

**FINCASTLE &
KENTUCKY COUNTY
Va.-Ky.
RECORDS & HISTORY
Volume 1**

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AND

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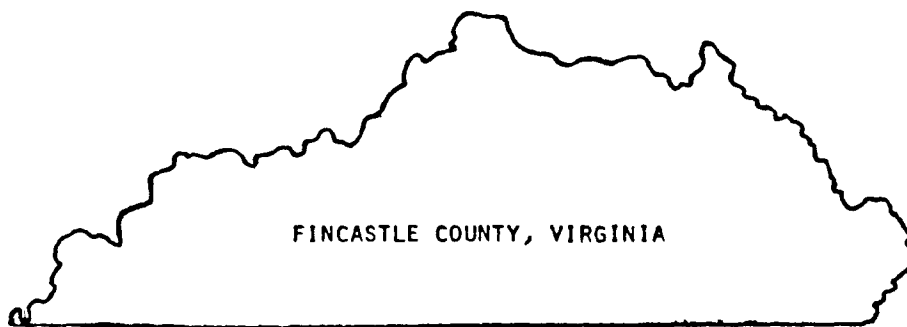
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INTRODUCTION

All of Kentucky was at one time a part of Virginia.

On December 1, 1772, there was officially established Fincastle County, Virginia. This included all of what is now the present state of Kentucky, and a small southwest portion of what is today still Virginia.



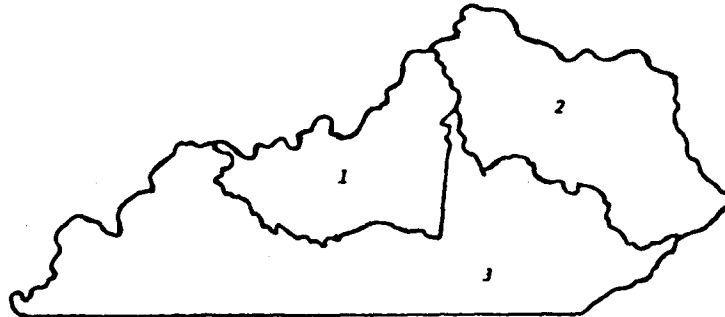
On December 31, 1776, this was divided into three counties:



1. Kentucky County, Virginia
2. Montgomery County, Virginia
3. Washington County, Virginia

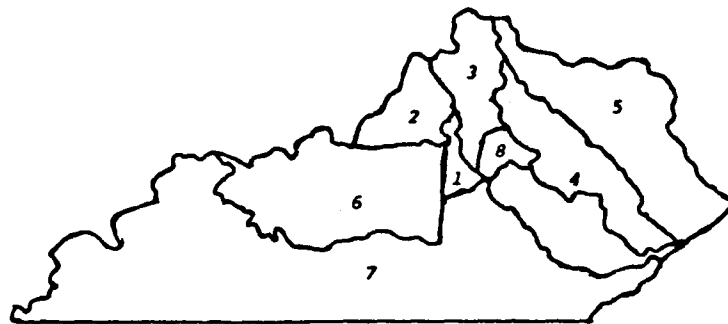
[Kentucky County comprised all of what is now present-day Kentucky.]

On November 1, 1780, Kentucky County was divided into three counties:



1. Jefferson County, Virginia
2. Fayette County, Virginia
3. Lincoln County, Virginia

By the time that Kentucky acquired separate status as a state, the area of what is now Kentucky was divided into eight distinct counties:



1. Mercer County
2. Jefferson County
3. Woodford County
4. Bourbon County
5. Mason County
6. Nelson County
7. Lincoln County
8. Fayette County

These were at first Virginia counties. The first sessions of court were held in a cabin in the stockade at Lexington in late 1781. In 1782 a two-story log courthouse was built at the corner of Main and Main Cross (Broadway) Streets. This had two rooms on each floor with a fireplace at each end, a prison, and the clerk's office. This building was later used by William MacBean as a dry goods store. In 1788 a second courthouse, two-stories,

with four rooms on each floor, was built of stone on the site of the present courthouse.

Heretofore there has been no specific history published on the Fincastle County and Kentucky County, precursors of the present Commonwealth of Kentucky. This book attempts to remedy that. In addition, there will be found herein all of the existing records of the two counties. Many of the records are presumed to have been destroyed or lost.

In 1929 there was included in the book Annals of Southwest Virginia, Volume I, by Lewis Preston Summers, what have been supposed to be the complete County Court records, Deeds, Wills, and land entries, for Fincastle County. Actually, what was included in this volume were only selected records. For example, more than 75% of the court records were omitted, as well as about 25% of the deeds, and at least some of the land entries and wills. This volume remedies that, presenting abstracts of the complete records, as well as other records pertaining to both Fincastle and Kentucky counties.

Should other records be found to be in existence, these will appear in a later volume.

Michael L. Cook, C. G.
January 10, 1987