

A
HISTORY OF KENTUCKY

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A History of Kentucky was first published in 1896. It is reproduced here to give the modern teacher the option of a text with a “fresh, new approach.” Compared to the revisionist histories that have been popular for the last 20 years, this old volume tells history through the eyes of one who lived it and told it just as she saw it and had it told to her by her parents.

To the extent that personality and style affect the volume, Mrs. Kinkead brings the late 19th century (New Kentucky at the time of the writing) love of the state, patriotism and altruism to the story.

Absent from this volume is the attempt to include all races and gender equally. While there are

many stories of civil rights and suffrage that can supplement a later history, this volume was written before those themes were introduced to Kentucky and is not “improved” by weaving modern themes into earlier periods.

The 20th century created a completely different Kentucky. The themes from those years are more complicated and, therefore, difficult to teach on a Jr. High level. This history is best used to tell the simple story of Kentucky’s birth and her early years through the Civil War.

May God use this reprint to create a love of the Commonwealth in her future citizens and leaders.

- Billy Henderson

THIS PRINTING BASED ON THE REVISED EDITION PUBLISHED IN 1919.

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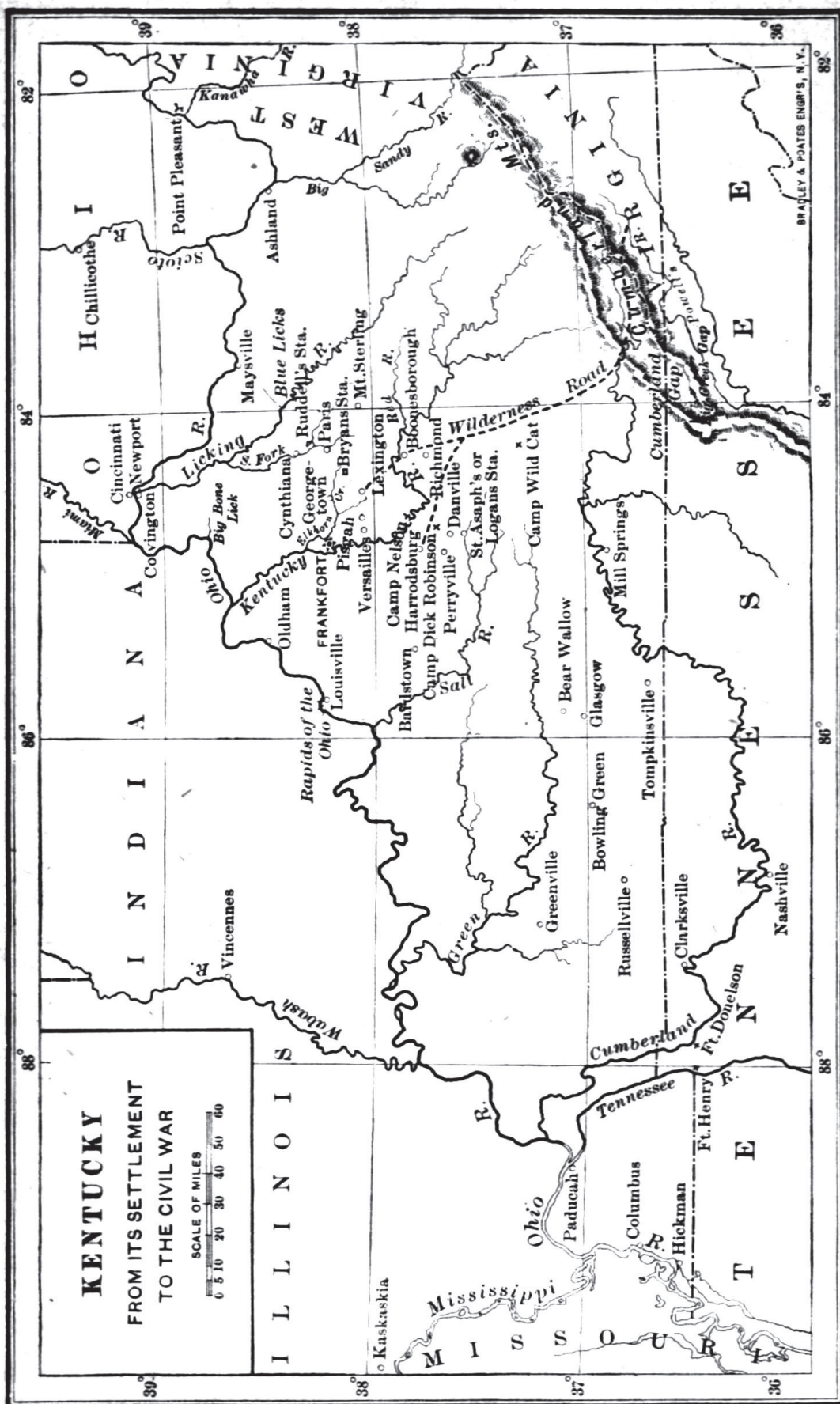
TO THE MEMORY OF MY FATHER

WILLIAM BURY KINKEAD

FROM WHOM WAS DERIVED

WHATEVER TRUTHFUL UNDERSTANDING OF THE KENTUCKY PEOPLE

THIS LITTLE BOOK CONTAINS



PREFACE

In the preparation of this book, an attempt has been made to relate the events of practical everyday life, in such a manner as to make the study of the history of our State a pleasure to the pupil. While adhering to the facts as closely as they could be ascertained, the aim has been that the whole shall entertain as a connected story. Special effort has been made to portray the spirit of the Kentuckians, in order that the student may understand and revere the people from whom he is sprung. To this end, more space has been given to their characteristics as indicated by tales of particular acts, than to the statistics of battles in which they have taken part.

As this is a narration of the life of a State, and as the connection of one incident with another is of more importance in a work of this kind than the grouping of kindred topics, the chronological order of development has been followed.

The subject naturally divides itself into five clearly marked periods. And these lend themselves readily to important subdivisions. That portion of the history which extends to the close of the War of 1812 belongs to the poetic stage in the State's life; and that which follows, to the prose stage. It has

been necessary in developing the later prose periods to depart somewhat from the simple method followed when setting forth the early periods. But this seems rather an advantage; for if the interest of the pupil is awakened at the outset, he will be eager to follow the fortunes of his State to the end, and will, it is hoped, patiently study the more prosaic episodes, in order to get a thorough grasp of the whole.

It has been my earnest desire that the work should be historically sincere. The difficult aim has been constantly before my mind to make it impartial in all instances, and at the same time forceful and inspiriting. A Kentuckian, from my infancy I have been imbued with a knowledge and love of the State. And yet, having grown up in the New Kentucky, in her days of quietude, I have been enabled to approach the consideration of her significant periods with little individual prejudice. I have made a laborious and careful study of all available material, and I have tried to let the actions of the people, as they have been unfolded to me, speak for themselves, and reveal the Kentuckians. It is my hope that what I have written will find favor with my own people.

