

# WILLIAM O. WARE LODGE OF RESEARCH

## THE KENTUCKY MASONIC LODGES THAT WEREN'T

### The Eighteen Lodges Established Without Its Borders

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On June 1, 1792, Kentucky split from Virginia, to be admitted to the Union as the 15<sup>th</sup> state. Freemasonry in Kentucky preceded this date with the Grand Lodge of Virginia forming Lexington Lodge No. 25, chartered November 17, 1788 and Paris Lodge No. 35 chartered on November 25, 1791. After statehood, Georgetown Lodge No. 46, Hiram Lodge No. 57 (Frankfort), and Abraham U.D.(Shelbyville), also chartered by the Virginia Grand Lodge, would be the five Lodges that would form the Grand Lodge of Kentucky, the first Grand Lodge west of the Appalachian Mountains. William Murray would be the first Grand Master.

Very quickly, Kentucky Masonry would find itself chartering lodges both in and outside its borders, with **Harmony Lodge No. 7**, in Natchez, **the first lodge in Mississippi Territory**, chartered on October 16, 1801. Natchez was an important partner to Kentucky as goods and merchandise were shipped there to be distributed and resold. William Murray, no doubt, had connections in Natchez, as he recommended the chartering of **Harmony Lodge** and would afterward settle in Natchez, passing away in 1805. **Harmony Lodge** would surrender its charter on September 3, 1814, but would revive itself, with many of the old members securing a new Kentucky charter, as **Harmony Lodge No. 33**, August 28, 1816. Two years later it became Lodge #1, on the Mississippi Grand Lodge Roster with five of the seven Grand Lodge officers, being members of the former **Harmony Lodge No. 33**, including Dr. Henry Tooley as Grand Master and Christopher Rankin as Deputy Grand Master.

In his **Kentucky Freemasonry: 1788 – 1978**, author Charles Snow Guthrie states that on January 31, 1807, the Grand Lodge of North Carolina addressed the situation in a circular "*The Nashville Impartial Review*" with "less than brotherly charity." After receiving another letter in August, 1807, the Grand Lodge of Kentucky, in November, sent a very logically written and friendly letter, addressed to the Grand Lodge of North Carolina and Tennessee outlining the reasons **Philanthropic Lodge No. 12** was chartered, viz: **Philanthropic Lodge No. 12**, was closer to Lexington than North Carolina; the Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina had supported this charter; the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts's "exclusive

jurisdiction" agreement was never adopted by the Grand Lodge of Virginia; Kentucky was unaware of the North Carolina restriction; Ohio had three Grand Lodges that had chartered lodges in that state; **Philanthropic Lodge No. 12's** petition was the only lodge Kentucky chartered in Tennessee (there would be no others); and **Philanthropic Lodge No. 12** was a successful lodge and agreed with all the above. The letter then questioned if the Grand Lodge of North Carolina had any other reasons to support their position, so the Grand Lodge of Kentucky could possibly come to a conclusion. As had been the case since organization, all letters written by the Grand Lodge of Kentucky to another Grand Lodge demonstrated the utmost courtesy and respect. The letter then ended wishing prosperity for their Grand Lodge. The complete letter can be found in **History of Freemasonry in Kentucky** by Rob Morris.

Unfortunately, Kentucky's reasoning did not prevail. On November 12, 1812, Kentucky Most Worshipful Grand Master Anthony Butler wrote Grand Master Robert Williams in North Carolina, that Kentucky would revoke the charter of **Philanthropic Lodge No. 12**, however wishing it could continue to exist until June 24, 1813, to close its accounts. A courteous reply was received in time for **Philanthropic Lodge No. 12** to join the newly independent Grand Lodge of Tennessee.

**Cincinnati Lodge No. 13**, the third Kentucky lodge chartered outside its border, was chartered March 19, 1806, but the history of this lodge goes back to the eighteenth century. Cincinnati was founded in 1788, when the Miami Purchase, consisting of approximately 312,000 acres (currently Hamilton, Butler and Warren counties) was acquired by Judge John Cleves Symmes of New Jersey, from the Continental Congress, just one year before Brother George Washington was inaugurated as President. Cincinnati brothers had begun meeting as Masons as circumstances allowed, and, by 1791, the brothers thought it wise to apply to the Grand Lodge of New Jersey for a charter, which was approved September 8, 1791. Many of the brothers were from New Jersey and chose the name **Nova Caesarea (New Jersey) Lodge No. 10**.

