communication or correspondence of a Masonic nature,  
and avoid all embarrassment and offense by judicious silence.

**APPENDIX E**  
to  
Chapter II

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FREEMASONRY IN CONNECTICUT

**COLUMBIA LODGE**  
Norwich

1785

On July 23, 1785 Amasa Lernard appeared at a meeting of the Massachusetts Grand Lodge, held at the 'Bunch of Grapes' in Boston, presented a petition from himself and "others", and received a "Charter of Dispensation" reading as follows:

By the Most Worshipful Joseph Webb, Esquire, Grand Master of Ancient Masons for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

To all the fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons to whom these presents shall come:

WHEREAS, a petition has been presented to the Massachusetts Grand Lodge from Phillip Turner, Bela Turner, John Richards, Samuel Mott, and Jeremiah Harris, all Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, resident in the City of Norwich, in the County of New London, in the State of Connecticut, praying that they, with such others as may think proper to join them, may be erected and constituted a regular lodge of Free and Accepted Masons, under the name, title and designation of Columbia Lodge, with full power to enter Apprentices, pass Fellow Crafts and raise Master Masons, which petition appearing to us as tending to the advancement of Ancient Masonry and the general good of the Craft, have unanimously agreed that the prayer of the petition be granted.

Know ye, therefore, that we, the Grand Master and Wardens, by virtue of the power and authority aforesaid, and reposing special trust and confidence in the prudence, fidelity and skill in Masonry of our beloved brethren above named, have constituted and appointed, and by these presents do constitute and appoint, the beloved brethren above named a regular Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons, under the name, title and designation of Columbia Lodge, hereby giving and granting unto them and their successors full power and authority to meet and convene as Masons within the City of Norwich aforesaid, to receive and enter Apprentices and pass Fellow Crafts and raise Master Mason, upon the payment of such moderate compositions for the same as may hereafter be determined by said Lodge. Also to make choice of Master, Wardens and other office bearers annually or otherwise as they shall see cause, to receive and collect funds, for the relief of poor and decayed brethren, their widows, their children, and in general to transact all matters relating to Masonry which may to them appear for the good of the Craft, according to the ancient usages and customs of Masons. And we do hereby require the said constituted brethren to attend at the Grand Lodge, or quarterly communications by themselves or their proxies (which are their Master and Wardens for the time being), and also to keep a fair and regular record of all their proceedings and lay the same before the Grand Lodge when required. And we do hereby declare the precedence of the said Lodge in the Grand Lodge and elsewhere to commence from the date hereof, and require all Ancient Masons, especially those holding of this Grand Lodge, to acknowledge and receive them and their successors as regular constituted Free and Accepted Masons, and treat them accordingly. And we do accordingly appoint our trusty and well beloved brother, Philip Turner, as first Master of the aforesaid Lodge. This charter of dispensation to continue and be in force until recalled.

Given under our hands and the seal of the Grand Lodge, affixed at Boston this 23d day of July, A.D. 1785, and of Masonry 5785.

Jos: Webb, G.M.  
 John Lowell, D.G.M.  
 John Jutau, S.G.W.  
 Thomas Edwards, J.G.W. pro tem.  
 John Welsh, Jun., G. Secy.  
 Benj. Homans, S.G.D.  
 Aaron Dexter, J.G.D.  
 Josiah Waters, G Marshal  
 )  
 ..... ) G. Stewards  
 )  
 John Boit )  
 Eli Parkman, G Sword Bearer

The charter bears the following endorsements on the Margin:

Boston, July 23, 5785  
 Received two guineas for this charter in behalf of the Grand Lodge.  
 W. Scollay, G. Treas.  
 Boston, July 23, 5785

Received half a guinea for the seal and recording.

John Welsh, Jun., G. Secy:

Twenty years earlier, a lodge chartered by St Johns Provincial Grand Lodge existed at Norwich, presumably organized by veterans of the French and Indian Wars, who had been made Masons in some British regimental lodge. Dr. Philip Turner was one; others possibly being Daniel Moulton, Samuel Mott, and William Danielson.

In 1785 Norwich had just been made a city, and the center of mercantile activity was shifting from around the Green at Norwichtown towards the busy waterfront at Chelsea, or 'The Landing'. Norwichtown seems to have been shunned by the commensal Columbia Lodge, and it retreated to Franklin, which was set off from Norwich the very next year. A known meeting place was Hyde's Tavern in a locality called 'Sodom' the tavern itself a resort in disfavor among conservative neighbors, but a popular spot for entertainment of parties from Norwich.

"What pleasure is greatest?  
 My fancy decides -  
 A party select and a  
 Sleigh ride to Hyde's!"

Nowhere in the records extant is there a hint that Columbia Lodge figured in the formation of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut in 1789 or was considered in the preliminaries. It may have held aloof, or more likely languished, or was already in disrepute. Possibly any group meeting at Hyde's was considered non-conformist or not held in high esteem. Fragmentary tavern records do not indicate any rental

being paid for a meeting place, but there were charges for components of liberal 'refreshment' and a fee for service by the tiler, who may not have been a Mason.

In 1794 Somerset Lodge was chartered at Norwich by the Grand Lodge of Connecticut; Dr. Philip Turner, being the first named in the charter, although his name was last among the 18 on the petition for a charter. The petitioners' and 'sundry others' had for the most part been members of St. James Lodge, established just a year before at Preston. Some had been made in Wooster Lodge at Colchester, and one or two in American Union Lodge held in the Connecticut Line of the Continental Army.

While there is some evidence of irregularities and disagreements in Masonic circles in Norwich to be found in the minutes of Somerset Lodge and Franklin Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, there is no real evidence of implication of Columbia Lodge, as their minute book has never been found.

Meanwhile, Columbia Lodge continued to meet outside of Norwich, in the town of Franklin, where it's reception was not universally cordial. The changes taking place in daily life during the Revolution, organization of Masonic Lodges and the Cincinnati Society, adoption of the Constitution of 1787, and denial of funds from the sale of Ohio lands, disturbed the Congregational clergy in the State. They saw the rise of "infidelity, secret societies, and Republicanism" a threat to the "Connecticut Way". Their long time control of elections, and all the institutions of society, was not completely eliminated until victory of the 'Toleration Party' in 1816, and a stop put to the "tyranny of the clergy" by adoption of a Constitution to replace the Royal Charter of 1662.

Dr. Samuel Mott, the minister in Franklin, was one of the most conservative. Sermons focusing on Masonry, interviews with those in his Congregation who were Lodge members, and derogatory letters to the press had little effect. Eastern Star Lodge was established in nearby Lebanon. When the parson, inadvertently (?) rode through a Masonic funeral procession, his influence collapsed. Columbia Lodge continued to meet in Sodom, a neighborhood bearing the popular name of the Biblical city where "the men ... were wicked and sinners".

In 1802 an attempt was made to regain their regularity and good standing in the fraternity by a petition to the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, successor to the authority from whence came their charter, which had never been "recalled". The Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts for that year tell us that during:

A QUARTERLY COMMUNICATION OF THE GRAND LODGE, at Concert Hall, on the evening of the 8th March, 5802. A letter and petition from Columbian Lodge at Norwich, State of Connecticut, was presented, praying to be considered as under the Jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge.

On motion, Voted, that all the papers be committed to report thereon, as soon as may be; a committee was then chosen consisting of Brother Allen Crocker, William Little and Thomas Edwards.

#### Report

In the petition of a number of Brethren Of Columbian Lodge in the city of Norwich, in the State of Connecticut, under a charter from this Grand Lodge 5785, Voted, that at the time the said charter was granted, there being no Grand Lodge in the State of Connecticut, this Lodge conceived

they had a right to grant the same; and until the formation and establishment of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut we considered Columbian Lodge under our Jurisdiction. But since that time, conceiving according to our Rules and Regulations, our Jurisdiction is to be at an end, we considered them as being under the Grand Lodge of Connecticut, and have not therefore exercised any authority over them.

Voted, unanimously, to accept the foregoing report and that the Grand Secretary write to the Grand Lodge of Connecticut and enclose the same to them.

Then Columbia Lodge, in a contrite mood, petitioned the Grand Lodge of Connecticut for belated recognition, with the result shown in the following entry copied from the original minutes of the Communication held May 19, 1802:

A petition was presented from some of the fraternity residing in the town of Norwich, praying to be acknowledged and recognized as a just and regular Lodge, and to be received under the patronage and jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge, in consequence of a Charter granted to them by the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, in the year 1785, by the name of Columbia. To this, objections were made to this effect, viz — That for a number of years previous to the formation of Somerset Lodge, now holden in said town, they had neglected their regular Meetings, and had become totally inoperative; that by this neglect they had voluntarily given up all right, power, and authority derived to them by virtue of their said Charter; and so considering it, the greatest part of those who were originally members of that Lodge, joined with others in the application to this Grand Lodge, for the formation of Somerset Lodge. — Many arguments were also offered in favor of granting the prayer of the petition; particularly, that it would be conducive to the peace, harmony, and happiness of the brethren residing in that town. After a lengthy discussion of the subject, the petition was withdrawn on motion of the agent, and by permission of the Grand Lodge.

This did not satisfy the petitioners from Norwich as they came back to Grand Lodge on May 18, 1803 to press their suit, with the result as shown in the minutes and as follows —

The copy of a vote passed by a number of the Masonic Fraternity residing in the town of Norwich, who style themselves a Lodge by the name of Columbia, No. 25, was presented and read: — the object of which was to procure an acknowledgement of the legitimacy of their existence as a Lodge, and as such to be received under the patronage and jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge. On a critical investigation of this subject, the principal facts relative thereto appeared to be as follows, viz: That in the year 1785, a Lodge was regularly formed in the town of Norwich under authority of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, by the name of Columbia, that the members thereof held their meetings, and performed the various duties required of them by the general regulations of the Masonic Society, for about one year after its first organization; — that from and after that time, they wholly neglected the performance of all duties in the corporate capacity of a Lodge, and the greatest part, if not all, the original members, with others, became petitioners of this Grand Lodge for the Charter

forming Somerset Lodge in said town of Norwich, which was about ten years after the Charter was granted by the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts to said Columbia Lodge. — From the facts as they thus appeared, the Grand Lodge made these deductions; that by the long neglect of Columbia Lodge, they had forfeited and voluntarily relinquished all the rights, powers and privileges vested in them by their said Charter, and that the same at the formation of Somerset Lodge, was to all intents and purposes dead, and ought not, nor cannot ever be resuscitated. The previous question was put, viz. — Whether anything should be done on the aforesaid application, and resolved in the negative.