E. S. K.

CONTENTS

I — *PIONEER DAYS* 1669-1782

I. FIRST WHITE MEN IN KENTUCKY	9
II. EARLY SETTLEMENTS IN KENTUCKY	15
III. THE COUNTY OF KENTUCKY	21
IV. DIVISION OF THE COUNTY	27

II — *THE STRUGGLE FOR INDEPENDENCE* 1782-1792

V. THE DISTRICT OF KENTUCKY	33
VI. BEGINNING OF THE STRUGGLE	37
VII. THE SPANISH CONSPIRACY	43
VIII. THE END OF THE STRUGGLE	49

III — *FOUNDING OF THE COMMONWEALTH* 1792-1850

IX. ORGANIZATION OF THE GOVERNMENT	55
X. POLITICAL SITUATION IN KENTUCKY	61
XI. THE WAR OF 1812	67
XII. LOCAL AFFAIRS	73
XIII. CIVIL AFFAIRS AND THE MEXICAN WAR.	79

IV — *THE CIVIL WAR* 1850-1865

XIV. THE SITUATION IN KENTUCKY	85
XV. KENTUCKY'S POSITION OF NEUTRALITY	91
XVI. THE INVASION OF KENTUCKY	97
XVII. THE SECOND INVASION OF KENTUCKY	103
XVIII. CIVIL CONFLICTS	109

V — *THE NEW KENTUCKY* SINCE 1865

XIX. THE RESTORATION OF PEACE	115
XX. THE ERA OF TRANSITION	119

I – PIONEER DAYS, 1669-1782

CHAPTER I

FIRST WHITE MEN IN KENTUCKY, 1669-1775

The history of Kentucky is at once unique and attractive. It begins like a romance, thrilling in tales of heroic deeds and exciting adventures. From the earliest settlement of the State, all through the crises in its own life and the life of the nation, Kentucky has held an honored position, and has produced men of great and noble character. None but the brave dared or desired to risk the perils of these untried forests; therefore, Kentucky was founded by men of forceful qualities, remarkable as well for strength of mind as for endurance of body. The tide of immigration has passed, for the most part, to the north and to the south of Kentucky; hence its present population consists almost exclusively of the descendents of the early settlers. The men who are prominent today are, in the main, sons of fathers whose fathers helped to establish the Commonwealth.

Kentucky's honored position

Long ages before Kentucky was discovered, there dwelt in the land a race of beings called Mound Builders, on account of the mounds or monuments they erected. Many of these mounds have been opened, and have been found to contain bones of human beings and of the mastodon (a gigantic animal now extinct), as well as implements of stone, flint arrowheads, and pieces of pottery. Until recently, historians believed that these remains indicated a people different from, and more civilized than, the Indians; but modern scientists have

The Mound Builders

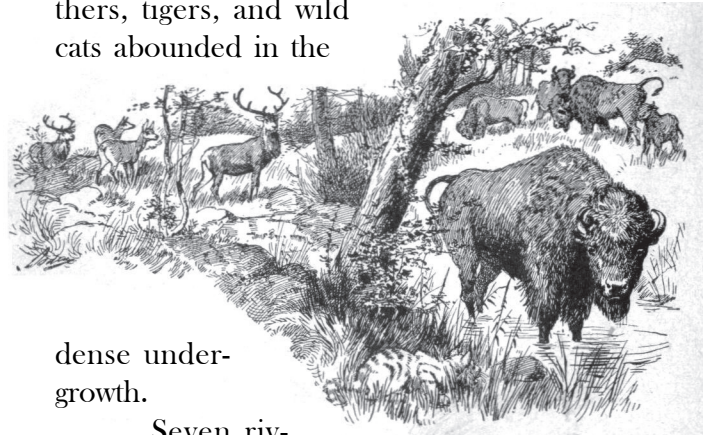


Relics from Mounds

concluded that the Mound Builders were simply the ancestors of the present Indians.

At the time when Kentucky was visited by the first pioneers, it was not the home of Indians, as were many of the other parts of America; but it was the hunting ground and battlefield of neighboring tribes from the north, the west, and the south. The beautiful and luxuriant forests were filled with elk and buffalo and varieties of game that have long been extinct. Bears and wolves, panthers, tigers, and wild cats abounded in the

Kentucky as seen by the pioneers



dense undergrowth.

Seven rivers drain the land, the Big Sandy, the Licking, the Kentucky, the Salt, the Green, the Cumberland, and the Tennessee. Following a northwestward course through the east, the middle, and the west of the State, these all flow into the Ohio, and thence into the waters of the mighty Mississippi.

Wild Animals of Kentucky

The Indians were by no means ignorant of the value of this land. They were prepared to resist its permanent settlement to their utmost ability, so that the pioneers, or first white men who came to Kentucky, had to contend not only with the wild beasts of the forest but with the

Indian valuation of the land

equally savage Indian warriors. From the fierce encounter of Indians with Indians, and Indians with pioneers, it came about that the State was called "The Dark and Bloody Ground."

That courage which was a necessity to our forefathers is still a marked characteristic of the sons of

Courage of Kentuckians

The pioneers were men sent forth by the wisdom of God to found a new Commonwealth. They went in peace, but with their rifles cocked to defend their lives from the Indians.

In the early days of American discovery, some people believed that there was a great river in America lead-

First white men in Kentucky

ing across the continent to China. The distinguished Frenchman, La Salle, while in search of this river, in the year 1669 or 1670, passed through a portion of Kentucky from the Big Sandy to the rapids of the Ohio. As early as 1750, Dr. Thomas Walker of Virginia led an exploring party into Kentucky by way of Powell's Valley, through the mountains in the eastern part of the State, and built a



La Salle

log cabin on the Cumberland River. But the land company he represented was not successful, and he returned home with little knowledge of the country. One year later, Christopher Gist, an agent of the Ohio Land Company, beheld, stretching before him, from some point on the Kentucky River, the impressive and beautiful land of Kentucky. There is also a tradition that, in the year 1754, a man by the name of McBride cut his initials on a tree at the mouth of the Kentucky River.

Faint rumors now reached Virginia and North Carolina of the fertile land beyond the mountains,



Indian Warriors

and, in the year of 1769, John Findley piloted Daniel Boone and four other companions into the country which he had visited two

years before.

These courageous men

were not

driven by persecution, nor by the need to seek a livelihood for themselves and their families. Each one left behind him a "peaceable habitation," as Boone called his quiet home on the Yadkin, in North Carolina, and started forth with a rifle in one hand and a hatchet in the other in quest of adventure.

They pitched their tent on the banks of the Red River (a branch of the Kentucky), and remained peacefully hunting

until late in December.

