

A Masonic Historical Timeline Comparison

Mostly as Relates to the “Old Charges”

British / World History	Date	Masonic History
(not all rulers are listed due to space, date is first year of reign)		(note that the timeline is nonlinear)
	900	
King Athelstan (1 st King of all England) 924		926 the “York Legend” assembly and Prince Edwin establishes Masonic Charter
	1000	
Battle of Hastings, Norman conquest 1066		
1 st Crusade, the capture of Jerusalem 1096 – 1099		
King Henry I 1100	1100	
Order of the Knights Templar established 1118		
King Richard I (Lionheart) 1189		
	1200	
Children’s Crusade 1212		
King Edward I 1272		
Arrest of the Knights Templar in France 1307	1300	
King Richard II 1377		1376 1 st mention of the Freemasons Company
Wat Tyler’s Rebellion (Peasants’ Revolt) 1381		1390 ¹ Regius / Halliwell manuscript (A)
King Henry IV 1399		1396 1 st use of Freemason as title of a craftsman
King Henry V 1413	1400	1411 The Company of Masons incorporated
King Henry VI 1422		
<i>King James II of Scotland</i> 1437		1437 ² Lodge Mother Kilwinning (see note)
King Edward IV 1461		1450 ¹ Cooke manuscript (B)
King Henry VI / King Edward IV ³ 1470 / 1471		
King Henry VII 1485		
King Henry VIII 1509	1500	
Martin Luther starts Protestant Reformation 1517		
First English bible printed 1526		
Church of England established 1534		
Queen Mary I (Bloody Mary) 1553		1550 Dowland manuscript (D36)
Queen Elizabeth I 1558		1583 Grand Lodge No. 1 manuscript (D1)
		1598 & 1599 Schaw Statutes, Scotland
King James I/Champlain on Saint Croix Island 1603 / 1604	1600	1607 Inigo Jones manuscript (G2)
King James Bible produced 1604 – 1611		Sloane No. 3848 manuscript (E1)
King Charles I 1652		1646 ⁴ Elias Ashmole made a Mason
Oliver Cromwell / Richard Cromwell 1653 – 1659		1650 ¹ Harleian No. 2054 manuscript (E3) ⁵
King Charles II 1660		
The Great Fire of London 1666		1670 Buchanan manuscript (D7)
King William III (William of Orange) 1689		1686 Dr. Plot’s Staffordshire manuscript (C1)
<i>Salem witch trials, USA</i> 1692		
England and Scotland unite 1707	1700	1717 Premier Grand Lodge
King George I 1714		1723 Anderson’s first Book of Constitutions
King George II 1727		1725 ⁶ Grand Lodge of All England (York)
		Grand Lodge of Ireland
		1736 Grand Lodge of Scotland
Beginning of the Industrial Revolution 1760		1739 1 st Lodge in Canada, (Annapolis Royal, NS)
King George III		1751 Antient Grand Lodge of England
<i>American Revolution / French Revolution</i> 1776 / 1789		Grand Lodge of New Hampshire
Unlawful Societies Act 1799		1789 1 st Lodge in New Brunswick (St. George’s Lodge #19, Maugerville)
	1800	
		1813 United Grand Lodge of England
King George IV 1820		1826 the “Morgan Affair”
King William IV 1830		
Queen Victoria 1837		1855 1 st Grand Lodge in Canada (Ontario)
		1866 Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia
<i>American Civil War</i> 1861 – 1865		1867 Grand Lodge of New Brunswick
Jack the Ripper active in London 1888		
	1900	

Notes: ¹ The actual date is unknown, this is a commonly accepted date

² Actual date established unknown, but it is known to have been granting charters by the reign of James II of Scotland

³ War of the Roses between the houses of Lancaster and York, the King of England changed several times

⁴ There is a strong possibility that the Sloane No.3848 MS was produced for Ashmole being made a Free Mason

⁵ The Harleian No.2054 is the first manuscript to mention secret signs and words

⁶ The actual date is unknown but 1725 is the year recognized as the creation of the Grand Lodge of Ireland

The Manuscript Families as Organized in "The Old Charges of British Freemasons" by W. J. Hughan, 1895

The two earliest documents discovered are the Regius/Halliwell manuscript (A) which is unique and the Cooke manuscript (B) which is a major contributor to all of these families

I – THE “PLOT” FAMILY (C)

- C1 Dr. Plot – 1686
- C2 William Watson – 1687
- C3 Crane No. 2 – 1700 ▼

II – THE “GRAND LODGE” FAMILY (D)