Whereas a number of Masons in the town of Norwich, contrary to the established regulations of Masonry in this State, have withdrawn themselves from the regularly established Lodge in said town, and under pretence of authority derived from an obsolete Charter, have formed themselves into a Lodge, without the knowledge, privity or consent of this Grand Lodge; — Whereas said Masons presume to initiate, pass and raise, credulous candidates, to the great injury of the regularly constituted Somerset Lodge in said town, and defiance of this Grand Lodge. — Whereupon Resolved, that it be recommended to the several Lodges within this jurisdiction, to withhold all connection within said pretended Lodge in the said town of Norwich, called Columbia; and that all those persons who have been, or hereafter may be initiated, passed, or raised in said Lodge, be refused admittance into any regularly established Lodge in this State.

It is believed that some of the members of Columbia Lodge may have affiliated with Somerset Lodge, but only close study of the minutes would reveal who did so, and who may have been denied the privilege of coming in and being healed. No doubt some recalcitrants lost their interest entirely.

However, the foregoing does not quite end the story. The history of Somerset Lodge carries the following account of a presentation of the original charter of the Old Lodge at Norwich to Somerset Lodge:

“February 1, 1871, presented to Somerset Lodge, No. 34, F. and A.M. of Norwich, Connecticut by Charles W. Carter, J.W., in the name of L.r. Winslow Lewis of Boston, Massachusetts, Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge Of Massachusetts, who found it in the western part of New York State many years before.”

And as a postscript, when Ray Parkhurst, historian of Masonry in Norwich, made strict search throughout the several apartments of the Masonic Temple, the historic document was nowhere to be found. It is surmised that at the time of a ‘paper drive’, the original parchment charter was inadvertently bundled up with the collection to be disposed of, and thereby lost forever.

## CHAPTER III

### *Genesis of the Grand Lodge*

1783 - 1785

### *The Grand Lodge Goes to Work*

1785 - 1789

## CHRONOLOGICAL INDEX OF EVENTS 1783 to 1789

- 1784. Meetings of Connecticut Lodges in New Haven to choose a Grand Master and other Officers.
- 1785. Columbia Lodge chartered in Norwich.
- 1786. Present Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania formed when the old Grand Lodge, formed under England, disintegrated.
- 1787. Grand Lodge of Maryland formed.
- 1789. Second Convention of Delegates.  
Committee named to prepare a plan for forming a Grand Lodge.  
Organization of Grand Lodge on July 8 with Constitution adopted.  
Pierpont Edwards chosen first Grand Master.  
Ordinances adopted.  
Grand Lodge of New Hampshire formed (same date as the Grand Lodge of Connecticut).

## GENESIS OF THE GRAND LODGE OF CONNECTICUT

In Masonry, no great undertaking is ever begun without first invoking the blessings of Deity. Neither are lasting decisions made, or organizations of stature and influence formed, without months of discussion, reams of decisions, and days and nights of deep soul-searching.

Such it was during the metamorphosis of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut from a dream—an idea—and a loose association of Lodges within the State. Many plans and ideas were put forth, as will be chronicled in succeeding pages.

Proposals for a National Grand Lodge were heard — and re-heard. Discussions regarding a Grand Lodge Charter elicited as many ideas of “where it should be obtained” — and “how it should be approached”, as there were men discussing it!

It is, perhaps, remarkable that progress was made at all; but made it was, with the happy results of which we are all aware.

Several excerpts from existing Lodge minutes have a bearing on the proceedings, and the outcome, and are reproduced here as a sort of introduction to the chronological recital of the historic events leading to the chartering of the Grand Lodge.

EXISTING LODGE RECORDS (Lodges in existence in 1789)

Present No.	Location	Charter Date	Order	1770	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89
1	New Haven	1750		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
2	New London	'53		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
3	Middletown	'54		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
4	Fairfld/Bgp	'62		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
5	Hartford	'63		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
6	Stamford	'65		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
7	Norwalk	'65		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
8	Woodbury	'65		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
9	Stratford	'66		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
10	Norwich	'66		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
11	Wallingford	'69		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
12	Guilford	'71		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
13	Amer. Union	'76		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
14	Danbury	'80		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
15	Colchester	'81		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
16	Litchfield	'81		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
17	Derby	'83		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
18	Simsbury	'83		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
19	Norwich/Columbia	'85		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
20	Farmington	'87		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
				12	12	12	5	4	4	4	4	3	3	6	7	10	12	15	15	15	16	16	16

Number of Lodges at work

Extracts From Minutes in the First Record Book of Union Lodge #40, Danbury

Camp Morristown January 5th 1780

Joseph Webb. Esq. —

On application from a number of Gentlemen belonging to the Town of Danbury in the State of Connecticut, requesting a recommendation from the American Union Lodge in their behalf to the most Worshipful Grand Master for their obtaining a dispensation to hold a Regular Lodge in said Town, I have taken the freedom to address you on the Subject —

The American Union Lodge is a traveling Lodge, confined to the Army & unconnected with the State of many of its members, entirely unacquainted with the Gentlemen, and therefore entirely unqualified to determine the propriety of having a Lodge so established; the Gentlemen requesting the benefits of a regular Lodge, are generally inhabitants, there are a number of Lodges in the State who are acquainted with the Gentlemen, are much better able to judge of the necessity & propriety of having a Lodge in the Town — the recommendation of those Lodges I am sensible is sufficient without ours, and the recommendation of a Traveling Lodge will I presume be insufficient to procure a dispensation for the Inhabitants of a State, to hold a Lodge in a Town adjacent to which there are regular Lodges without their approbation —

I can however with pleasure assure you that I am well acquainted with many of the Gentlemen, know them to be Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons. — Men of respectable Characters, well skilled in the Craft, and think I may answer for them, that they will support the Honour of the Craft, and conduct the Lodge with Harmony and Decorum, becoming the dignity of the most Ancient and Honourable Institution — in the enjoyment of which, shall be happy to give every necessary assistance to establish them, so far as shall be judged for the advancement of the Craft,

I am Dear Sir with Esteem.  
Your Most Obt. & Humble Servt.  
Jonathan Heart Master  
American Union Lodge.

Joseph Webb. Esq.

Boston — a copy —

Charter issued under date of 23 Mar 80

24 Apr 1780

Minutes Union Lodge No 40 Danbury Conn.  
Moses Greenleaf "instructed" the lodge.

19 May 1780

Minutes Union Lodge No 40 Danbury Conn  
There was a special communication called "on account of our Worshipful Brother Jonathan Heart being in town," accompanied by (William) Adams and John Fanning. "... agreed ... that ... Brother Heart, ... take the Chair P T this Evening, and Officiate in his Own usual method, for the Instruction of this Lodge — "

6 November 1781

"The Lodge proceeded to choose a Committee to attend at Fairfield with a Committee from the several Lodges"

27 December 1781

"... the County Convention of Masons ..."

4 April 1782

"a Committee to represent this Lodge at the quarterly Convention at Fairfield"

14 March 1783

"... in Consequence of an advertisement in the public N. Haven News Papers requesting the Several Lodges etc of this State to meet at New Haven on the 18th of instant March to attend universally or by Committee as is most expedient ... Voted ... a Committee"

20 March 1783

"Then proceedings of the Convention at N Haven then being read. (viz) The Subscribers, a Committee of the Several Lodges of New Haven, Middletown, Fairfield, Hartford, Norwalk, Stamford, Woodbury, Litchfield, Wallingford, Stratford, Danbury, and Derby, in the State of Connecticut Convened by their Committees at New Haven the 18th of March 1783 being appointed: to Consider of a General Plan, for the benefit of Masonry; propose such regulations as may be useful to the Brethren in this State; particularly report it as our Opinion that for promoting the grand ends of Masonry a uniformity of Conduct in the different Lodges is essentially necessary; ... and for promoting a brotherly affection among the fraternity, and better to answer the designs of the Institution — That Meetings of the brethren of the different Lodges, by themselves or Committees, be had as often as can be made Convenient, at which the matters of general concern be taken under Consideration and recommended to the Lodges & brethren, and also that the appointing of a Grand Master, for the United States of America ought to be attended to; for which purpose we recommend:

1st. That the Several Lodges in this State be desired to appoint and authorize Committees of their respective Lodges to meet at N. Haven on the last Tuesday of April next and to bring with them their By Laws to be in force in all the Lodges as nearly Similar, as the Local Situation, and Circumstances of the different Lodges will admit, which By-Laws so agreed upon be recommended to the Several Lodges to be by them adopted.

2nd. That Committees from the several Lodges in this State convene the last Tuesday in April and the last Tuesday in September annually to confer together on whatever shall be found for the good of the Craft, and to recommend whatever they shall find necessary for promoting and advancing the Interest of the Fraternity; which Committees may agree upon such places, as they shall think most convenient for their future Meetings —

3rd. That until a Grand Master be appointed the aforesaid Committee appoint a Committee of Three to whom the Several Lodges shall report. The members of their Lodges, New admitted members, any disorderly Brethren, or any who shall be thought unworthy of a seat in any Lodge; also such persons as have been Suspended, Expelled, or refused admittance into any Lodge; which Committee be desired to Communicate the same to

the Several Lodges in the State; and that said Committee be also desired to write to the Lodges in the other States in North America, on most proper Measures for Establishing a Grand Master for the Continent —

4th. That in future if any special occasion shall in the opinion of any Lodge, require the Convening of the other Lodges, such Lodge shall make application by letter to the aforesaid Committee of three who on such application made to them, shall desire a Convention of Lodges, if they think fit, and shall appoint a time and place and give notice thereof by letter to the different Lodges and also of the occasion of such Convention.

Committee

Samuel H. Parsons for Middletown, Jonathan Bulkeley for Fairfield, Philip Nichols for Stratford, Jeronimus Hoogland for Danbury, James Lockwood for New Haven, Delucena Backus for Woodbury, Ezekiel Woodruff for Litchfield, Ireal Knapp for Stamford and Greenwich, Lambert Lockwood for Norwalk, John Fowler for Derby, Turhand Kirtland for Wallingford, Ralph Pomeroy for Hartford.

The above Report Accepted and Approved, and Certified Copies Thereof are ordered to be transmitted to each Lodge in this State.