But one day Boone and John Stewart, when alone

in the woods, were captured

by Indians. After seven days they succeeded in making their escape, and returned to their camp to find it deserted, no trace being left of their former companions. Boone and Stewart were soon joined

Daniel Boone in Kentucky

Boone and Stewart in the woods



Daniel Boone

by Squire Boone, a younger brother of Daniel's; but shortly after this Stewart was killed by Indians. The two brothers, finding that they did not have enough

ammunition, decided that the younger should go back to North Carolina to supply their need. Daniel was now left alone in the vast forests.

In July, 1770, Squire Boone arrived with the ammunition. The two brothers remained until March of the following year, and then returned to North Carolina. Five other adventurers had joined them in their camp on the Red River. In the year 1769, a party of about forty men from Virginia and North Carolina went out on a hunting expedition. Nine of this company, led by Colonel James Knox, reached Kentucky the following year, and explored the country about the Cumberland and Green rivers. They did not come in contact with Boone's party. From the length of time all these adventurers were absent from home, they were called "The Long Hunters."

Up to the year 1763, France had claimed the country on the east of the Mississippi which included Kentucky. After the French and Indian War, Great Britain gained the right to this region. But because of prior possession, various tribes of Indians laid claim to the country. In the year 1768, the English government purchased from the tribes of Indians called the Six Nations the title to all the lands lying between the Ohio and Tennessee rivers. This treaty was held at Fort Stanwix, now Rome, in New York.

Bounty lands on the Ohio River were than granted to many of the officers and soldiers of the Virginia troops, and surveyors were sent to mark them out. Thus were brought to Kentucky many of the clever and gallant young men of Virginia whose names, or those of their descendants, afterwards became associated with the history of the State.

Two interesting characters of this period were Hancock Taylor and John Floyd. They were deputies under Colonel William Preston, surveyor of Fincastle County, Virginia, of which Kentucky was a part until 1776. These men started forth in the high

hopes of their young manhood, to survey the far-famed lands of Kentucky. Honor and wealth lay before them, and all the exciting pleasures of a perilous undertaking. The one was shot down by Indians a few months after his arrival; the other lived nine years—long enough to establish his family in Kentucky, and to aid in founding the new country—and then he fell a victim to the same death.

Hancock Taylor and John Floyd

There were other surveyors in the early days of Kentucky to whom a romantic interest attaches. Captain Thomas Bullitt, of Virginia, at the head of a party, in 1773, made surveys of land for Dr. John Connolly, at the falls of the Ohio, where the city of Louisville now stands. Close upon his explorations followed those of James Douglas, who visited Big Bone Lick, where he found scattered on the ground the bones of the mastodon, whose huge ribs he used for his tent poles. The scholarly John Todd, later to be noticed, and his brother Levi, came to Kentucky in the same capacity, as did also two representatives of the Lee family of Virginia.

Other surveyors

The same year, there came into Kentucky a party of hunters and surveyors from Virginia, led by



Early Kentucky Settlers

three brothers, James, George, and Robert McAfee, who later on became prominent in the new country. This visit was for investigation, and after selecting lands on the Salt River, in Mercer County, they made their way homeward, well-nigh exhausted by the trials of the journey. In Powell's Valley they met a large

party which Daniel Boone was guiding into Kentucky. The life in the wilderness was so delightful to Boone

**The McAfees,
Boone, and others**

that he determined to make his home there. On the 25th of September, 1773, he set out with his wife and children, and was

joined by five other families and forty men besides. Their progress was interrupted, however, on the very threshold of Kentucky soil by an Indian attack, and six of the company were killed, Boone's son being one of the number. This so disheartened the pioneers that they turned back toward their old homes.

The same year, Simon Kenton roamed through Kentucky. The following year, James

Indian hostilities

Harrod and forty men built themselves cabins and laid off the town of Harrodsburg, which, how-

ever, they were soon obliged to abandon. Shortly afterward, Governor Dunmore of Virginia sent Daniel Boone and Michael Stoner to guide out of the wilderness the surveyors who were in Kentucky. The Shawnee Indians had become so hostile to the settlement of Kentucky that it was dangerous for any white man to remain there. They were now gathering under their great chief, Cornstalk, for the bloodiest conflict that ever occurred between the whites and the Indians.

The battle of Point Pleasant took place the 10th of October, 1774, near the mouth of the

Battle of Point Pleasant

Kanawha River. The white forces were collected by General Andrew Lewis, but the latter took no personal part in the fight, being

occupied with superintending the creation of certain breastworks, necessary for the encounter. The forces consisted mainly of sturdy Scotch-Irish from

Virginia, under the command of Colonels Charles Lewis, William Fleming, and John Field. They were joined by two companies of brave men from beyond the Cumberland Mountains, who were eager to avenge the injuries they had suffered from the Indians; one of these companies was under the command of Captain Russell, and the other under Captain Evan Shelby, who, with his fifty volunteers from the Watauga settlement, in North Carolina, hurried forward to the encounter. The attack was opened upon the division of Charles Lewis, but he was soon mortally wounded. In quick succession, the two remaining colonels, William Fleming and John Field, were cut down, the one being wounded, the other slain. The command then fell to Captain Shelby.

From sunrise the battle raged fiercely. Victory wavered between the two sides. Many had already fallen, when, toward noon, Cornstalk determined to outflank the whites and, by a bold move-

Result of the battle

ment, end the conflict. But just at this time, Isaac Shelby, then a young lieutenant left in charge of his father's company, determined also to make a flank movement against the Indians. He took with him two other companies, commanded by James Stewart and George Matthews. They crept through the underbrush, along the banks of the Kanawha, and surprised the enemy in the rear. The Indians became alarmed and began to retreat. The fighting, however, did not cease until near sunset. The victory thus gained by the whites was of the utmost importance in the settlement of Kentucky. Shortly afterward, the Shawnees entered into a treaty with Governor Dunmore, of Virginia. They gave up all their title to the lands south of the Ohio River, and promised not to molest the white men further. Peace now reigned for a time, and the pioneers were enabled to make their homes in Kentucky.

RECAPITULATION

- Kentucky's romantic history.
- Interesting relics found in ancient mounds.
- Mound Builders the ancestors of Indians.
- No Indian homes found in the region.
- The region the Indian hunting ground.
- A valuable region.

FIRST WHITE MEN IN KENTUCKY

- Findley guides a party in 1769.
- Boone and Stewart captured.
- They escape, to find their camp deserted.
- They are joined by Squire Boone.
- Stewart is killed by Indians.
- Squire Boone goes home and returns.
- The brothers leave in 1771.
- The Long Hunters.

CHAPTER II

EARLY SETTLEMENTS IN KENTUCKY, 1775-1776

In the year 1775, permanent homes were made in Kentucky. James Harrod and his company came back to their cabins, which they had been forced to leave by Indian hostilities, and the McAfees returned to their settlement on the Salt River. Not far from Harrodsburg, Benjamin Logan, with a few slaves, erected a station, to which he brought his family during the following year. A most important aid to the settlement of the country was the road Daniel Boone cut from Cumberland Gap to the fort in Madison County which bore his name.