Because of several complications, the charter was not received until just in time to hold a St. John's Day meeting on December 27, 1794. Including Judge Symmes, the register, one year later, reveals 42 members, many of whom were the most prominent men in and around Cincinnati. Many of these brothers' names would be preserved in townships, streets and buildings. As a side note, General James Wilkinson, Revolutionary Soldier, Commander at Ft. Washington, and later Governor of Louisiana Territory, was also a member at that time.

In December 1804 the Lodge voted to return the charter to the Grand Lodge of New Jersey, and procure one from the Grand Lodge of Kentucky, renamed **Cincinnati Lodge No. 13**. **Cincinnati Lodge No. 13** would become a major factor in forming the Grand Lodge of Ohio at Chillicothe, January 4, 1808. Guthrie makes an interesting note on the large influence of **Cincinnati Lodge No. 13**, as the Grand Lodge of Ohio adopted a slightly modified Kentucky *Book of Constitutions* for its use. After surrendering its Kentucky charter, **Cincinnati Lodge No. 13** then

opted to utilize its old name, becoming ***Nova Caesarea Harmony Lodge No. 2***, on January 6, 1809.

The first lodge in Indiana territory, ***Vincennes Lodge No. 15***, was instituted by the Grand Lodge of Kentucky on August 13, 1809. Vincennes had been granted a dispensation on August 27, 1807, to form the lodge but had failed to organize.

Indiana Masonic historian Daniel McDonald advises that the Grand Lodge of Kentucky granted the dispensation to form a lodge at Vincennes, "with George Wallace Master, James Adams Senior Warden, and General W. Johnson Junior Warden." On September 1, 1808, General W. Johnson wrote that several circumstances had prevented organization, and, as the dispensation had expired, asked that another be issued, which was done, with the same officers as before—in other words, the dispensation was "renewed."

Both ***Vincennes Lodge No. 15***, and the future Grand Lodge of Indiana, owe much to Brother General Washington Johnson (Johnston). G. W. Johnson was a member of ***Abraham Lodge No. 8***, in Louisville, Kentucky, and it was through ***Abraham Lodge No. 8*** that the Vincennes brothers made a request for their dispensation. Serving as Master of Vincennes on January 18, 1817, Johnson, noted for his blandishments, wrote a circular letter "to all Lodges known to exist" to consult on the creation of a Grand Lodge in Indiana. He represented ***Vincennes Lodge No. 15*** at the Corydon convention in December. The Grand Lodge of Indiana would come to fruition with Kentucky native and Charleston, Indiana resident, Alexander Buckler as the first Grand Master, on January 12, 1818, and Kentucky, the "Mother Grand Lodge" was the first to extend fraternal recognition.

Besides ***Vincennes Lodge No. 15***, the Grand Lodge of Kentucky would charter five additional Lodges in Indiana to assist in the forming of the Grand Lodge of Indiana.

***Madison Union Lodge No. 29***, the second lodge in Indiana chartered by the Grand Lodge of Kentucky, was chartered August 31, 1815. It is unfortunate that its early transactions were recorded on loose scraps of paper. Alexander A. Meek, a member of ***Nova Caesarea Harmony Lodge No. 2*** who had served as Grand Pursuivant of the Grand Lodge of Ohio, served as the first Master of ***Madison Union Lodge***. It was at this lodge a young lawyer from Kentucky, Alexander Buckner, petitioned, and later became the first Grand Master of Indiana with Brother Alexander Meek, Deputy Grand Master.

The third Indiana lodge on Kentucky's Grand Lodge register was ***Blazing Star Lodge No. 36***, in Charleston, chartered on August 28, 1816. John Miller, a farmer and part time preacher served as Master, Alexander Buckner, lawyer (moved from Madison to Charleston) served as Sr. Warden and Henry Minor, the Jr. Warden.