“Grand Lodge” Branch (a)

- D1 Grand Lodge No. 1 – 1583
- D4 Phillipps No. 1 – 1600 ▼
- D5 Phillipps No. 2 – 1600 ▼
- D8 Kilwinning – 1600 ▼
- D29 Cama – 1700 ▲
- D39 G. W. Bain – 1600 ▼

“Dowland” Branch (b)

- D36 Dowland – 1815
- D16 Col. Clerke – 1686
- D22 Hughan – 1600 ▼
- D30 Papworth – 1700 ▲
- D31 Phillipps No. 3 – 1700 ▲
- D32 Haddon – 1723

“York Branch” (c)

- D3 York No. 1 – 1600 ▲
- D17 York No. 5 – 1600 ▼
- D27 York No. 2 – 1704
- D37 Newcastle Coll. - 1700 ▲

“Lansdowne” Branch (d)

- D2 Lansdowne – 1600 ▲
- D15 Antiquity – 1686
- D33 Probity – 1700 ▲

“Colne” Branch (e)

- D19 Colne No. 1 – 1600 ▼
- D13 Stanly – 1677
- D14 Carson – 1677
- D20 Clapham – 1600 ▼
- D28 Colne No. 2 – 1700 ▲

“Buchanan” Branch (f)

- D7 Buchanan – 1600 ▼
- D10 Atcheson-Haven – 1666
- D38 Beaumont – 1869

“Harris” Branch (g)

- D26 Harris No. 1 – 1600 ▼
- D25 Dumfries No. 3 – 1600 ▼
- D34 Harris No. 2 – 1700 ▼

“Dumfries” Branch (h)

- D21 Dumfries No. 1 – 1600 ▼
- D18 York No. 6 – 1600 ▼
- D24 Dumfries No. 2 – 1600 ▼

“Stirling” Branch (i)

- D9 Ancient Stirling – 1600 ▼
- D11 Aberdeen – 1670

Sundry Forms (j)

- D12 Melrose No. 2 – 1674
- D35 Melrose No. 3 – 1762
- D6 Wood – 1610
- D23 Dautesey – 1600 ▼

III – THE “SLOANE” FAMILY (E)

“Sloane” Branch (a)

- E1 Sloane No. 3848 – 1646
- E2 Sloane No. 3323 – 1659
- E3 Harleian No. 2054 – 1600 ▼
- E14 Tunnah – 1828
- E15 Briscoe – 1724-5

“Hope” Branch (b)

- E5 Hope – 1600 ▼
- E8 Waistell – 1693
- E9 York No. 4 – 1693

“Alnwick” Branch (c)

- E10 Alnwick – 1701
- E7 T. W. Embleton – 1600 ▼
- E12 Crane No. 1 – 1781
- E13 Wren – 1852

Sundry Forms (d)

- E6 T. W. Tew – 1600 ▼
- E4 Lechmere – 1600 ▼
- E11 Scarborough – 1705

IV – THE “ROBERTS” FAMILY (F)

- F1 Roberts’ Pamphlet – 1722
- F2 Grand Lodge No. 2 – 1600 ▼
- F3 Harleian no. 1942 – 1600 ▼
- F4 Rawlinson – 1700 ▲

V – THE “SPENCER” FAMILY (G)

- G1 Spencer – 1726
- G2 Inigo Jones – 1600 ▼
- G3 Cole’s Reproductions – 1728-9
- G4 Dodd’s Reprint – 1739

VI – SUNDRY FORMS (H)

- H1 Dumfries No. 4 – 1700 ▲
- H2 Gateshead – 1700 ▲
- H3 Thistle – 1756
- H4 Langley’s Builder’s C. A. - 1738
- H5 Krause – 1808
- H6 Hargrove’s extract – 1818

VII – MISSING MSS. (X)

- X1 Melrose No. 1 – 1581
- X2 Baker - ????
- X3 Morgan - ????
- X4 Dermott – 1400?
- X5 Wilson – 1500?
- X6 York No. 3 – 1630
- X7 Masons’ Company - ????
- X8 Beaumont – 1600 ▼
- X9 Henry Heade – 1675
- X10 Newcastle Lodge - ????

Notes: The “Dumfries” Branch is an offshoot of the “Dowland”

Date modifiers - ▲ first half (eg. 1600 – 1649); ▼ last half (eg. 1650 – 1699); ? unknown period