Permanent stations

Boone's account of the land

Sale of Indian titles

Far and wide was spread Boone's glowing account of the unknown region; and though he did not succeed in firing very many with a desire to brave the perils of its untried forests, the news soon reached some of the influential and wealthy men of North Carolina, who quickly foresaw the vast riches and power which might be theirs if they could gain possession of it.

We have already seen that the Six Nations had sold to the English their title to that vast area of country which included the present State of Kentucky, and that after the battle of Point Pleasant, the Shawnee Indians, also, renounced their right to the region. But such was the lawless and unstable condition of Indian possessions that the ownership seemed to rest with that nation which had gained the latest victory in the tribal ways. Thus the Cherokees, likewise, asserted a claim to the land.

Captain Nathaniel Hart, of North Carolina, formed a company, known as Henderson and Company (consisting of himself, his two brothers, and six

others), to purchase this Cherokee title. They chose Colonel Richard Henderson as their legal head. Across the country, a distance of about three hundred miles, Hart and Henderson went to hold a conference with the Indians at their villages beyond the Alleghany Mountains. The Indians promised to consider the matter, and sent a committee to examine the goods to be given in exchange for the land. These proved satisfactory, and a place of treaty was determined upon. On the 17th of March, 1775, twelve hundred savage warriors assembled at the Sycamore Shoals of the Watauga River. The nine members of the company were there, and all the men, women, and children of the settlement gathered to hear the decision of the council. When the Indian chiefs finally decided, after much speech-making on both sides, to sell to the whites their "hunting ground," — about seventeen million acres of land, — for the consideration of ten thousand pounds sterling, there was great rejoicing.

The land bought by the company lay on the other side of the mountains; and though it was covered with widespread forest trees, they gave it the picturesque and not inappropriate name of Transylvania, *beyond the woods*. The purpose of the company was to found a colony of which they should be the proprietors, and to sell lands to persons desiring to make their homes in the region. The scheme was brilliant and gigantic; and though it was soon abandoned, it had a most important influence on the future of the State. The proprietors were all educated men, who attracted to the country other men of ability.

Henderson and company

The colony of Transylvania in America

Daniel Boone was sent ahead to open a road for the proprietors. The trace then cut was later widened into the famous Wilderness Road,¹ one of the

Boone's road

two ways (the other being by means of flatboats down the Ohio) by which there entered Kentucky the brave men and women who laid the foundations of the State. Colonel Boone's company consisted of about twenty-two men, and they were joined by a party of eight, under the leadership of Captain William Twetty. Their task was not so difficult as it was perilous, and just before it was completed their courage was put to the test. One morning,

while they still lay asleep in camp, they were attacked by Indians. Two of their number were killed, and one was wounded so seriously that he could not be moved immediately. With that spirit of heroism inspired by the times, several of the men remained with their wounded comrade at the risk of their lives, while the others went on ahead about fifteen miles, to select a site upon which to erect a fort.

When the proprietors arrived, they found three stations besides Boonesborough already settled in the country. They called for an election of delegates from these, in order that laws might be made for the government of the colony. Twelve delegates were duly elected and sent from Harrodsburg, Boiling Springs, and St. Asaph's or Logan's Station, and six were elected for Boonesborough. This first legislative assembly held west of the Alleghanies met at Boonesborough, May 23, 1775, under the branches of a mighty elm which could comfortably shelter in its shadow one hundred people. The parliament passed nine laws to the satisfaction of all concerned, and adjourned to meet the following autumn; but it never again assembled.

The Boonesborough parliament

The independent settlers in the country soon became dissatisfied, and asked Virginia to take them under her protection. Accordingly, in 1778, the legislature of that State annulled the purchase of the Transylvania proprietors; but in order to compen-

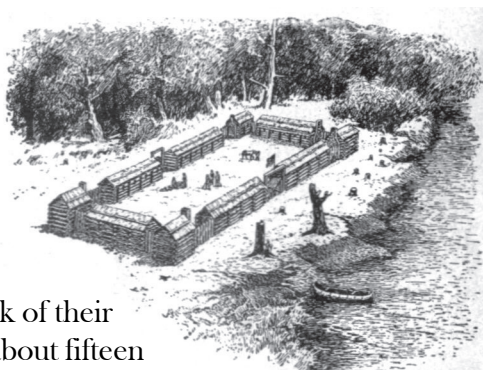
sate them for their loss, she granted them 200,000 acres of land, and gave good title to all those who had bought lands from the company.

The structure Boone and his men erected at Boonesborough was the first military fortification on Kentucky soil, and it proved a very secure stronghold against the unskilled attacks of savages. It was laid out as a parallelogram, inclosed by posts sharpened at the end and driven firmly into the ground. At the four corners were built strong two-story log cabins with windows which

The Boonesborough fort

looked out on the open space or court of the inclosure. The sides which faced the forest had no windows, but only loopholes through which the pioneers could fire at their enemies.

The furnishings of the cabins were very rude, — a bed in one corner made of upright forks of trees, on which rested poles whose ends were thrust into holes in the wall of the building, and on these poles were thrown for mattress and covering the skins of wild animals; a rough-hewn dining table, and a few three-legged wooden stools. The windows were covered with paper saturated with bear's oil, through which the light penetrated, and an air of cheerfulness was gained by the huge fireplace which stretched nearly across one side of the room.



Fort at Boonesborough

Shortly after the fort was completed, in September, 1775, Daniel Boone brought his wife and daughter to Kentucky. At Harrodsburg, also, Hugh McGary, Richard Hogan, and Thomas Denton settled with their families. In November of this year, John McClellan brought his family into Kentucky, and, in one company with Colonel Robert Patterson, built a station which was named McClellan's. Here, fifteen years later, the town of Georgetown was in-

The furnishings of the cabins

Pioneer women

Here, fifteen years later, the town of Georgetown was in-

1. *The Wilderness Road*. By Thomas Speed. Filson Club Publication No. 2.

corporated. With the coming of the women, home life began in the wilderness, with all its hardships, its perils, and its inspiring adventures. The women



A Backwoods Girl

stood side by side with the men, and suffered and grew strong, labored and prospered, with them.

Today we look back to their lives of unselfish devotion, and are thrilled with admiration for their courage.

There are no wild beasts for us to fight, no Indians, no dangers from hunger and cold.

But if we would be

true children of brave ancestors, there is a battle to enter far harder and more worthy of victory than any they were called upon to wage—a battle for the honor and purity of our own lives and of the State.