Three more Indiana lodges established by the Grand Lodge of Kentucky were ***Melchesdeck Lodge No. 43*** in Salem, quaintly named for biblical Melchizedek, King of Salem;

**Lawrenceburg Lodge No. 44**, and **Pisgah Lodge No. 45**. All were chartered the same day, August 27, 1817, just a few months before communications were sent concerning a possible Indiana Grand Lodge. It would appear that these three lodges were chartered in support of the future Grand Lodge. Like **Lexington Lodge No. 1**, **Cincinnati Lodge No. 13** and other early lodges, the new Indiana lodges displayed a membership consisting of the most significant citizens and military personnel; and were critical to the success of their own community and state.

One other essential story having to do with both Kentucky and Indiana Masons brings into play Joseph H. Daveiss (Daviess-Davis), who was elected Grand Master of Kentucky on August 30, 1811, and who on November 7, 1811, would be killed near the Wabash River in the Battle of Tippecanoe. On the way to join Governor Wm. H. Harrison's troops, Jo Daveiss, as the Grand Master of Kentucky, met with the brethren of **Vincennes Lodge No. 15**, during the week of September 18<sup>th</sup>, and conferred all three degrees on four candidates, one of them being Colonel Isaac White. While having spent several days together as Masons; the two had become good friends as well as brothers. White and others then joined the Kentucky Dragoons under Jo Daveiss' leadership. White and Daveiss exchanged swords as an act of friendship not knowing that Tecumseh's brother, the Prophet, would within weeks arouse his warriors to strike a surprise attack. The onslaught continued through the night. That morning Harrison's troops finally dispersed the assailants and then destroyed Shawneetown.

According to Indiana Masonic Historian Chris Hodapp, "Jo Daveiss went on to lead a courageous strike against the Indians at Tippecanoe where he fell, wounded in the chest, and Isaac White died not far from him. The bodies of Kentucky Grand Master and the newest Master Mason in the Indiana Territory, were laid side by side, their battle cloaks wrapped around them." Jo Daveiss's grandson would write that it was White's sword that Daveiss carried into battle. Judge Levi Todd, Past Master of **Montgomery Lodge No. 23**, Mt. Sterling, Kentucky, and a former Lexington law student of Daveiss, was given the sword and belt by Daveiss's widow. He then presented it to the Grand Lodge of Kentucky. Daviess's portrait would later hang in the Grand Lodge office.

**Madison Lodge No. 21**, the second chartered lodge in Mississippi Territory by the Grand Lodge of Kentucky (August 5, 1812) would become the first lodge in Alabama. The city would be later named Huntsville after founder John Hunt, a member of the lodge. In 1812, the lodge reported 31 members, 3 FC and two EA, with Marmaduke Williams as Master, John C. Hamilton as Senior Warden and Wm Harrison as Junior Warden. Its Kentucky charter lasted until 1819, with the decision to become **Madison Lodge No. 1** under the Grand Lodge of Alabama which was formed in 1820. In 1824, **Madison Lodge No. 1** and **Bethesda Lodge No. 2** consolidated as **Helion Lodge No. 1**, where it continues to be recognized as the birthplace of Alabama Freemasonry.

Although briefly covered by Kentucky historian, Charles Snow Guthrie in **Kentucky Freemasonry: 1788-1978**, it may surprise some Kentucky brothers to learn that Stephen F. Austin (1793-1836), the Father of Texas, was, for a short period, a Kentucky Mason. He served as the first Junior Warden of **Potosi Lodge No. 39**, chartered by the Grand Lodge of Kentucky on August 28, 1816 (the only lodge in the Missouri territory to be chartered by the Grand Lodge of Kentucky). Austin had earlier attended Lexington's Transylvania College, graduating in 1810. In

**Potosi Lodge No. 39's** return of 1818 to the Kentucky Grand Lodge, it shows Stephen F. Austin, his brother, James, and future great friend and business associate, Josiah H. Bell, as Master Masons. Andrew Scott was the first Master. **Potosi Lodge No. 39** would be dropped from the rolls of the Grand Lodge of Kentucky in 1819. A new **Potosi Lodge No. 131** would appear on the rolls of the Grand Lodge of Missouri several years later.