The above and foregoing is a true copy of the Original.

Examined per John Lothrop, Sect. P.T.

7 April, 1783

"voted that Brother Pell, Clark, Mygatt, and Hoogland be a Committee from this Lodge to attend the Convention at New Haven on the last Tuesday of Instant —"

14 May, 1783

"When the proceedings of the Convention held on the last Tuesday of April last was read and is as follows — In pursuance of a recommendation of Committees from twelve of the Lodges in the State of Connecticut holden at New Haven in said State on the 18th of March 1783 The Committees from the following Lodges — viz, New Haven, Brothers John Lothrop, James Lockwood, Elias Shipman and Pierpont Edwards — Middletown, Brothers Comfort Sage, John Cotton — Fairfield, Brothers Jonathan Bulkeley, Elijah Abel — Stratford, Brothers Peter and Philip Nichols — Hartford, Brothers William Adams, William Nichols, Oliver Lewis — Norwalk, ditto David Lambert — Woodbury, Joseph Perry, — Wallingford ditto Turhand Kirtland - Danbury Sallu Pell, — Colchester — ditto Asa Worthington, Elijah Bingham, - Litchfield — ditto Justus Deming, — Derby — Charles Whittlesey. Met at the house of Brother Brown on the last Tuesday of April 1783. Brother Comfort Sage was chosen Moderator and Pierpont Edwards Clark of said Convention. The credentials of the respective Committees. The Charters and By-laws of the several Lodges being read — Voted that Brothers Sallu Pell, James Lockwood, Oliver Lewis, Asa Worthington and Jonathan Bulkeley be a Committee to form By-Laws relative to sums paid for admitting, passing and raising Brethren, the ceremonies to be observed at admission of visiting brethren who have none to vouch for them. The time that persons shall Stand proposed before admission, and such other matters of general concern as in their opinion may, without trenching upon the By-Laws of particular Lodges, be Objects of general regulation — April 30th 1783 the Subscribers, a Committee appointed by the General Convention assembled at New Haven on the

29th day of April 1783 to form certain By-Laws to be adopted by all the Lodges in the State.

#### Report

1st. That every person who is admitted to the degree of an Entered Apprentice in Masonry shall pay to the Treasurer of the Lodge Four Pounds lawful money inclusive of the sum paid by the brother who proposed him and exclusive of the Tylers Fees - For being passed to a Fellow Craft shall pay Twelve Shillings and for being raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason shall pay Eighteen Shillings and be freed of all expense except his Club —

2nd. That every person proposed for Initiation shall stand proposed one month, and longer if desired by any of the Brethren, unless in case of emergency.

3rd. That the strictest attention be paid to the admission of visiting Brethren and that no one unless he can be vouched for by some brother present shall be admitted to sit in any lodge, unless he shall have taken the usual accustomed Assurances, that he was regularly initiated, passed, and raised in a regular Constituted Lodge, that he is not under any Censure, and knows no just impediment why he should not be admitted to privileges of a Visiting Brother.

Sallu Pell  
James Lockwood  
Oliver Lewis -  
Asa Worthington  
Jonathan Bulkeley

In a general Convention April 30th 1783 the above report was read and unanimously accepted by the Committee of twelve Lodges assembled and copies thereof ordered to be taken and recorded by the Secretaries of each Lodge. —

A true copy, Oliver Lewis.

April 30, 1783

A. M. Voted that a person be appointed to visit each of the Lodges in the State, in order that there may be a uniformity in the Mode of making among the Brethren, and brother Jonathan Hart is accordingly appointed for that purpose, and requested to take upon himself the execution of said Office. — Voted that brother Hart's expenses etc. compensation for his services be paid him by the respective Lodges. Voted that a Committee of four, one in each County (viz) Hartford, New Haven, Fairfield, and Litchfield, be appointed a Committee for the purposes pointed out in the 3 Articles of the resolves of the last general Convention. Voted the said Committee be chosen annually and continue in Office until another be chosen — and the ballots being taken — Brother Edwards Esq. for New Haven, Brother Parsons Esq. for Hartford, Brother Jonathan Bulkeley for Fairfield, and Brother Hezekiah Thomson for Litchfield — voted the next meeting be held at Middletown on the last Tuesday of September next at 10 o'clock a.m. precisely — Voted the Secretaries of the different Lodges shall transmit thirteen copies of all Returns, that they shall make to the Committee of four. Voted that an Oration be delivered at Middletown at the next General Convention, — and that brother Oliver Lewis, be appointed to deliver the same. Voted that it shall be the duty of the Committee

of four to attend the half yearly Conventions and report their proceedings to the said Convention.

6 Nov 1783

Minutes Union Lodge No 40 Danbury Conn

"Jonathan Heart, John Simpson, Isaiah Tiffany, William Dobbs, Visiting Brothers... the Lodge received the benefit of a Lecture by brother Heart after which Brother Heart request a Certificate in behalf of brother Simpson from this Lodge shewing the necessity for it at the same time vouching for brother Simpson as a brother Mason and regularly initiated passed & raised in a just and lawful Lodge of Ancient working Masons brother Heart being Past Master in the Lodge in the which brother Simpson was made passed & raised upon which the Lodge granted him a certificate."

February 12, 1784

"Also the proceedings of the Committee from the several Lodges in the State of Connecticut held at the Lodge Chamber in New Haven on the 14th day of January 1784 for the purpose of choosing a Grand Master and other Grand Officers for the said State, Brother Comfort Sage, chosen Chairman, Brother William Adams, Secretary. The Lodge then proceeded to the choice of the Grand Master and the ballots being by the Chairman, Brother Pierpont Edwards was unanimously chosen Grand Master for the State, Brother Comfort Sage, Grand Senior Warden, Brother Hezekiah Thompson, Grand Junior Warden, Brother Philip Nichols, Grand Treasurer, Brother Sallu Pell, Grand Secretary.

### — 1783 - 1785 —

Before the organization of the Grand Lodge was perfected in 1789, particular lodges had been chartered in Connecticut by the several Provincial Grand Masters of St. John's Grand Lodge at Boston, who were appointees of the Grand Lodge at London, as follows —

In 1750, at New Haven, the largest town in the colony, a lodge which is now Hiram (1); in 1752 at New London, where the Customs House was located, a lodge which did not remain active for more than a few years; in 1754 at Middletown, then important in coast-wise trade, a lodge which is now St. John's (2); in 1763, a lodge was organized in Hartford, now St. John's (4) meeting in West Hartford; in 1765 one near Waterbury, which went over the hill and today sits as King Solomon's (7) at Woodbury; in 1766 a nebulous lodge at Norwich; in 1767 in the prosperous farming community of Wallingford, the now Compass (9); in 1771 at the trading center of Guilford, a lodge which went dark within a few years and was revived as St. Alban's (38) in 1797; American Union Lodge, held in the Continental regiments from 1776 until 1783; and in 1780 one in Danbury, now Union Lodge (40).

Provincial Grand Master George Harrison at New York City, also holding his appointment from London, chartered four lodges in Fairfield county where business interests trended towards the nearest metropolis. They were located at Fairfield in 1762, now St. John's (3) of Bridgeport; one in Stamford "and parts adjacent"

in 1763, now Union (5); at Norwalk in 1765, now St. John's (6) and in 1766 at Stratford now St. John's (8).

The Massachusetts Grand Lodge, deriving its authority from the Grand Lodge of Scotland, chartered lodges in 1781 at Colchester, now Wooster (10); and at Litchfield, now St. Paul's (11). In 1783 lodges were chartered at Derby, now King Hiram (12) and at Salisbury, now Montgomery (13) at Lakeville. Columbia Lodge chartered at Norwich in 1785, soon went dark; and in 1787 Frederick Lodge (14) was chartered at Farmington, removing to Plainville. More details can be obtained from the several Lodge histories.

Conflicting political beliefs among the Craft just before the American Revolution broke out, disruptive of harmony around the table lodges when conversation became heated disagreement, and other factors, caused a lapse in meetings and makings in many communities. As a result, of the 20 lodges mentioned above, only 13 became constituents of the Grand Lodge.

There was little Masonic intercourse between the colonies and in some states there was no hesitation to follow severance of political connections by cutting Masonic ties, and independent Grand Lodges were established. At Boston St. John's Provincial Grand Lodge lost its prestige, the Massachusetts Grand Lodge became dominant, and in 1792 the present Grand Lodge was formed by a union. In New York the Provincial Grand Master went to Canada, his Deputy died, and the lodges in New York city obtained a charter from Atholl, Grand Master of the Ancient Grand Lodge of England in 1782. This included both military and city lodges, and when the British occupational forces departed in 1783, the charter was left behind, and the present Grand Lodge became independent by simple change in title and seal. In Pennsylvania, developments brought forth the present Grand Lodge structure in 1786; in Virginia, the Grand Lodge, organized in 1778, began its real activity a few years later. The Provincial Grand Lodges in the southern states evolved into independent Grand Lodges readily — Georgia in 1786, South Carolina in 1783 and North Carolina in 1787. More detailed information on the matter of independent Grand Lodges may be obtained from "Colonial Freemasonry", volume number 30 of the publications of the Missouri Lodge of Research.

There were many Masons in the new states who adhered to the view that allegiance was still owed the Masonic Grand Lodges in the British Isles. Among them was Jonathan Heart, Master of American Union Lodge from 1779 til 1783, the most prominent figure in the military lodges of the Continental Army, and those influential in disseminating his point of view. Heart was also a strong advocate of a National Grand Lodge, and his attitude was to cause some hesitancy among the Masons in Connecticut as will be seen in the sequel.

As early as 1781 the lodges in Fairfield county began to hold quarterly meetings or "conventions", rotating the place of their joint public observance of St. John's Days, disciplining erring Masons, and adopting a standard form of certificate of membership. In January 1783 St. John's Lodge of Fairfield appointed a committee "to write to the several Lodges in the State to Desire a meeting" at Fairfield the following May on "Matters of Consequence" which was (we can safely assume) the organization of a Grand Lodge. By correspondence, or conversation, or anticipa-

tion, there was a change and the convention was held at New Haven in March, a more central location it is true, but no more favorable time of year for traveling. This was apparently with the acquiescence of the lodges in Fairfield County which had again acted together, for their source (the Provincial Grand Lodge in New York) had dried up, and they felt no allegiance to the new Atholl Grand Lodge.

