

**THE MASONS AS MAKERS
OF AMERICA: THE
TRUE STORY OF THE
AMERICAN REVOLUTION**

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The Masons as Makers of America: The True Story of the American Revolution by Madison C. Peters

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MADISON C. PETERS

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Knox

PREFACE

THIS lecture in its third revised edition is still incomplete. The author invites criticisms, corrections, suggestions and additional information for the next edition. He has been careful not to overstate the facts, and all statements are made in good faith, based upon the best information available by wide reading, voluminous correspondence, and personal research among the oldest records of Masonic labors in America.

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MASONS AS MAKERS OF AMERICA.

On June 5th, 1730, Daniel Coxe, of New Jersey, was appointed Provincial Grand Master of "the provinces of New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania," by His Grace, Thomas, Duke of Norfolk, Grand Master of the Premier Grand Lodge of England.

The family name of the Dukes of Norfolk is Howard and all of them, from 1483 to the present day, have been staunch Roman Catholics and it is interesting to note that a Roman Catholic granted the first authority to warrant Masonic Lodges in America.

The famous Bull of excommunication issued by Pope Clement XII against Masonry dates from 1738.

On April 30, 1733, Lord Viscount Montague issued a like deputation to Henry Price, of Boston, appointing him "Provincial Grand Master of the Province of

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New England, the dominion and territories thereto belonging."

On July 30, 1733, St. John's Lodge was instituted at the Bunch of Grapes Tavern in King (now State) Street, Boston and which claims to be the first Masonic Lodge organized in America.

History is obscure as to the part Coxe took in establishing our Fraternity, but there is a complete record of the acts of Price. Hence Massachusetts was acknowledged the "mother jurisdiction" for nearly one hundred and fifty years, while documents now in the archives of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania appear to give the primacy to the Keystone State, in support of which latter contention evidence is produced to show that on January 29, 1731, Coxe visited the Grand Lodge at London and that a toast was drunk in his honor as "Provincial Grand Master of North America."

According to the *Pennsylvania Gazette*, from 1732 and for several years thereafter, a list of the Grand officers was regularly printed, also that Benjamin Franklin became a Mason in 1731.

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Franklin was Provincial Grand Master of Pennsylvania in 1734.

The rival Grand Lodges in England, together with those of Ireland and Scotland, chartered Lodges everywhere in the United States and Canada, until regular governing bodies existed in every State, province and territory—the Fraternity followed the Flag.

Washington's birth was contemporaneous with the introduction of Warranted Lodges in America. In 1734 Price's authority was extended, regular warrants were granted to Lodges as far south as Charleston, so that while Washington was still in his swaddling clothes, the star of American Masonry, which arose in the East, may be said to have rested over the place where the young child was.

Before Washington came to manhood a Lodge had been organized in Fredericksburg, Virginia and on November 4, 1752, he sought and found admission to this Lodge. That he paid the customary fee is shown by the record: "Received from Mr. George Washington, the sum of L. 2 and 3 s."