According to **Masonry in Texas**, authored by James D. Carter, Austin received the Apprentice degree on May 1 and his Fellowcraft and Master Mason degrees on June 23, 1815, in **Louisiana Lodge No. 109**, St. Genevieve, Louisiana. In 1819, Austin relocated to Arkansas Post, the capital of the Arkansas Territory, and would accept a position as Judge of the First Judicial Circuit (1820), from Territorial Governor and Freemason James Miller. Austin would later lead 300 families into Texas, and then onto Texas independence. He was appointed the first Secretary of State of the Texas Republic by his brother Mason, Sam Houston, the new President of the Texas Republic

Also in 1819, a group of Masons from Arkansas Post petitioned the Grand Lodge of Kentucky to form **Arkansas Lodge U.D.** The number 59 was assigned sometime in 1820, thus establishing the first lodge in Arkansas, with Robert Johnson as Master. One of the founders was Andrew Scott, then serving as Superior Judge of Arkansas Territory. He was a former Master of **Potosi Lodge No. 39**. Stephen Fuller Austin is not listed among the members. Carter states that Austin was a member of **St. Louis Lodge No. 111**. In his comments on Potosi Lodge, Carter does not mention Stephen F. Austin's Kentucky affiliation, even though he served as Junior Warden of the Kentucky chartered lodge.

Chartered in St. Francisville, Louisiana, on August 27, 1817, **Feliciana Lodge No. 46** was the most distant lodge chartered by the Grand Lodge of Kentucky, and certainly too far away to be governed or attend Grand Lodge. The annual reports to the Grand Lodge were infrequent. However, Master Jedidiah Smith would report it "at work" in 1825. **Feliciana Lodge No. 46** was considered defunct on August 29, 1832. Two years later, the Grand Lodge of Kentucky recommended that **Feliciana Lodge No. 46** join the Grand Lodge of Louisiana.

On September 2, 1815, brothers, mostly from **Jerusalem Lodge No. 9**, Henderson, Kentucky, applied for a dispensation to be held in Shawneetown, Illinois Territory, with Meredith W. Fisher as the U.D. Master. **Lawrence Lodge U.D.**'s first return shows Nathan Sloe, James Ramsey, James Blue, and John Marshall received the Entered Apprentice degree on May 13, 1816. Three days later, on May 16, Walter White, Josiah Ramsey, Henry Oldham, and William Harding would receive the Entered Apprentice degree, with Apperson and Sloe being passed as Fellowcrafts, and Apperson raised a Master Mason on the same day. Except for White and Harding who remained Entered Apprentices, the other four became Master Masons by June 17<sup>TH</sup>.

Notwithstanding, the charter was granted August 28, 1816, with William C. Vaught as Master of **Lawrence Lodge No. 34** and the Kentucky Grand Lodge had chartered its first lodge in Illinois. There were no returns for 1818, 1819, or 1820 and the lodge was dropped in 1824. Recognition would come to **Lawrence Lodge** in 1825, by the Grand Lodge of Illinois.

The Grand Lodge of Illinois was formed in December 1822 with Shadrach Bond, the first Governor of Illinois, as Grand Master. Sixteen of the eighteen known lodges would participate. The anti-masonic movement beginning in 1826 would quickly have Illinois Masonry suffering dearly. The Grand Lodge of Illinois would cease to exist within four years of its birth. Besides Brother Bond, two other Grand Masters would serve the faltering Grand Lodge, the third and last being M.W. Bro. Guy William Smith (1792 – 1879) serving in 1826. In 1813, Smith received his degrees in **Jerusalem Lodge No. 9**, Henderson, Kentucky and later served as Master of **Palestine Lodge U.D.** (Illinois).

At the 44th Grand Communication of Grand Lodge of Kentucky (1836), **Bodley Lodge No. 97** in Quincy, Illinois, was chartered, there being no Grand Lodge in Illinois. According to Rob Morris, the Quincy lodge was named for Thomas Bodley who served as clerk/secretary at the founding of the Grand Lodge of Kentucky, and then as Grand Master of Kentucky (1818-19). **Bodley Lodge** would become Lodge No. 1 under the second Grand Lodge of Illinois.

**Equality Lodge No. 102** in Equality, Illinois, held its first meeting U.D., on April 7, 1837, with James C. Weller, a member of Kentucky's **Clinton Lodge No. 82** presiding. He set the Lodge to work and elected officers. The Lodge would receive their Kentucky charter in August 1837. Curiously, it is said that Arnold B. Dake, the first Master, was a nephew of Benedict Arnold, and because of the stigma attached, reversed his first and middle names. Dake was shown as Junior Deacon on the 1824 return of the old **Lawrence Lodge No. 34**, while still under Kentucky's jurisdiction. The number 2 would be assigned to **Equality Lodge**, under the new Grand Lodge of Illinois.