But in New Haven an influential group, many of whom had no extensive active military service to their credit, but had been very busy on the home front, was gathering about Pierpont Edwards, an ambitious young lawyer, a rising politician, and a recent Master of the Lodge.

*In the Masters Lodge at New Haven 1783 March 3*

Voted that the Master be desired to call a general Lodge to meet at this place the 18th of Instant March at Two of the Clock in the afternoon

(Andrew Fitch was the Master at the time but absent.

Pierpont Edwards was a Past Master but not present.

Presiding on that date was Joseph Bradley.

The Secretary pro-tem of the meeting was John Lothrop.)

In the Connecticut Gazette No. 801 for 6 March 1783 the following notice appeared:

Public Notice is hereby given to the Brethren of Free and Accepted MASONS through this State, that a Lodge will be held at the Lodge-Room, in New Haven, upon business of general concern, and great importance, on Tuesday the 18th of March, instant, at 2 o'clock p.m. The Brethren of the different Lodges in the State are desired punctually to attend, either personally, or to send Committees as they shall think proper; and those, who on account of their local situation do not belong to any particular Lodge, are informed that their company will be very agreeable to the Brethren.

By order of the Master  
John Lothrop, S.P.T.

Done at New Haven, the  
3d of March in the 5783d,  
Year of Masonry.

Regrettably the minutes of the Lodge at New Haven (Hiram No. 1) from 5 April 1779 until 8 August 1793 are missing. Therefore we must turn to the records of other lodges in the state for whatever meager information they may provide regarding the conduct of this first state-wide Masonic convention.

"In consequence of" or "agreeable to" the "advertisement in the New Haven newspaper" representatives of twelve lodges appeared. The minutes of this informal convention of 18 March 1783 were copied into the records of St. John's Lodge (2) of Middletown and Union Lodge (40) of Danbury. Since they do not appear in earlier printed records of Grand Lodge Proceedings they are inserted here, somewhat modified in spelling, capitalization and arrangement. The delegates are listed only in the Danbury transcript.

A Committee of the several Lodges of New Haven, Middletown, Fairfield, Hartford, Norwalk, Stamford, Woodbury, Litchfield, Wallingford, Stratford, Danbury and Derby in the state of Connecticut convened by their committees at New Haven the 18th of March 1783, being appointed to consider a general plan for the benefit of Masonry and propose such regulations as may be useful to the Brethren in this state particularly, report — for promoting the grand ends of Masonry, a uniformity of conduct in the different Lodges is essentially necessary and for promoting a brotherly affection among the fraternity, and better to answer the designs of the institution, the meetings of the Brethren of the different Lodges by themselves or committees, be had as often as can be made convenient, at which meetings any matter of general concern may be taken under consideration and recommended to the Lodges and Brethren, and also that the appointment of a Grand Master for the United States of America ought to be attended to, for which purpose. We recommend that the several Lodges in this State be desired to appoint and authorize committees of their respective lodges to meet at New Haven on the last Tuesday of April next — and to bring with them their by-laws and copies of their charters and there agree upon a code of by-laws to be in force in all the Lodges — as nearly similar as the local situation and circumstances of the different Lodges will admit — which by-laws so agreed upon be recommended to the several lodges to be by them adopted.

That committees from the several lodges in this state convene the last Tuesday in April and the last Tuesday in September annually to confer together on whatever shall be found for the good of the Craft — and to recommend whatever they shall find necessary for promoting and advancing the interest of the fraternity which Committee may agree upon such policies as they shall think most convenient for future meetings.

That until a Grand Master be appointed the aforesaid committee appoint a Committee of Three to whom the several lodges shall report — the members of their lodges; new admitted members and disorderly brethren who shall be thought unworthy of a seat in any lodge; and also such persons as have been suspended or expelled or refused admittance into any lodge. This committee to be desired to communicate the same to the several lodges in this state, and also desired to write to the lodges in the other States in North America on the most proper measures for establishing a Grand Master for the Continent.

That in the future if any special occasion shall in the opinion of any Lodge require the convening of the other Lodges, such Lodge shall make application by letter to the aforesaid Committee of Three, who on such application to them shall desire a convention of Lodges if they think it necessary and shall appoint a time and place and give notice thereof by letter to the different Lodges and also the occasion of such convention.

Archibald Austin, Secretary

Present — Samuel Holden Parsons for Middletown

Jonathan Bulkeley ..... Fairfield  
 Philip Nichols ..... Stratford  
 Jeronimus Hoogland ..... Danbury  
 James Lockwood ..... New Haven  
 Delucena Backus ..... Woodbury  
 Ezekiel Woodruff ..... Litchfield  
 Israel Knapp ..... Stamford & Greenwich  
 Lambert Lockwood ..... Norwalk

John Fowler ..... Derby  
 Turhand Kirtland ..... Wallingford  
 Ralph Pomeroy ..... Hartford

In accordance with these recommendations, the lodges about the state, with one exception, appointed committees and the delegates convened at New Haven on 29 April 1783. The charter of Montgomery Lodge at Salisbury is dated 5 March 1783 but they had not yet been constituted. A freely edited version of the minutes appears in Volume I of Storer's Reprint of the Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut, but a certified copy in the Archives of the Grand Lodge of New York reads as follows —

In pursuance of a Recommendation of Committees from thirteen of the Lodges of the State of Connecticut. Holden at New Haven in Sd State on the 18th of March, 1783.

The Committees from the following Lodges, viz.

New Haven ..... Brothers John Lothrop, James Lockwood,  
 Elias Shipman, Pierpont Edwards.  
 Hartford ..... Brothers Wm Adams, Wm Nichols,  
 & Oliver Lewis  
 Fairfield ..... Brothers John Bulkeley, Elijah Abel.  
 Norwalk ..... Brother David Lambert.  
 Woodbury ..... Brother Joseph Perry.  
 Stratford ..... Brothers Peter & Phillip Nichols.  
 Wallingford ..... Brother Turhand Kirtland.  
 Danbury ..... Brother Sallu Pell.  
 Colchester ..... Brothers Asa Worthington & Elijah Bingham  
 Litchfield ..... Brother Julius Demming.  
 Derby ..... Brother Charles Whittlesey.

Met at the house of B' Robert Brown, on the last Tuesday of April 1783.  
 Brother Comfort Sage was chosen Moderator & Pierpont Edwards  
 Clarke of said Convention.

The Credentials of the respective Committees the Charters and By-laws of the several Lodges being read — the Convention proceeded to business.

Voted that Brothers Sallu Pell, James Lockwood, Oliver Lewis, Asa Worthington & Jonathan Bulkeley, be a Committee to form By-Laws relative to the sums to be paid for, the admitting, Passing and raising Brethren. — the ceremonies to be Observed at the admission of visiting Brethren, who have none to vouch for them. The time that persons shall stand proposed before admission, and such other matters of general concern as in their opinion may without trending upon the By-Laws of particular Lodges be objects of general regulation.

The Committee appointed reported as follows: The Subscribers of a Committee appointed by the General Convention assembled at New Haven on the 20th day of April 1783 to form certain by-laws to be adopted by all the Lodges in this State Report —

That every person who is admitted to the Degree of an Entered Apprentice in Masonry shall pay to the Treasurer of the Lodge; four

pounds Lawful Money, inclusive of the sum paid by the Brother who proposed him, and exclusive of the Tylers fees —

For being passed to a fellow Craft shall pay Twelve Shillings.

And for being raised to the Sublime degree of a Master Mason, shall pay Eighteen Shillings — and shall be freed from all Expenses except his Club —.

That every person proposed for Initiation shall stand proposed, one month and longer if desired by any of the Brethren unless in cases of Emergency —.

That the strictest attention be paid to the Admission of visiting Brethren, and that no one, unless he can be vouched for by some Brother present shall be admitted to sit in any Lodges, until he shall have taken the usual accustomed assurances that he was regularly initiated, passed, and raised in a Just, & regularly constituted Lodge that he is not under any censure and knows no Just Impediment why he should not be admitted to the privileges of a visiting Brother —. Submitted to consideration by your Committee.

Sallu Pell  
James Lockwood  
Oliver Lewis  
Asa Worthington  
J. Bulkeley

In general Convention April 30th 1783 the above report was read and unanimously accepted by the Committees from Twelve Lodges assembled and Copies thereof ordered to be taken and recorded by the secretaries of each Lodge —.

Voted that a person be appointed to visit each of the Lodges in this State in order that there may be an Uniformity in the mode of working among the Brethren and that Brother Jonathan Hart be appointed for that purpose, and he is accordingly requested to take upon himself the Execution of said Office.

Voted that Brother Harts expenses and a compensation for his Service be paid him by the respective Lodges —.

Voted that a Committee of four viz one in each of the counties of Hartford, New Haven, Litchfield & Fairfield, be appointed a Committee for the purpose pointed out in the third article of the resolves of the last general Convention —.

Voted that the sd Committee be chosen annually and continue in Office until another shall be appointed.

The Ballots being taken Brothers Pierpont Edwards, Esq was chosen one of the committee for New Haven County — Brother Samuel Holden Parson for Hartford County B' Jonathan Bulkeley for Fairfield County & Brother Hezekiah Thomson, Esq for Litchfield County.

Voted that the next general Convention be held on the last Tuesday in September next at Middletown. Precisely 10 o'clock a.m.

Voted that each Lodge shall transmit thirteen copies of all returns that they make to sd Committee of four.

Voted that an Oration be delivered at Middletown at the next general Convention, and that Brother Oliver Lewis be appointed to deliver sd Oration.

Voted that it shall be the duty of the Committee of four to attend the half yearly Convention and report their proceedings to sd Convention.

Archibald Austin Sec/Copy

The Committee of Four lost no time in consulting with lodges in other states on the most proper measures for establishing a Grand Master for the Continent, although we are not sure of all to whom the circular letter was sent, nor do we have the text. The following correspondence from two lodges in Charleston, South Carolina does enlighten us to some extent.

The Committee of Conference appointed by the Lodges No. 190 under the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of England, and No. 38 under Sanction of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, to report their opinion of a circular letter, and of certain resolves transmitted from a Convention of twelve different Lodges in the State of Connecticut, having conferred together on the subject, recommend that the following answer to said letter, be forthwith sent, signed by the Secretary of both Lodges. — Viz,

Charleston So. Carolina  
August 12th, 1783

To Samuel H. Parsons Esqr.  
Brother /

A letter with your signature dated 9th of June 1783 as also certain resolves of a Convention of twelve different Lodges in your State dated 18th March A.L. 5783 were safely handed to our respective Lodges by Brother Oliver Lewis.