Daniel Boone can in no way stand as a type of the early Kentuckians. There were far more remarkable and clever men. He did not feel himself

Character of Daniel Boone

inspired by any high motive, though he was always kind and courageous. He sought the unpeopled lands of Ken-

tucky because he loved the wild life of the woods. With the coming of civilization, he departed. But he was an instrument in the hands of God to open the way for the foundation of a great State.

By the side of Daniel Boone there towers another picturesque figure, Simon Kenton, famous as an Indian scout, and the hero of many startling adventures. His manhood began with a tragedy. He loved a girl who was won by his friend. He fought a duel with his rival, and, believing that

he had killed him, fled from his old home in Virginia, and under another name tried to forget his deed in the wilderness of Kentucky. But he could not forget. The burden of that thought weighed heavily upon his naturally kind and simple-hearted nature. Long years afterward, he ventured to return to Virginia to visit his family and to bring them to Kentucky. To his overwhelming joy, he found the man he supposed he had killed, alive and ready to be his friend.

Simon Kenton



Running the Gauntlet

Once he was captured by Indians. Eight times he was made to run the gauntlet; that is, to run down a long line of Indian men, women, and boys, each armed with a tomahawk, club, or switch, with which

the runner was struck. Three times he was tied to the stake to be burned alive, and every time he was saved through some unexpected deliverance.

By his daring coolness, he filled even the Indians with terror, and thus he aided much in the settling of the new country. But he, too, like Boone, passed away before the advance of civilization in Kentucky.

For the most part, the pioneers of Kentucky were from that unsurpassed race of people, the Scotch-Irish, who settled in the valley of Virginia, and then spread out into the



Simon Kenton

neighboring States. Their ancestors had suffered religious persecutions in the Old World, and the pioneers brought into the rich,

Character of the Kentuckians

free land of Kentucky an intense love of God, of liberty, and of education, — three important factors in

the greatness of a nation as well as an individual. Such men, seeking homes and prosperity for their children, were not to be daunted even by the fury of the savages.

Occasionally, the faint-hearted would grow weary of the hardships and dangers, and would depart; but they left behind them the strong and brave who were worthy to be the possessors of the beautiful new country. The men

Healthful life of the pioneers

could not safely plant the crops, nor the women milk the cows, except under the protection of armed guards who stood ready for the attacks of Indians; yet none the less they persevered in their determination to remain. An existence of healthful work with a steadfast purpose made them cheerful. The children played, and the young people laughed and were happy, although the only variety in their lives was the dread of a surprise or an occasional Indian raid.

One day in the summer of 1776, Jemima Boone and the two daughters of Colonel Richard Callaway were out on the Kentucky River, in a canoe, when they were captured by five Indians. The

girls tried to beat off the savages, while they screamed for help. Being unsuccessful in their efforts, they dropped broken twigs or torn bits of their gowns to mark the way they were carried. Boone and Floyd, with a party of men from the fort, went in pursuit. They searched for two nights and days, but did not overtake the Indians until they had gone about forty miles from Boonesborough. There they found the

A romantic episode



Beating off the Savages

girls, thoroughly frightened, but unharmed. It is entertaining to learn that three weeks later the first wedding upon Kentucky soil took place when Squire Boone united in marriage Betsy Callaway, the eldest of the girls, and young Samuel Henderson, one of the rescuing party.

RECAPITULATION

- Permanent homes in Kentucky.
- Harrod and his company return.
- The McAfees again at their station.
- Boone's account impresses influential men of North Carolina.
- Their desire to buy the region.
- The Cherokees' claim.
- Hart and Henderson form a company.
- Colonel Henderson elected president.
- Conference with Indians at Watauga.
- Indians sell their hunting ground.

- Colony of Transylvania in America.
- Boone cuts the Wilderness Road.
- His company attacked by Indians.
- Boonesborough fort erected.
- Arrival of the proprietors.
- Other stations previously settled.
- Delegates appointed to frame laws for the colony.
- Boonesborough parliament meets, May 23, 1775.
- The proprietors' purchase annulled.

EARLY SETTLEMENTS IN KENTUCKY

- The compensation made by Virginia.
- The Boonesborough fort, a strong fortification against Indians.
- The rude furnishings of the cabins.
- Daniel Boone's family arrive.
- Other families come to Harrodsburg.
- McClellan's station built.
- Pioneer women.
- Character of Daniel Boone.
- Simon Kenton's adventures.
- The pioneers mostly Scotch-Irish.
- Character of the early Kentuckians.
- Healthful and happy life in the wilderness.
- Indian raids the only variety.
- Capture of Jemima Boone and the Callaway girls.
- Their rescue by Boone and Floyd.
- First marriage on Kentucky soil.

CHAPTER III

THE COUNTY OF KENTUCKY, 1776-1780

Although it was not until 1778 that the title of the Transylvania Company was legally annulled, it had long before ceased to be considered valid. On the 4th of July, 1776, the Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence, and in December of that year Kentucky¹ County was

Kentucky County established

established by Virginia. Before this time, the region was a part of Fincastle County, Virginia, and so remote a part that the settlers had no voice in the government of the State. But now they were entitled to choose for themselves two representatives to the Virginia legislature, and to have local courts of justice and military protection. The change brought greater stability to the colony. Harrodsburg was selected as the county seat, and the first court was held there in September, 1777. It was composed of the ablest men of the time. Among the number were John Floyd, John Todd, Benjamin Logan, John Bowman, and Richard Callaway, all men of character, who became distinguished in the pioneer struggle for existence. Levi Todd was appointed clerk, and John Bowman colonel of Kentucky County.

For the next two years, the different stations were disturbed by frequent raids from Indians, which, however, did not result in any serious loss of life to the whites, but proved extremely distressing to the women and children and unfavorable to the growth of the country. Harrodsburg was first attacked, and then, in quick succession, Boonesborough and Logan's fort. An incident in connection with the latter

Repeated Indian raids

siege is worthy of remembrance, as it illustrates the sagacious heroism of a man whose every act was honorable and courageous.

In the spring of 1777, some women were milking cows outside the fort, guarded by armed men, when they were fired upon by Indians. All fled toward the fort, but one man was killed, another slightly wounded, and a third so severely injured



Fleeing from the Indians

that he was unable to escape. The Indians left him where he fell, while they lurked within gunshot. Secure of his scalp, they hoped to entrap others who might venture to his rescue. Inside the fort his wife and children wailed in apprehension for his fate, and still none dared face the certain death of going

Logan's heroism

1. After the Transylvania Colony was abolished, the name "Kentucky" was adopted by the pioneers. "Kentucky is from the Iroquois word *Kentake*, meaning prairie or meadow land. The name probably originated in those treeless stretches of country between the Salt and Green rivers, which our ancestors called barrens. The Indians in early times burnt the trees off these lands and then designated the by *Kentake*, meaning the meadow or prairie lands."—*Centenary of Kentucky*, by R. T. Durrett; Filson Club Publication No. 7.

to his assistance. When twilight came on, Logan tied over his body the loose feather bed his wife had brought from Virginia, and getting down on all fours he crept outside the fort, grunting like one of the hogs which roamed around the inclosure. Suddenly he seized the wounded man, and darted toward the fort, before the surprised and puzzled Indians had time to recover sufficiently to take sure aim at him. Balls and arrows flew about him, but he and his companion reached the fort in safety.



