

Laws of this Chapter, revised and confirmed on the 19th of April, A.D. 1805, commencing with this declaration, "That this Chapter, as established by virtue of the warrant of Lodge No. 6, now held in Kingston," we certainly find mention made of "The Mark, the Past, and the Most Excellent Masters' Degrees," but there is no record of "The Most Excellent" being given until the convocation of the 17th of April, A.D. 1801, or that "The Mark" was conferred in this Chapter until the convocation held on the 20th of July, A.D. 1818. Apparently these degrees were taken at the option of the candidate for exaltation, and as there was an attendant expense, few of the brethren availed themselves; and, in many instances, they were conferred on Companion Members. The degree of Past Master was conferred in the Craft Lodge—the working of the Chapter requiring the candidate ("a Geometrical Master Mason") to have passed the Chair, which, as a general custom, prevailed until A.D. 1813. It is now, however, considered essential, and in all Chapters deriving their charters from the Supreme Grand Chapter of England a Master Mason of twelve months standing is considered eligible for the honors of the Royal Arch.

In the year 1797 the fee for exaltation in this Chapter was fixed at one pound and five shillings currency, which was increased to two pounds currency at the convocation of the 22nd of January, A.D. 1803.

About the end of the last century many brethren were exalted when only seven Royal Arch Masons were present; and however singular this may now appear, yet on examining "the revised Rules of the Grand Chapter," before referred to, a full copy of which is inserted in the Minute Book of this Chapter for the year A.D. 1797, we find "that no Chapter can be convened to make Royal Arch Masons within thirty miles of London unless six regularly registered Royal Arch Masons be present,"