We are of opinion the matter contained in those papers is of infinite importance to the Fraternity, and requires the maturest deliberation and greatest unanimity.

We entirely coincide in sentiments with you of the necessity and propriety of what you recommend, and will acquiesce in whatever shall be regularly done by a majority of the Ancient Lodges in America; Our local situation may possibly prevent us from being properly represented at the Election of Grand Master, and other Grand Officers, we would therefore beg leave earnestly to recommend that you would proceed to the solemn transaction with the utmost caution and regularity, and not without the concurrence of a great majority of the Ancient Lodges, in the different States. — We trust it is needless to enumerate to you the obvious reasons why the Grand Lodge when constituted should be held in a situation as nearly central as possible, and that such Grand Officers ought to be elected whose residence may be contiguous thereto.

Your Lodges will pardon our Freedom in this Recommendation, as it arises from the same Warmth of Affection for the Fraternity, and the same zealous wishes for the continuance of the uniform Ancient mode of Masonic Operations, which appear to have influenced your own proceedings, and to have occasioned the present correspondence.

Our Brother Lewis so politely introduced by you, will, we hope, meet with every attention from the Brotherhood in this place, to which his own Merit, supported by your recommendation, so peculiarly entitles him.

We are with every sentiment of Fraternal Affection

Your Brethren and obedient servants

In behalf of Lodge No. 190  
& in behalf of Lodge No. 38

Henry Ellison, Secretary  
A. Alexander, Secry P.T.

Jonathan Heart, still on duty with the Continental Army at West Point, was informed of his appointment as "Grand Lecturer" and addressed the following

letter to Maj. Genl Parsons under date of 26th July 1783. Quarter Master Nehemiah Hubbard, returning to Middletown, was the courier, and by great good fortune the letter was preserved in the archives of St. Johns Lodge.

Sir

By a favor from Capt. Redfield am informed that a Committee is appointed to act on the subject of a G. Master for the United States of America, & tho the trust which the Body assembled at N. Haven were pleased to honor me with, does not warrant any interference with the duties of that committee am persuaded every information in my power will be acceptable to those Gentlemen, & beg you to accept them, not so much, as my sentiments, as the opinions of the most learned of the Craft in which Number I include the Revd Doctor Walter G.M. for the State of N. York — with whom I have had the honor of a Conference on the subject at large — the particulars of his & others opinions are too lengthy as well as improper to be inserted at large, permit me (then) to observe upon them in general.

All bodies of Masons originally derived their Charters from & owed allegiance to a Supreme Head, but in the Course of human Events by Wars &c the Channels to such Fountains having been cut off, & by the overrunning of Ignorance the Craft almost obliterated, on the rising up of a Character, the Ancient Records have been revived & the Craft reestablished, & this appears to have been done without referring back to the Original Head; after an almost entire Obliteration for Centuries in Great Britain, Prince Edwin Assembled the Brethren at York in 926, was elected G.M. and assumed the Head of the Society, tho it does not appear he received any Authority from a superior Head, from him Prince John Duke of Athol and the Present G.M. of the Ancient in England holds his Authority; the Present Grand Master in Prussia holds his authority from a similar election of Prince Ferdinand by the Masons assembled from Germany & Prussia; the present G.M. of Scotland and the G.M. of Ireland hold their Authorities on the like Election of the Masons in the respective Realms, each of them above consider themselves as ancient, tho they have neither received their authorities or owe allegiance to any Superior Head — of late the G Master of England Scotland & Ireland have united, & I am informed are acknowledged by Prussia — On a parity of Reasoning the Brethren have a right to elect a G.M. — for the United States; unless we object that we received our knowledge from England, have always acknowledged them our Head & that Masonry knows no Political distinctions which ought to separate us, the only objection I can form against such election is, the Brethren making such Officer, implies a delegation of knowledge, powers, and authorities to a person, by them, which in fact they themselves have not, but it seems the opinion of those best acquainted with the History, that there is no impropriety, to assist in forming the general Union expunging the moderns & putting the Breeches on the most respectable Foundation (a point all Europe are striving for ) Doct Walter advises that the Brethren in the State of Connecticut (as they have begun the work) by circular letters obtain the sentiments of the G Lodge of Pennsylvania, N. York, & Massachusetts (almost all the others being Modern) on the Subject, let a person be nominated for the office of G.M. for the States & an address preferred to Prince John Duke of Atholl &c requesting his concurrence & that they will please to invest him with the powers &c & that the same be admitted into the General Union with the ancient Grand

Lodges in Europe & elsewhere upon the Face of the Globe. The Doctor urges the necessity pleads the favorable crisis & wishes to give every assistance in his Power — as the sentiments of Brethren in almost every State in the Union, are collected in the Proceedings of the Convention Lodges held at Morristown in 1779 & so, as the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania have manifested their sentiments by the appointment of Genl Washington to the office of G.M. for the States & as it evidently is manifest to be the desire of all, that such Officers secure appointment & as manifest, that General Washington would secure the vote of every Brother I am fully of opinions that the representation of the Brethren of one State only would as well procure such appointment, as a more lengthy Process — however it will not much embarrass the Proceeding to write to & consult Pennsylvania York & Boston on the subject — the obtaining such officer in America appears to me the first & most essential point & that previous to any considerable alteration in the different Lodges in the States, being made. However I Shall make it my duty to visit the respective Lodges & lay the foundation for making the necessary amendments & lay the same before the body at their meeting at Middletown in September next when I will do myself the honor of attending.

I only add that with most cordial  
Esteem for the Brotherhood  
I have the honor to be  
Your very humble  
Serv

NB Doctr Walter presents his  
compliments & respects to  
Genl Parsons

Jona Heart

At least two lodges recorded action in compliance with the recommendations concerning fees. Heart is known to have lectured in a number of lodges during 1783. However, in July the Lodge at Danbury dutifully appointed their proxy to the Grand Lodge at Boston, and others probably did the same.

Remarkably, none of the Superintending Committees of Four appeared at the "Grand Convention" in Middletown in September, but they were requested to continue in their duties, and Brother Heart was likewise absent, although "earnestly" requested to continue his visitations. The minutes of this meeting are found only in the records of St. John's Lodge (2) and are here copied with slight modifications.

At a meeting of the Committees of a number of Lodges in the state of Connecticut held at St. John's Lodge Room No. 2 at Middletown on the 30th day of September 1783 agreeable to a vote of a former convention —

Present — Joseph Bradley and John Lothrop for New Haven; Comfort Sage, John Cotton and William Redfield for Middletown; Ralph Pomeroy, Joseph Webb, William Adams and William Nichols for Hartford; Matthew Reed for Norwalk; Asa Worthington and Elias Worthington for Colchester, and Stephen Titus Hosmer for Stratford.

Brother Comfort Sage was chosen Moderator and William Nichols, Clerk.

The credentials of the appointment of the several committees laid in and read. Adjourned to the next morning at nine o'clock a.m.

Met according to adjournment.

VOTED that the Committee of Four appointed at the last convention be requested to pursue the business of their former appointment, and make their report to the next half yearly meeting to be holden at New Haven on the last Tuesday of April next at 10 o'clock a.m. precisely.

VOTED that Brother Jonathan Heart be earnestly requested to visit the different Lodges in the state as soon as convenient, and in each to do and recommend such things as may appear necessary for their interest and that of Masonry in general, and that the Committee of Four or either of them be directed to make interest and pressing application to him for that purpose.

VOTED that the several Lodges in this state be furnished with copies of the votes and proceedings of this convention.

When the members and brethren of St. John's Lodge unanimously met in conjunction with the forementioned committees at the Lodge Room on said 30th day from whence a due procession was formed to the church where prayers were first performed by the Rev. Mr. Abraham Jarvis and then an oration delivered by Brother Oliver Lewis  
And When

His Honor Col Jabez Hamlin )  
The Revd Mr. Abraham Jarvis & ) Din'd with the Brethren  
Capts Caleb & Ichabod Wetmore )

The unenthusiastic reply from South Carolina apparently dampened the enthusiasm of the Committee of Four (if they ever really had any) for the idea of a General Grand Lodge. Whatever action may have been taken in other states is not a matter of record. Now the Committee turned towards the Grand Lodge in New York city for advice in establishing a Grand Lodge for the State of Connecticut.

Rev. Bro. William Walter, a class mate of Parsons at Harvard, and a Chaplain — in the British forces, had relinquished the chair of Grand Master and the following letter was received by his successor.

New Haven 29th October 1783

Brother

The Lodges of free Masons within this State, desirous of cultivating harmony amongst themselves & a uniformity in the respective Lodges, have assembled in convention and appointed us to confer with our Brethren on different parts of the Continent for purposes mentioned in their Votes, which will be communicated by the bearer, Brother Pomeroy — As it is for obvious reasons the most opportune season we have had & probably more favorable than will for a long time to come present, for rendering the Fraternity respectable in this State; we wish if consistent with the principles of Masonry to establish a Grand Master, and other Grand Officers within the State; if the Grand Lodge in New York are authorized to grant authority for this purpose until the Brethren chosen to those offices may be properly confirmed in Great Britain, we wish to be informed and will with the advise of the Grand Lodge in New York proceed to the nomination of the proper officers. Our Brother Pomeroy will be able to fully communicate to you the extent of our wishes on the Subject of the

necessity of our taking this Step at present to whom we refer you for that purpose.

We are with great Respect

Your Brethren.

Sam H. Parsons  
Pierpont Edwards  
Jona Buckeley

A committee appointed to confer with Brother Ralph Pomeroy returned the following report which was sent to Brother Parsons —

The Grand Lodge of Ancient York-Masons held in the city of New York on the 5th Instant having received a Letter from Samuel H. Parsons Esquire and others dated at New Haven the 29th of October respecting the Situation of the Lodges in the State of Connecticut and recommending Brother Pomeroy for such further information as may be necessary to throw light upon the Intention of their Application appointed Brother James Clarke, Grand Secretary, Brother Samuel Kerr, Grand Treasurer and Brothers Campbell Fife and Horton a Committee to confer with Brother Pomeroy on the Subject Matter of that Letter, to enter fully and amply into the Consideration of every Proposal he may lay before them, and finally to determine thereon.