Logan rescuing his comrade

The Indians continued their resistance to the settlement of Kentucky, and yet the population slowly grew. Boonesborough suffered a second attack, July, 1777. At this time there were only twenty-two fighting men to defend the fort; but toward the end of the year that station was increased by fifty men and their families, and Logan's fort had an addition of thirty-eight families. There were now between five hundred and six hundred people in Kentucky; and only the stouthearted came, for it was known that the Indians were powerfully aided by the English in their warfare upon the Kentuckians, and that it would probably be long continued.

We have seen that the country west of the Alleghanies and east of the Mississippi had been in the possession of the French, who began to settle it as early, probably, as 1688, after the celebrated La Salle (who made explorations there) had returned to his native land with accounts of the great river and the fertile country. Later on, a conflict arose between the French and English colonists in North America that developed into what is called the French and Indian War. After a long and fierce struggle, the French surrendered to the English in 1763. The old French villages,

Indian hostilities

The British aid the Indians

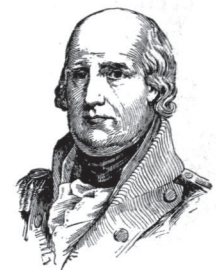
Kaskaskia, Cahokia, etc., in Illinois, and Vincennes, on the Wabash, were fortified by the conquerors, and, at the outbreak of the Revolution, these posts were the military strongholds of the English king. It was from them that the Indians, who had allied themselves with Great Britain against the Americans, received the supplies which enabled them to besiege the Kentuckians.

British possessions that would subdue the power of the Indians, and open the west to the Americans.

About this time he received an order from the Virginia legislature to lead his expedition into the Illinois country, as that region was then indefinitely called. Clark had visited Kentucky in 1776, and had determined to throw in his fortunes with that colony. He was a young Virginian of striking bearing and bold, unwavering character. He possessed precisely the order of talent fitted for the expedition to which he was called. His plan of conquering the Illinois country was adroit and vigorous.

George Rogers Clark's expedition

His victorious march from Kaskaskia to Cahokia, and the final capture of Vincennes, February 25, 1779, distinguished him as a man of high military genius. An account of these campaigns belongs properly to the history of the United States. Their result, however, was of inestimable benefit to the settlers in Kentucky and they rejoiced in the glory attending them; for most of the men who served with Clark either had lived in Kentucky or intended to make their homes there. John Todd, already a prominent Kentuckian, was made county lieutenant or governor of the Illinois country.



George Rogers Clark

When Clark and his troops came down the Ohio in flatboats, on their way to the Illinois country, they brought with them

Clark the founder of Louisville

about twenty families who intended to settle in Kentucky. They landed upon a small island at the Falls

of the Ohio, May 27, 1778, and proceeded to erect a fort. Here they remained until the following autumn, when they removed to the mainland and built a fort at the foot of the present Twelfth Street. In 1780, this settlement, which grew to be the largest city in the State, received the name of Louisville. On Christmas day a party was given in the old Twelfth Street fort. Everybody assisted. They called it a housewarming, and they made merry together, dancing the Virginia reel to the music of an old negro fiddler.



A Christmas Party

While Clark and his Kentucky captains were carrying on their conquests in the West, a very important event had taken place at home. In February, 1778, Boone and

Boone's capture

twenty-six men, who had gone to the Blue Licks to make salt for the different stations, were captured by a party of Indians on their way to attack Boonesborough. The Indians were so elated with their prize that they abandoned the idea of going to Boonesborough, for the time, and returned in triumph with their prisoners, to their vil-

lage, Chillicothe. There Boone remained until early in the following June, when the savages again assembled to carry out their delayed plan. Then he determined to escape, and to warn his fort, whatever might be the danger to himself. He reached his friends, unharmed, in four days, after a journey of 160 miles, during which he had but one meal. Boone's escape delayed, for several weeks, the plan of the Indians; but on the 8th of August, a formidable band of savages, painted and bedecked with all their war equipments, and with French and British colors flying, surrounded the fort. They were commanded by a French officer, Captain de Quindre, who demanded, in the name of his Britannic Majesty, the surrender of the garrison. Strange to relate, two days were granted for the consideration of this proposition, during which time all the horses and cattle were collected in the fort, and then Boone announced, with many jeers at the discomfited captain, that they were ready to defend their fort while a man was living.



Boone's Escape

De Quindre now determined to entrap Boone, if possible. He asked him, with eight other men, to come outside the fort to treat with him, and this was agreed to. But before the conference was over, the cunning officer said that it was a custom, when concluding a treaty, for two of the Indians to

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Siege of Boonesborough

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De Quindre's ruse

over, the cunning officer said that it was a custom, when concluding a treaty, for two of the Indians to

shake the hands of each white man. Thereupon two powerful Indians seized Boone and his men with the intention of capturing them; but the hardy Kentuckians wrung themselves free and fled into the fort. Soon the firing began. The Indians made an unsuccessful attempt to burn the fort, while de Quindre ordered a trench dug to undermine its walls; but his purpose was discovered in time and frustrated.

The siege lasted nine days. The stoutest hearts were tried, but no one thought of surrendering. On the 20th day of the month, the warriors took their departure. Only two men among the whites were killed and four were wounded. The Indians probably suffered no greater loss; but they were discouraged by the resistance of the garrison, and never again attempted an attack upon Boonesborough. Clark's victories in the West, coming about this time, weakened the power of the Indians and inspired confidence in the hearts of the Kentuckians. Immigrants streamed into the country, and new stations sprang up everywhere.

News traveled slowly into the wilderness in those days; but the spirit of the pioneer was in ardent sympathy with the great struggle for independence which was going on beyond their borders. In April, 1779, Colonel Robert Patterson, in company with James Masterson, the McConnells, Lindseys, Morrisons, and others, began a settlement in the most beautiful part of the Blue Grass Region, to which the name of Lexington was given, in honor of the first battle of the Revolution.

The same year, in May, the land laws were passed by the legislature of Virginia and commissioners were appointed to consider all claims and settle all disputes on the subject. The court was opened at Logan's fort, Oc-

Result of the siege

Founding of Lexington

Land laws

tober 13, 1779, with William Fleming, Edmond Lyne, James Barbour, and Stephen Trigg as commissioners, and John Williams as clerk. The bold hunter, whose greatest desire had been for romantic adventure, was now joined by the speculator, who sought fortune in the new country — Virginians, largely, in whom the love of land was bred as a passion.

