

During all this period Kentucky had been under the jurisdiction of Virginia and the affiliations of her pioneer Masons mostly in lodges in that state or in Pennsylvania, though other eastern states may be expected to furnish some records.

The Grand Masters of Kentucky at that time were therefore the Grand Masters of Virginia. The Virginia Grand Lodge was formed in 1778 and we find John Blair the first Grand Master 1778, followed by James Mercer 1784, followed by Edmund Randolph, 1785, who presided until 1789. Randolph was therefore Grand Master of Kentucky Masons in 1788 when we obtained the charter for the lodge at Lexington. He was likewise the Governor of Virginia 1735-7



Edmund Randolph and John Marshall

THE FIRST LODGE

The first chartered Lodge was undoubtedly meant to be the mother lodge of the state. On Nov. 17, 1788, the Virginia Grand Lodge granted a charter to Lexington Lodge No. 2^d, naming the first three officers only, who were, Col. Richard Clough Anderson, Green Clay and John Fowler. The former was from Jefferson County and at the same time its representative to the Sixth Danville Convention. Clay from Madison and Fowler from Lexington were representatives to the Virginia Assembly the same year, and it was Clay who presented the petition for the Kentucky Masons.

Unfortunately no records now exist as to who the charter members were since the Virginia Grand Lodge has only returns from Lexington for the years 1794 and 1797, which see in the appendix.

The capular degrees, were at that time conferred in Master's Lodges, and they were not separated in Kentucky until many years after. There seems to have been a "Mark Lodge" in Lexington at early date. Lexington Lodge was of the sort called "Ancient Masonry" for that was all the kind of Masonry Virginia had. Having now sketched the background for our history, let us observe the progress made by Masonry year by year through the lives of its Masters and initiates.