And the said Committee having in Consequence of their appointment, and the Authority therein given had an Interview with Brother Pomeroy and taken into Consideration the Proceedings of the Thirteen Lodges in that State are Unanimously of Opinion: That the laudable Zeal manifested by those Committees for establishing in Uniformity of Practice amongst the Several Lodges, and reviving the principles of the Ancient Craft entitles them to the Warmest Support from the Grand Lodge in this State, and the Committee from an Ardent Desire to give the fullest Efficacy to the Benevolent Intentions of their Brethren in the State of Connecticut and to enable them to accomplish their Views and Speedy as the Nature of the Business may require, with great Deference recommend. That they proceed to elect a Grand Master, and other Grand Officers Necessary for constituting a Grand Lodge. That they apply to the Grand Lodge in England for a Warrant: That the Grand Officers by them so elected attend the Grand Lodge in New York, and if they are found upon Examination suitably qualified to fill those Offices or will submit to receive such Instructions as may be deemed Necessary to Qualify them for the places they are to fill, that they recommend their Application and the Grand Officers by them so elected in the strongest Terms to the Grand Lodge in England for a Warrant as aforesaid. And in the Mean Time that the Grand Officers Elect receive from the Grand Lodge in this State every Authority, Support and Instruction which may be adjudged necessary and proper for enabling them to accomplish the Purposes they have in Contemplation for regulating the Lodges in that State on one permanent Basis  
(Signed)

James Clarke  
Grand Sec'y & President of the Committee.

New York 22 Nov '1783

Without waiting for the stated communication in April, the Committee of Four called a special convention at New Haven in January 1784. Why the possibility of severe winter weather and bad traveling was defied, and the regular date anticipated, is hard to understand. Delegates showed up from nine of the thirteen lodges in the state and proceeded to elect officers. The brief minutes of this meeting are mentioned in the Connecticut Grand Lodge "Centennial" volume published in 1889. A copy was written into the minute books of the Lodges at Danbury and Fairfield, the latter listing the delegates in attendance. To complete the record, the composite account is printed herewith.

The following is a photocopy of the handwritten notice of the appointment of a committee to attend a Grand Convention in New Haven on the 14th of January 1784, for the purpose of electing a Grand Master for Connecticut.

*At a Lodge duly assembled at Mason's Hall  
on the 8th Day of Instant January  
Night worshipful Bro: Bulkeley and Bro:  
Heron were unanimously chosen a Committee  
to attend the Grand Convention of this State  
that are to meet at New Haven on the 14th  
of January: Next for the purpose of electing  
a Grand Master for this State  
Jost Joseph Squire Sec: Protos:  
Fairfield 8<sup>th</sup> Jan: 1784*

Proceedings of the Committee from the several Lodges in the State of Connecticut held at the Lodge Chamber in New Haven on the 14th day of Jan: 1784 — for the purpose of choosing a Grand Master and other grand officers for this state.

Brother Comfort Sage chosen Chairman.

Brother William Adams Secretary.

The Lodge then proceeded to the choice of a Grand Master and ballot being taken by the Chairman —

Brother Pierpont Edwards was unanimously chosen Grand Master for the State.

Brother Comfort Sage Grand Senior Warden

Brother Hezekiah Thompson Grand Junior Warden

Brother Philip Nichols Grand Treasurer

Brother Sallu Pell Grand Secretary

Present — For New Haven, Pierpont Edwards, Line Denison and Jonas Prentice; for Middletown, Comfort Sage; for Hartford, William Adams; for Fairfield, Jonathan Bulkeley, William Heron; for Norwalk, Matthew Reed; for Woodbury, Hezekiah Thompson, Josiah Beers; for Stratford, Philip Nichols, Matthew Nicholl; for Danbury, Sallu Pell; for Colchester, Comfort Sage as proxy; for Derby, John Fowler, Henry Whitney, and William Clark.

Apparently no time was lost in reporting the action taken to the Grand Lodge in New York, where, on 4 February 1784, "It was then voted unanimously, that the Officers of the Grand Lodge should be a Committee to determine the most eligible mode for the Grand Officers Elect of the State of Connecticut obtaining a grand Warrant from the Grand Lodge in England".

The next stated convention was to be held at New Haven on the last Tuesday in April, the 27th, for which the lodges in Norwalk and Colchester chose delegates whose report, if any was made, is not recorded. The Lodge at Colchester also named a delegate "to attend on a General Convention of the Lodges at Middletown or New Haven" on September 28th, but again no report appears on the minutes. The Norwalk and Stratford Lodges were invited to Fairfield as usual for St. John's Day in December. Captain Jonathan Heart had accepted an appointment in the regular army and was on duty in Pennsylvania. Samuel Holden Parsons was on a mission in the Ohio country. Pierpont Edwards was busy with his law practice and in politics, being speaker of the lower house in the General Assembly.

Here a curtain of silence descends, and we grope in darkness for several years. Only a few faint echoes of the first steps taken towards organization of a grand lodge are heard, and a glimmer or two of a sort of belief in its existence.

## "THE GRAND LODGE GOES TO WORK" 1785 - 1789

Progress towards organization of a Grand Lodge in Connecticut recorded between March 1783 and February 1784, may have come to a halt because of the condescending attitude of the authorities in New York City. Jonathan Heart having been appointed and in some instances known to have acted as Grand Lecturer, the invitation to undergo outside instruction may not have been acceptable. To rely on a recommendation from the Yorkers to obtain a charter from London was probably not palatable. The Grand Lodge at New York City still included a lot of Tories or at least former Loyalists, although Robert R. Livingston was elected Grand Master in 1784. Not until 1788 was the word 'Provincial' removed from the Grand Lodge seal, the 'Grand Lodge of the State of New York' became the name of a functioning body, embracing lodges up the Hudson and at Albany.

At Boston the last Provincial Grand Master of St. John's Grand Lodge (organized in 1733 by the Grand Lodge of England) was alive but the organization was moribund. The Massachusetts Grand Lodge, having been organized in 1769 under the Grand Lodge of Scotland, and now independent, had been liberal in granting charters outside the state as well as in Massachusetts towns, and was now trying to establish some sort of control. The "union" of the two Massachusetts grand bodies resulted in a strong central authority dating from March 5, 1792. (In reality, "St. John's Grand Lodge" was inactive, and the "Massachusetts Grand Lodge" was dissolved.)

A similar situation existed in Philadelphia, where the older Grand Lodge stemming from London simply disintegrated, the 'ancient' element asserted itself and prevailed, so that the present Grand Lodge dates from September 15, 1786 when it announced formation and independence.

Final action did not take place in Maryland until April 19, 1787 when a Grand Lodge was formed by particular lodges, most of which had been chartered from Philadelphia.

In Virginia a Grand Lodge had been organized at Williamsburg on October 13, 1778, but little was done to carry on as such until the state government moved to Richmond and the Grand Lodge began to function from that city.

Meanwhile many local lodges continued in spite of the lack of any Grand Lodge supervision, although all realized one would come into being eventually. It seems as though they enjoyed their independence and in some instances were pleased to carry on as such, possessing a charter, using their own ritual, and being able to issue traveling certificates. If the pressure to conform and regularize their status was not acceptable, they could dissolve and many seem to have done so.

The 1780s were years of great uneasiness in the former colonies. Independence had been achieved through force of arms and with the help of France, but no treaty of peace could be thought of until England declared a cessation of hostilities February 4, 1783. It was 15 months later when ratifications were exchanged. Not until November 25 did the last occupational forces quit New York City, the British

army lodges having left their Grand Lodge warrant behind them.

Heavy indebtedness incurred during the war effort hung over all the states and the Federation. Shay's Rebellion in nearby Massachusetts against excessive and oppressive taxation was only one manifestation of the general unhappiness of the small tax payer. Great expanses of land in central New York, in the Ohio country and over the mountains in the South encouraged migration of discontented thousands from the older overpopulated settlements.

Statesmen knowing the weaknesses of the Federation put into motion the several measures which culminated in adoption of a Constitution for the Republic and inauguration of George Washington as the first President. Politicos had a field day and have been conniving ever since.

Leaders in the move for a Grand Lodge in Connecticut did not lack for something to do when the Masonic conventions were not continued. Pierpont Edwards, nominee for Grand Master, had a growing practice as a much sought after lawyer, had been a member of the Congress of the Confederation, served as Speaker of the House in the General Assembly, and became deeply involved in the Convention called to consider ratification by Connecticut of the Federal Constitution of 1787 and legislative matters kept him well occupied and probably were his prime interests during that time.

Samuel Holden Parsons had acquired large holdings in Ohio lands and was appointed a Judge for the North West Territory. His chief concerns thus took him out of the state, and with removal contemplated, organization of a Grand Lodge became of minor interest. Parsons' life came to a tragic end. He was on a surveying mission when called upon to take a sick associate down the river to a military hospital. On that errand of mercy the canoe overturned and he was drowned, sometime in November 1789.

Jonathan Heart had been trying to get back into business in Connecticut, but having accepted a commission in the regular army on April 15, 1785 his duties took him into the Ohio country. He had been lecturing around the state as minutes of several lodges show. He had participated in raising the Royal Arch in the first Chapter to be organized as such in the western hemisphere at Middletown. He assisted in opening the Mark Lodge there at the same time. When he went west he had the charter of American Union Lodge in his military chest and it was invoked to open a lodge of the same name at Marietta, Ohio in 1790. Heart also came to a tragic end as he was among those killed in St. Clair's Defeat on November 4, 1791, ending a notable career in Masonry.

The Lodge at Marietta continued, however, and is now No. 1 on the Ohio Grand Lodge registry. Two other Lodges in Ohio were also chartered by the Grand Lodge of Connecticut in 1803 and are still in existence: Erie Lodge No. 47 (now "Old Erie No. 3") located in Warren, Ohio; and New England Lodge No. 48 (now "New England No. 4"). Together with American Union Lodge, they helped organize the Grand Lodge of Ohio.

NOTE: Two Lodges in Vermont were also chartered by the Grand Lodge of Connecticut: Temple Lodge in Bennington, whose charter is dated at Hartford, May 18, 1793; and Union Lodge at Middlebury, dated at Hartford, May 15, 1794. Both

charters are signed by William Judd, Grand Master, and John Mix, Grand Secretary.

There was also a Lodge chartered in California by the Grand Lodge of Connecticut.