**Ottawa Lodge No. 114** was chartered September 1840 with Henry T. Gorbet as Master. This was the last lodge chartered outside the Grand Lodge of Kentucky's borders. When under dispensation, the lodge would recommend two lodges for dispensation from the Kentucky Grand Lodge. Both were granted but only Joliet Lodge continued. **Ottawa Lodge No. 114** and **Joliet Lodge U.D.** (renamed Friendship #7) were both referred to the new Grand Lodge of Illinois.

One of the great stories in Kentucky/Illinois Masonry is that of Kentucky's Past Grand Master (1833-1834) Abraham Jonas (1801-1864), who Abraham Lincoln called "one of my closest friends." He would become the first Grand Master of the second Grand Lodge of Illinois.

At the age of eighteen years, a young Abraham Jonas left Exeter, Devonshire, England, to join his brother Joseph, in Cincinnati, Ohio. Joseph, a jeweler, had arrived in Cincinnati in 1817 and his family is considered to be the first permanent Jewish residents of Ohio. Abraham would assist his brother Joseph in 1824 in the founding of the Bene Israel Congregation, the first synagogue in Ohio. Both brothers were active in Freemasonry in Cincinnati, and both were married to sisters.

Sadly, Abraham's wife Lucy, died in 1825, and he left Cincinnati, moving forty miles south to Williamstown, Kentucky, where re-married and operated a general store. There he organized and served as first Master of **Grant Lodge No. 85** in 1826. Within seven years, he would be elected Most Worshipful Grand Master of Kentucky (1833 – 1834).

Abraham would move his family to Columbus, Illinois in 1836 and in two years again move to become the first permanent Jewish resident in Quincy, Illinois, where he studied law. He assumed the Master's position for the newly chartered Columbus Lodge serving in 1840 and 1842, and assisted in forming a new Grand Lodge of Illinois, created on April 20, 1840. Abraham Jonas would be its elected Grand Master serving two terms, and in 1843, he was appointed Grand Orator and would assist in organizing other Lodges. Because of the failure of the first Grand Lodge and Jonas's dedication to Illinois Masonry, he would be referred to by the Quincy-Adams County Historical Society as the founder and "First Grand Master of Illinois." In fact, this title would appear on his headstone after his death. Under his dispensation, a lodge in Nauvoo, Illinois was established with the Grand Master authorizing the lodge to confer the three degrees on Mormon leader, Joseph Smith.

Jonas had served as a state legislator and later as Postmaster of Quincy. He possibly met Abraham Lincoln at the formation of the new Republican Party in 1854. Regardless, on November 1, 1854, Lincoln was accused of attending a meeting of the "Know Nothing Party" (a rabidly anti-immigrant party), but Jonas vouched that Lincoln was actually with him in Quincy at the time.

As a strong supporter of Lincoln's bid for the Illinois Senate, it was Jonas who arranged the 1858 Lincoln-Douglas debates. The debates would gain national attention. Lincoln would lose the smaller prize of senator, but later win the greater prize, the presidency of United States.

Before Lincoln's inauguration, Jonas had obtained information that an angry group from New Orleans wanted to prevent the inauguration from materializing. Jonas's confidential letter still exists, as does Lincoln's reply. Under President Lincoln, Jonas would again serve as Postmaster in 1861, which position he held until his death.

As one last favor for his friend, shortly before Jonas's death, Lincoln pardoned his son, Charles Jonas, from a prisoner of war camp, so that he could attend to his dying father. Charles and his brother Benjamin, both living in Louisiana, had fought for the South, while two of their other brothers had fought for the Union. Charles was present with other family members on June 8, 1864, when Abraham Jonas died. He was definitely one of Abraham Lincoln's "closest friends."

In all, Kentucky, the first Grand Lodge west of the Appalachians, would establish eighteen lodges without its borders. Four of the lodges would be the first in a territory that would later receive statehood, and five that had no Grand Lodge of their own. Each of these lodges would have their own story to tell, but the all-embracing story is that Kentucky Freemasons significantly influenced the Western Territory. Many of these Kentucky Masons would become leaders in their new communities and states, several reaching positions as high as Governor.