Altogether, the year 1779 was a notable one in the history of Kentucky. But following close upon its growth and prosperity came what is known in the annals of the State as the "Hard Winter." Unmelting snows lay deep over the land. Horses and cattle perished, and even the wild animals shrunk to the

bones. Only the bears, living in the hollows of trees, withstood the severity of the cold. Life in the roughly built cabins of the pioneers was trying during the mildest of winters; but it was torturing now. Because of the increased population, the supply of corn gave out. The only food was lean game, which was secured with the greatest difficulty. But the sufferings of the travelers who had been overtaken by the storms on their way to Kentucky were even greater. Crowded into the cabins, the settlers could manage to have some amusement for the time and could hope for the future. The women spun and wove, and the men made the utensils necessary for daily use. They turned their attention, also, to the education of their children. During this winter, a school was opened at Boonesborough by Joseph Doniphan.

As early as 1776, Mrs. William Coomes taught a school in the fort at Harrodsburg. She had no textbooks. Smooth boards of wood were used for paper, and the juice of oak balls for ink. The children learned to write and work examples from copies set them by the teacher. When they could read, they had Bibles and hymn books to study. Little private schools of this kind, where the pupils

"The Hard Winter"

First schools in Kentucky



Robert Patterson



A Schoolhouse in the Backwoods

the boys and girls do today, who have cultured teachers and attractive textbooks.

The spring brought many men of talent and education to Kentucky; it brought, also, continued

were taught to read and write and calculate, were opened in the different stations. Perhaps the children studied as hard (being grateful for any opportunity to learn) as

warfare with the British and Indians. Captain Henry Bird, a British officer, with six hundred Canadians and Indians, invaded the settlements on the Licking River, June 22, 1780, and captured Ruddle's and Martin's stations. These garrisons offered no resistance to an army so formidable in numbers and supplied with artillery. Everything valuable that the forts contained was carried off by the savages. The inhabitants were captured and taken to the Northwest, where they were scattered among the Indians. Many of the women who could not travel fast enough were tomahawked.

Capture of Ruddle's and Martin's stations

RECAPITULATION

- Kentucky County established.
- Harrodsburg the county seat.
- Men of ability compose the first court.
- Indians attack Harrodsburg, then Boonesborough.
- Logan's fort attacked.
- Second attack of Boonesborough.
- Population increases.
- The British aid the Indians.
- Clark's expedition.
- His military genius.
- He conquers the Illinois country.
- John Todd made governor of the Illinois country.
- Clark the founder of Louisville.
- Christmas party at Louisville.
- Boone and others captured at the Blue Licks.
- A third siege of Boonesborough planned by the Indians.
- Boone escapes to warn his fort.
- Boonesborough attacked.
- Indians commanded by Captain de Quindre.
- Boone declines to surrender.
- De Quindre's tricks unsuccessful.
- The siege ended after nine days.
- The population increases.
- Lexington founded.
- Land commissioners appointed.
- Court opened at Logan's fort.
- Speculators come to Kentucky.
- The "Hard Winter."
- First schools in Kentucky.
- Capture of Ruddle's and Martin's stations.

CHAPTER IV

DIVISION OF THE COUNTY, 1780-1782

The population steadily increased. In 1780, the legislature of Virginia thought it advisable to divide the County of Kentucky into three counties, — Jefferson,

Division of the county

Fayette, and Lincoln. John Floyd, John Todd, and Benjamin Logan were appointed colonels of their respective counties, and William Pope, Daniel Boone, and Stephen Trigg, lieutenant colonels. Colonel Clark was raised to the rank of brigadier general.

The most important consideration of the newly settled country was military protection from the Indians. The next interest was the proper distribution of its lands. Each county had its special sur-

Eagerness for land

veyor, — George May for Jefferson, Thomas Marshall for Fayette, and James Thompson for Lincoln. So great was the desire to gain property in this beautiful Kentucky country that on one occasion when General Clark had planned an attack upon certain Indian towns, he was obliged to order the surveyor's office to be closed, and to state that it would not be opened until after the expedition was over, before he could induce any one to listen to his call for volunteers.

Raids were no less frequent during the year 1781, but they were less carefully planned than formerly. The Indians were preparing for war on a larger scale, which they hoped would drive out the

intruders from their hunting ground. But through all this tale of disheartening warfare runs the invigorating story of the valor of the Kentuckians, and pictures of noble magnanimity stand out to refresh us.

John Floyd, the colonel commandant of Jefferson County, had gone with a number of men

to the assistance of a neighboring settlement. He was wounded, and was retreating on foot before the pursuing Indians, when he was overtaken by Captain Samuel Wells, who was also fleeing for his life.

Well's magnanimity

Floyd and Wells had been enemies, but the past was forgotten. Instantly the generous captain sprang from his horse, lifted Floyd into the saddle, and ran by his



Wells assisting Floyd

side to support him, thus risking his life for his enemy. Both were saved and were friends ever afterward.

The following spring opened with a fierce conflict which has always been known as Estill's defeat. A party of twenty-five Wyandots were seen passing Boonesborough. News of the fact was brought to

Estill's defeat

Captain James Estill at his station on the south of the Kentucky River, near where Richmond now stands,

and he started in pursuit of the Indians, with forty men. Shortly after his departure the savages came upon his unguarded fort, killed and scalped a young girl, and destroyed the cattle, before they departed. Two boys were sent as runners to bear the news of the tragedy to Estill. A party of the men returned to protect the women, while the rest, to the number of twenty-five, pushed on and overtook the Indians, not far from the present town of Mount Sterling. The fight which then occurred required hearts of unwavering courage. It was not a battle, but a combat of man with man. For nearly two hours the struggle lasted, each one of the company from behind a tree shooting toward the Indian he had selected. At last the whites were overcome. Nine were killed, including the brave Estill, and four were wounded. The latter, however, escaped with those who were uninjured.

In the month of July, two British captains, McKee and Caldwell, with a company of rangers from the British posts at Detroit, gathered together over one thousand Indians, — the largest body of troops up to that time collected west of the Alleghanies. It was their intention to attack Wheeling, but on their march thither, news reached them that General Clark was on his way to surprise the towns of the Shawnee Indians. They turned back to defend these towns, and, to their mortification, found that the report was false. This so discouraged the Indians that a large number of them deserted; but the more resolute British officers were not to be thus deterred from their purpose to harass and fight the Americans. They succeeded in holding a company of over three hundred Indians and rangers, with which they pushed on into Kentucky, to attack the weak stations in Fayette County.