Jonathan Bulkeley of Fairfield and Hezekiah Thompson of Woodbury, the other members of the Committee of Four, apparently were not inclined to vigorously promote a Grand Lodge, but did continue their activity in their respective lodges and their private affairs. Neither one attended the organization meeting in New Haven on July 8, 1789. The Grand Treasurer-elect had no money to account for. The Grand Secretary designate had removed to Massachusetts.

With no further meetings in stated Grand Conventions, we must turn to the minutes of local lodges to learn what little we can about developments in Masonry during the hiatus. Several lodges did name delegates to the adjourned convention in April, 1784 but no reports are on record, nor any explanation of their omission. We are just left in Masonic darkness for a year or two.

Meanwhile a Lodge at Derby, now King Hiram (12) had been granted a charter by the Massachusetts Grand Lodge under date of January 3, 1783 which was "to continue and be in force until the State of Connecticut shall appoint a Grand Master and Grand Lodge of their own. Then the ... Lodge to be under their jurisdiction". Under date of March 24, 1783 a charter had been granted to a group in Salisbury, now Montgomery (13), which was "to continue in Force" until Connecticut had a Grand Master. The time factor was such that neither of those lodges had been represented at the early Conventions.

On July 23, 1785 Dr. Philip Turner and others in the City of Norwich had been granted a charter from the Massachusetts Grand Lodge, "to be in effect until recalled". The 'City' had just been established by action of the General Assembly, within the 'Nine Mile Square' limits of the town. It was in that part of the town set off as the town of Franklin in 1786 that Columbia Lodge met, in the Hyde Tavern. This lodge it is said, continued in a somewhat boisterous and irregular way. The charter was never "recalled" by the Massachusetts Grand Lodge. An attempt to belatedly obtain recognition from the Grand Lodge of Connecticut was denied, as Somerset Lodge (34) had been regularly chartered in Norwich, of which Dr. Turner was a charter member! Columbia Lodge languished and died from misconduct and neglect. In 1870 the charter came to light in western New York state, was purchased by a Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts, and presented to Somerset Lodge at their centennial observance in 1894.

During 1785 the Massachusetts Grand Lodge was pressing their out of state lodges to subordinate themselves, and the effort continued over several years. The minutes of lodges at Colchester, Litchfield, Derby and Salisbury occasionally record the appointment of proxies and exchange of correspondence. In New York, Lodge No. 210 excused themselves from submission to the Grand Lodge in the city because the Grand Lodge at London had not released them from allegiance and payment of dues. Exchange of letters took months to complete, but when threatened with erasure the lodge conformed. The lodges in Connecticut working under charters from former Provincial Grand Master George Harrison seem to have been ignored, as they were located out of state.

In 1786 the state of uncertainty continued. Wooster Lodge at Colchester voted in November that the "Brethren in Windham County be recommended to the Grand Lodge at Boston for holding a Lodge in Pomfret", but no further mention of action is found anywhere. When St. John's Lodge at Norwalk, now (6), amended their by-laws which all members signed, among other provisions they did "Covenant & Agree to keep ... such Instructions and Regulations as shall be required by the Grand Master of this State or the Deputy Grand Master thereof, and in case of Default will peaceably submit to the Direction and Determination of this Lodge and the order of the Grand Lodge of this State".

In 1787 the Massachusetts Grand Lodge was trying to confirm the charter dates of their subordinate lodges, and to obtain compliance with representation, expected from those sitting in the state of Massachusetts and hopefully from those out of state. Records of the lodges in Connecticut under Massachusetts charter make occasional references to letters they had received and there is a record of proxy representation from time to time.

In Danbury the delegates or committee to the early conventions had been "instructed to maintain the fee of \$12", but on June 7, 1787 it was "... proposed by the Master the Stated fees of the Lodge per night should not be reduced. And the State Money on hand should now be put out at interest as it was useless in its present Situation".

On 18 September 1787, the Massachusetts "Grand Lodge being Opened with the Usual Solemnity. A Petition presented by Wm. Little, Signed Wm. Judd and others, accompanied by a Recommendation of a Regular Lodge Signed by the Master, Wardens and Secretary was Read, Praying to be Constituted a Regular Lodge by the Name of Columbia, and to be Vested with Powers and Authorities usually granted in Charters of Dispensation. The same being debated and fully considered — Voted that a Charter of Dispensation be granted — leaving the Name of said Lodge blank. The Name of Columbia having been already granted to a former Lodge."

The charter was completed under date of 8 October and delivered to Brother Little when the "blank was filled up with Frederick Lodge ..." Recommendation for the Lodge at Farmington had probably come from the Lodge at Litchfield, where Ephraim Kirby, a political associate of Judd, had become a person of considerable importance in legal and Masonic circles. William Little had been a fellow member with Judd in American Union Lodge during the Revolution. No limitation was written into the dispensation concerning its "continuance in force".

Probably because of changes in the person of the Grand Secretary, the surviving records of Massachusetts Grand Lodge are somewhat incomplete, as the receipt of an amount of money from Montgomery Lodge in Salisbury in August 1786 seems to have been an unexpected contribution. The Committee whose duty it was to review the records were ordered to "inform themselves of the Erection of a Lodge at Danbury by the Name of Union, & also of another at Salisbury by the Name of Montgomery whose time of Creation & Record of Charter is not to be found in the G. Lodge Books". It so happened that one member of the Committee and the Junior Grand Warden was Dr. Josiah Bartlett, who in 1780 was the first candidate in Union

Lodge, and sometime Secretary!

In June 1788 the Massachusetts Grand Lodge again by letter warned the officers of delinquent lodges that unless they appeared in the next Grand Lodge session to give "sufficient reasons" why their dues had not been paid, and why they had not been represented, they would be "erased" from the Grand Lodge books and no longer considered to be regular lodges.

Letters were sent to lodges outside the state and one was read in St. Paul's Lodge at the meeting of September 14th. This prompted some action other than compliance, and would appear to have been as an opening towards renewal of the effort to organize a Grand Lodge in Connecticut. A committee was appointed to meet with other delegates from lodges under the jurisdiction of "the Grand Lodge at Boston", at Farmington, on the last Monday in October 1788 to make a united representation to said Grand Lodge".

No minutes of this informal meeting have been found. Only those lodges at Colchester, Litchfield, Derby, Salisbury, and Norwich were concerned and their record books contain no reference or report. No doubt Kirby and Judd had agreed to revive the matter of forming a Grand Lodge, and in St. Paul's Lodge on December 4th it was voted that a circular letter be prepared and sent to all Lodges in the state.

Under date of March 31, 1789 and over the signatures of three respected members of the Lodge it was finally dispatched, no doubt composed by Ephraim Kirby, as it is generally admitted the plan was his inspiration. The minutes of several lodges mention receipt of the letter and appointment of delegates. The text appears in Pruner's History of St. Paul's Lodge and reads as follows —

Litchfield, March 31, 1789

Impressed with the Importance of adding Stability & reputation to the Masonic Art as well as Uniformity in the Communications & working of the different Lodges in this State who profess to be founded upon & governed by the ancient principles of the fraternity, as well as to correct such abuses in the Workings of the Craft (if any such there are) that have inadvertently crept into our Lodges by blending the ancient Manner with the Modern, as well as to stimulate the brethren in this State to embrace the present favourable Opportunity of placing the Society in that laudable point of view with the world that the noble principles of our order really Demand; & thereby restore the Gem of Antiquity to its primitive lustre.

We profess to embrace all mankind in the Arms of Benevolence and to do good as we have opportunity from an impulse that becomes the proficient in the Royal Art.

Charity the Characteristic of our Ancient & Venerable Society will never be forgotten by the faithful & truly Masonic Brother, but be directed into such Channells as shall best answer the important Ends of that Virtue.

That we may be governed in our Workings — directed in the distributions of our Charities, and thereby become assimilated to the laudable principles of Masonry, must be most ardently desired by every brother; — And Considering that the several Lodges in this State derive their Authority from different provincial or State Grand Lodges. And the Requirements are also different, and the manner of working liable to vary, having no Superior to superintend them; To remedy which & other Evils, Lodge Saint Paul have directed us their Committee to request & the Brethren of your

Lodge to meet the Brethren of this and the other Lodges in this State, at Hartford on the second Thursday of May next, at the house of Mr. David Bull, by yourselves, or by Agents appointed by your Lodge, then & there to take into Consideration the Circumstances of the several Lodges in this State, and to consider & advise upon the Question of establishing a Grand Lodge in this State, and the Appointment of the necessary Grand Officers, with full Authority, in behalf of your Lodge, to agree to all such measures as shall be judged by the Lodges so convened to contribute to the Good of Masonry in General, and for the particular Advantage of the Lodges in this State.

We hope these propositions will meet the Approbation of your Lodge & the Lodges in General, and that we shall not be considered as assuming to ourselves a prerogative different from that Equality incident to Masons.

And are with Sentiments of Respect & Affection,

Your devoted Brethren,

! Baldwin, Jr. )  
 Benj. Hanks ) Committee  
 Alex. Catlin )

A record of the meeting held in consequence of the March 31, 1789 letter from St. Paul's Lodge appears in Storer's Reprint of the Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut and is here copied —

At a convention of delegates from the several Lodges in the State of Connecticut, convened at Hartford on the 14th day of May, 1789, to consider the state of the several Lodges, advise upon the question of establishing a Grand Lodge in this State, and the appointment of the necessary officers.

Bro. William Judd, President  
 Bro. Ephraim Kirby, Secretary

Voted, That Bros. Pierpont Edwards, William Judd, Asher Miller, and Ephraim Kirby, be a Committee to prepare a systematic plan for forming a Grand Lodge in this State, and that they lay the same before a convention of delegates from the several Lodges, to be convened at the Lodge Room in New Haven, on the 8th Day of July next, at 4 o'clock, p.m.

Voted, That the Secretary of this convention, be empowered and requested to notify the several Lodges in this State to convene for the purpose; also, with full powers to act upon such subjects as shall be found most conducive to the good of Masonry.

The convention was then adjourned.

A true copy from the minutes,

Attest, EPHRAIM KIRBY, Secretary.

The delegates called together to organize a Grand Lodge for Connecticut, met at 4 p.m. on July 8, 1789, in the Assembly Room of Doolittle Tavern at New Haven. William Judd of Farmington presided and Ephraim Kirby of Litchfield was Secretary.