It was difficult for the Kentucky lodges chartered outside the borders of the Commonwealth. They were so far away from Lexington, making it arduous to attend Grand Lodge and, in turn, burdensome to the Grand Lodge who could give little support to the remote lodges. Obviously, lodges operated quite differently from today and the Grand Lodge also had different priorities. Some lodges would fail, but the seed was sown, and the lodges established by the Grand Lodge of Kentucky would grow to form their own respective Grand Lodges and this early nineteenth-century movement would rapidly extend Kentuckians far west, championing the Texas fight for Independence, with many Kentuckians settling there. *Masonry in Texas* lists those lodges, "that contributed the major portion of early Texas colonists between 1788 and 1821." Fifty-seven lodges emanating from those founded by Kentucky's Grand Lodge are recorded.

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## NOTES

When Kentucky chartered a first lodge in a territory/state, it is noted in **bold** for quick identification. The eighteen established lodges are *italicized*, also for quick identification. Except where noted, all Kentucky "charter dates" and "lodge masters" are secured from Charles Snow Guthrie's *Kentucky Freemasonry 1788 – 1978: The Grand Lodge and the Men Who Made It* and/or *The History of Freemasonry in Kentucky in its Relation to the Symbolic Lodges* by Rob Morris, PGM (1858-1859). These two histories were extensively utilized for the *Philanthropic Lodge No. 12* segment (Guthrie – pages 43, 44 and 45) and the full version of the November-1807 'letter' is found in Morris' history (page #104).

The following books and web pages were also employed: The Grand Lodge of Mississippi web page "*About the Grand Lodge of Mississippi, F.: & A.: M.:*" for *Harmony Lodge No. 2* and *A Magnificent Heritage: 150 Years of Scottish Rite Freemasonry in the Valley of Cincinnati 1853-2003* authored by Jack P. de Vise' 33° Chapter 2, "*Dawn of Freemasonry in Ohio: From the History of Nova Caesarea*" (pages 7 and 8).

Information on the lodges in Indiana Territory was gleaned from several sources: *A History of Freemasonry in Indiana from 1806 to 1898* authored by Daniel McDonald and Dwight L. Smith's popular book, *Goodly Heritage: One Hundred and Fifty Years of Craft Masonry in Indiana* (Chapter 2, Chapter 3 and Chapter 4). The Joseph Daviess story is located in Chris Hodapp's 2018 article "*Treasures of Indiana Masonry: The Joseph Daviess Sword*," through the Daviess County Historical Society.



The story is also found in author Hodapp's ***Heritage Endures: Perspective on 200 Years***, as well as the Indiana histories listed above. Although there are some minor variations, the narration has been repeated since the event first occurred over 200 years ago.

For more discoveries on ***Madison Lodge #21***, please see the Grand Lodge of Alabama website "Establishing the Grand Lodge of Alabama." ***Potosi Lodge No. 39, Arkansas Lodge No. 59 and Feliciana Lodge No. 46***, are located in Charles Snow Guthrie's ***Kentucky Freemasonry 1788 – 1978*** (page 43). Very little information could be found on ***Feliciana Lodge***, however James D. Carter's ***Masonry in Texas: Background, History and Influence to 1846*** published by the Committee on Masonic Education and Service (G.L. Texas-1955), adds information for both ***Potosi Lodge*** and ***Arkansas Lodge*** (page 172).

The facts uncovered on the lodges of the Grand Lodge of Illinois, was obtained from Everett R. Turnbull's 1952 edition of the ***Rise and Progress of Freemasonry in Illinois: 1783-1952***. A.E. Orton PGM (1923-1924), Grand Secretary of Kentucky, is acknowledged as having supplied much of the particulars from Kentucky Grand Lodge archives for Brother Turnbull's book.

On- line, "***Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Illinois– 1840***" available through the *George Washington Masonic National Memorial* web page, "*Jew of the Week: Abraham Jonas – The Man who made Lincoln President*" (July 27, 2019) and "The Joseph Smith Papers" spells out much of Grand Lodge organization, Abraham Jonas' life and the ***Lodge of Nauvoo***.

***Masonry in Texas: Background, History and Influence to 1846*** very generously credits Kentucky and Kentucky Masons for much of the movement westward in support of the establishment of the Republic of Texas.