The original minutes have not survived, and in fact, what happened is known only through an account in the Reprint of Grand Lodge Proceedings published by Eliphalet G. Storer in 1859. Only two items of business were reported therein, adoption of a Constitution and the election of officers.

Twenty-two men were present, five from the Lodge at New Haven, four from Middletown, two each from Fairfield, Colchester and Farmington. Other Lodges sending representatives were Hartford, Woodbury, Stratford, Wallingford, Danbury, Litchfield, and Salisbury.

It will be observed that the Lodges in Stamford, Norwalk, Derby and Norwich were not represented. Lack of timely notice or some other good reason can be assumed for absence of the first three, as they later became constituent within a reasonable length of time. Columbia Lodge in Norwich was even then in disrepute. Danbury was represented but held aloof for eight years and as a result became number forty on the Grand Lodge Register, rather than number ten, which it might have been had they not dallied.

Furthermore, the only nominee of the meeting on January 14, 1784 to be carried over after a lapse of five years, was Pierpont Edwards as Grand Master. It was his due, perhaps deferential, and after two years he was succeeded by William Judd. It is interesting to note their profession and their political principles were the same.

A draft of the Constitution was presented by the select committee of Pierpont Edwards, Judd, Asher Miller of Middletown, and Kirby, and appears to have been accepted without opposition. The text from the Storer Reprint is as follows —

CONSTITUTION.

We, the members of the several Lodges in the State of Connecticut, to establish order and uniformity, to promote love and charity among Masons, and render more general and extensive the principles of benevolence and philanthropy, do ordain and establish this Constitution, for a Grand Lodge in this State.

That the Grand Lodge shall consist of a Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Senior and Grand Junior Warden, Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary, two Grand Deacons, and the Master and Wardens, for the time being, of the several Lodges in this State, and the Past Grand Officers of the Grand Lodge; and the said enumerated officers shall be the only members and voters of the Grand Lodge.

The Master and Wardens of any Lodge, who cannot personally attend the Grand Lodge, shall have the privilege of constituting a proxy; which proxy shall have the same number of votes as his constituent and such proxy shall be a Master Mason.

A Grand Lodge shall be holden twice every year, viz: Wednesday next before the second Thursday in October, at New Haven, and on Wednesday next before the second Thursday in May, at Hartford, until the Grand Lodge shall order otherwise, and shall have given four months notice of such alteration to all the Lodges in this State. But the Grand Master, for the time being, may at anytime call a special Grand Lodge, to meet at such place as he may think proper.

The officers of the Grand Lodge shall be chosen annually, at the Grand Lodge holden on Wednesday next before the second Thursday in May, by the members of the Grand Lodge present, by ballot; a majority of the votes present shall be necessary to constitute a choice; proxies present to be accounted members.

In case of death, resignation or absence of the acting Grand Master, the next officer in rank of the Grand Lodge shall act in his place and stead, until the next annual election, and shall possess all the powers and authorities

of the Grand Master; and in case any other office shall become vacant by death, resignation or otherwise, the Grand Master, for the time being, shall fill such vacancy by his nomination.

The Grand Lodge shall have power by patent under their seal and sign manual of the Grand Master, for the time being, attested by their Secretary, to constitute new Lodges; to establish a uniform mode of working in all the Lodges in this State, and to superintend and regulate the general policy of Masonry, according to the ancient usages and customs of Masons; carefully regarding the old landmarks, which are on no account to be removed or defaced.

The Grand Lodge shall have power to make such By-laws for their own government as they shall think proper.

The Grand Lodge upon granting a charter to a newly constituted Lodge, may demand such reasonable fees, as they shall establish by their By-laws.

All the Lodges in this State shall, before the annual meeting in May next, deposit with the Grand Lodge their present charter, and shall receive from the Grand Lodge new charters, which shall be numbered according to the seniority of the dates of their former charters. The new charters shall be granted to the present Lodges without any expense — excepting the expense of engrossing, when that shall be done by the Grand Lodge.

Done in a convention of the Lodges of the State of Connecticut, holden at New Haven, in said State, on the 8th day of July, Anno Lucis 5789  
William Judd,  
Chairman and Delegate from Frederick Lodge in Farmington.

Hiram Lodge, New Haven,

(Pierpont Edwards,  
(Jonas Prentice,

(Elias Shipman,  
(Elijah Austin,  
(Russel Clark,  
(Asher Miller,

(George Phillips,

St. John's Lodge, Middletown,

(Ezekiel Woodruff,

(William W. Parsons,  
(Elijah Abel,

St. John's Lodge, Fairfield,

(Daniel Young,

St. John's Lodge, Hartford,  
King Solomon's Lodge, Woodbury,  
St. John's Lodge, Stratford,  
Lodge in Wallingford,  
Lodge in Danbury,

(Samuel Wyllys,  
(Nathan Preston,  
(Joseph Wooster,  
(Turhand Kirtland,  
(Joshua King,  
(Asa Worthington,

Wooster Lodge, Colchester,

(Elijah Bingham,  
(Ephraim Kirby,  
(John Mix,

St. Paul's Lodge, Litchfield,  
Frederick Lodge, Farmington,

Montgomery Lodge, Salisbury,  
Attest, Ephraim Kirby, Secretary

(Samuel Lee,

Resolved, That the Officers of the Grand Lodge for the year ensuing be now chosen.

The votes being taken, by ballot, the following Grand Lodge Officers were duly elected:

Brother Pierpont Edwards, Grand Master  
Brother William Judd, Deputy Grand Master  
Brother Ralph Pomeroy, Senior Grand Warden  
Brother Samuel Wyllys, Junior Grand Warden  
Brother George Phillips, Grand Treasurer  
Brother Elias Shipman, Grand Secretary  
Brother Elijah Abel, Senior Grand Deacon  
Brother Asher Miller, Junior Grand Deacon

The Grand Lodge was then closed, and adjourned to Grand Lodge in course.

Attest, Elias Shipman, Grand Secretary

There is nothing to indicate a formal institution or installation of officers at the organization meeting. Not until five years later do we learn that following the election "the Officers present were congratulated upon their appointment and invested with the jewels of the different Offices by the M.W. Grand Master agreeable to ancient usage". Of course that could have been the earlier unrecorded procedure.

We learn from the expense account put in by Nathan Preston of the Lodge at Woodbury that he paid 5 shillings sixpence as "my proportion of engrossing & Printing the Constitution of Grand Lodge" but the original does not seem to have survived.

Elias Shipman, the first Grand Secretary, was a capable and reputable New Haven business man. He may have bought a record book or the minutes may have been recorded on separate sheets. Fortunately, they were copied in whole or in part, and distributed among the several Lodges. The originals were probably among the papers which were lost in the fire which damaged the office and print shop of the Stors in the late 1850s. The true copies or extracts sent to the several Lodges do not seem to have been written into the record book of any of them, as far as can be learned.



AMOS DOOLITTLE HOUSE

Amos Doolittle, early American Engraver — designer of many Masonic Medals, owned this house. An adjacent building (on Elm Street) housed the “Long Room” or Doolittle’s Tavern, which was the scene of the organization of the Grand Lodge on July 8, 1789.



AMOS DOOLITTLE  
Master, Hiram Lodge No. 1, 1802-03

APPENDIX  
to  
Chapter III

FREEMASONRY IN CONNECTICUT

*Some early Connecticut Patriots who were of  
great importance in the Formation of the  
United States and in the organization of the  
Grand Lodge of Connecticut*

Men in early Connecticut Masonry left their mark upon every phase of American Life. From David Wooster, Major General and hero of the American Revolution, to Major General Samuel Holden Parsons, who drowned in the Big Beaver River in Ohio the year the Connecticut Grand Lodge was formed, the names of stalwart Connecticut Masons are recorded in history.

Ephraim Kirby — one of the best known names in Masonry and a prime mover for the establishment of a Grand Lodge; a Commissioned Officer in the Army; underwent his baptism of fire at Bunker Hill at the age of 17 where he received the first of 13 wounds. A stalwart member, Master, and Secretary of St. Paul's Lodge in Litchfield, he served terms as Grand Senior Deacon, Grand Junior Warden, and Grand Senior Warden, and would probably have been elected Grand Master except for his election as High Priest of the Royal Arch Chapter and, in the same year, as General Grand High Priest when the General Grand Chapter was formed. (Picture and Biography follows).

Israel Putnam — the only Major General in the Revolution who served with that rank throughout the war. His education was almost non-existent and his writing nearly illegible. His language was colloquial but "colorful"; but his bravery was beyond question and his activity beyond compare.

Joshua King — this was the Lieutenant King to whom the British spy, Major Andre, first revealed his identity. He later became a Major General of Militia.

Comfort Sage — Colonel of the 23rd Regiment. His contributions to the cause of the colonies and to the Masonic Fraternity were exemplary but, in addition, he is mentioned because of his unusual name.

Of the first Grand Lodge Officers, five were Officers in the Army of the Revolution. Pierpont Edwards — First Grand Master, son of Jonathan Edwards, the last of the great New England Calvinists and President of Princeton University; and father of Henry W. Edwards, Governor of Connecticut. (Picture and biography follows later).

Major William Judd, first Deputy Grand Master, active in early support for a State Constitution. The General Assembly, opposed to the idea, was so offended at Judd's activity that it revoked his commission as Justice of the Peace.

Ralph Pomeroy — first Senior Grand Warden; Alderman in the first court of Common Council of Hartford in 1784; a paymaster in the Army of the Revolution.

Samuel Wyllys — first Junior Grand Warden; first Commandant of the 1st Company, Governor's Footguard — Colonel of a Regiment in the Revolution — Major General of the State Militia. Secretary of the State of Connecticut. (The surname later adopted by Wyllys Lodge.)

George Phillips — 1st Grand Treasurer — Brigadier General of Militia. Director of the Broadcloth Manufactory of Hartford which made the cloth for the inaugural suit worn by General George Washington when he became the Nation's first President.

Elijah Abel — 1st Grand Senior Deacon; served as a Major in the Army of the Revolution.

Asher Miller — 1st Grand Junior Deacon; was a prominent Civil Officer. He was State's Attorney for Middlesex County and Judge of the Superior Court.

These are only a few of the eminent Masons who served the cause of Liberty in the American Revolution.

## PIERPONT EDWARDS

*First Grand Master  
of  
Masons in Connecticut*



PIERPONT EDWARDS  
(1750-1826)