McKee and Caldwell's army

They reached Bryan's station on the morning of the 16th of August, 1782. Halting in the neighborhood of the fort, they sent a few Indian spies ahead to draw out the whites, meaning then to rush upon them with the whole body of their forces. Most fortunately, the majority of the men were inside the fort, making ready

to go to the assistance of the stations on the south of the Kentucky River, whither the Wyandots had gone after Estill's defeat. The spies were discovered; and the oft-tried Kentuckians, wise in the tactics of Indian warfare, understood the meaning of their presence, and immediately began preparations for a siege. Now there was no spring inside the walls of the fort; and water would be a necessity if the attack should continue long. The fetching of water was everywhere the work of women, a fact which the Indians knew. If the men should go for it now, the spies would immediately suspect that they had been discovered. The attack might then begin at once, which would be fatal to the garrison. It was unlikely, however, that the women would be disturbed, and they were called together. The situation was explained to them. They were urged to go for the water and to act as though they did not know that a band of savages was within gunshot. There was a moment of intense excitement, of indecision and shrinking from the task; but the women in those stirring times of danger had acquired a warlike courage. Moreover, they had learned to forget themselves, and to think only of the good of their family, their station, and their country. The bravest among the older women stepped forward and declared their readiness to go on the trying mission. One by one, the younger women and girls followed,

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Heroism of the women



Marching to the Spring

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emboldened by this resolute spirit, until the whole body of women marched to the spring with their buckets, laughing and talking unconcernedly together. On their return, however, their steps grew faster and faster, and they fairly rushed into the safety of the fort.

Immediately afterward the attack began; but the garrison was now ready for it. Swift-footed runners were sent to summon

The siege

assistance from the neighboring stations. Five miles away, at Lexington, Major Levi Todd, with forty men, had just started for the southern border of the country. A messenger overtook him, and in a short time he reached Bryan's Station. The British officers now saw that all hope of taking the fort by surprise was vain. At night the Indians attempted to set fire to it; but, being unsuccessful, they were quite ready to depart. However, there was a young white leader among them who determined to make another effort to force the fort to surrender.

This was Simon Girty, — known far and wide to the border people of that day as the “White Renegade,” — a man despised

Simon Girty

by every one. When he was a boy, his father had been killed by Indians, and he himself had been adopted by them. He had grown up a savage, and chose to remain one. He possessed all the cunning cruelty of his foster brethren, and by his knowledge of English he became a power among them in their schemes to torture the Americans. He now made a speech to the fort's defenders. He spoke of the numbers with him, and of the reinforcements and artillery that were expected; but he told them that if they would surrender they would not be harmed. The Kentuckians knew that their rude fortifications could not withstand cannon; but they could not be intimidated.

One of their young men, Aaron Reynolds, answered Girty in a bold, bantering spirit that won the admiration of his associates. He assured Girty that they were not at all afraid of his artillery or of his

numbers; that, as for the latter, all the country was coming to their assistance. Girty knew this, as did the Indians, and they concluded it would be the part of wisdom to leave; but they did all the injury possible, destroying the fields and killing hundreds of cattle, sheep, and hogs. On the following morning, they took their departure, having had five of their number slain and several wounded. Four of the whites were killed, and three injured.

It did not take long to gather the riflemen of Kentucky. They answered the summons for assistance as hurriedly as did the clansmen of Scotland the signal of the “fiery cross.”¹

Gathering of the riflemen

On the afternoon of the day the Indians left Bryan's Station, 182 men, many of them commissioned officers, mustered there under the command of Colonel John Todd, the ranking officer of Kentucky, Lieutenant Colonels Trigg and Boone, and Majors McGary, Harlan, and Levi Todd. Without waiting for Colonel Logan, who was to follow as soon as possible with the forces of Lincoln County, they pushed on the trail of the Indians, and overtook them near the Blue Licks, on the morning of August 19. They halted and held a council of war. The Licking River lay between them and the enemy. Should they cross and open the attack at once, or should they await the arrival of Logan's troops?

The prudent decision was cast in favor of the latter course, when Major McGary, an impulsive man, filled with a passionate hatred of all Indians because his son had been killed by some of them, plunged forward into the river, waving

Battle of the Blue Licks

his hat over his head and shouting: “Let all who are not cowards follow me!” Immediately, as if fired by his taunt, the impatient troops rushed after him. The sober officers had no alternative but to follow. Soon the battle began. From the first the advantage was with the enemy, because of superior numbers. Colonel Trigg was killed, then Harlan with nearly all his advance guard was swept away. John Todd and

1. In the border warfare of Scotland, “an ancient method of gathering the people was by sending the ‘fiery cross’ through the country. This mysterious symbol of haste and danger was formed of yew, first set on fire and then quenched in the blood of a goat. Every man who received it was bound to pass on with it through torrents, or over mountains, by day or night until another took it off his hands.” See, also, The Gathering, III. Canto, *The Lady of the Lake*.

Boone tried to rally the men, until Todd himself was shot down. Then a wild panic took place. Leaving the dead on the field of battle, every one attempted to escape.

The fighting had lasted only about five minutes, and in that time the Kentuckians had lost seventy of their bravest soldiers, twelve had been wounded, and seven captured. The loss on the other side was insignificant in comparison. Several days later, Colonel Logan arrived at the scene of the



McGary in the River

After the battle

Nothing remained to do but to bury the dead where they had fallen. By the rash act of one man was brought about the greatest disaster that had ever befallen Kentucky.

tragedy with four hundred men, — a force large enough to have completely overwhelmed the Indians.

But all was over now.

It is impossible to describe the anguish of that time. Sorrow and wailing prevailed everywhere. For weeks the women could not be consoled. But the unconquerable Kentuckians did not long rest in their mourning. The blow must be retaliated. Troops quickly gathered at the Falls under Colonel Floyd and at Bryan's Station under Colonel Logan. Uniting at the mouth of the Licking under General Clark, they marched rapidly into the Indian country. On the 10th of November, 1782, the Miami towns were burnt to the

ground. Warning had been given the Indians, and they escaped into the woods; but all their valuable property was destroyed. From village to village, the mighty force of Kentuckians swept with their desolating firebrands. At last the Indians were conquered. Though, for ten years longer, occasionally a few straggling savages would disturb the security of the settlers, Kentucky never again suffered any serious Indian invasion.

RECAPITULATION

- Kentucky county divided.
- Jefferson, Fayette, and Lincoln counties.
- Military officers and surveyors appointed.
- Great eagerness to obtain lands.
- Indians preparing for war.
- Samuel Wells's magnanimity.
- Estill pursues a band of Indians.
- A young girl killed at his fort.
- Indians overtaken near Mount Sterling.
- Estill's defeat.
- McGee and Caldwell's army of over one thousand Indians.
- A false alarm changes the course of the army.
- A smaller force marches into Kentucky.
- Attack on Bryan's Station.
- Heroic women supply the fort with water.
- The siege begun.
- Runners summon assistance.
- Indians fail to burn the fort.
- Girty attempts to frighten the men into surrendering.
- Aaron Reynolds's fearless answer.
- Indians do great damage before departing.
- The riflemen of Kentucky gather.
- One hundred and eighty-two men at Bryan's Station.
- The officers of the company.
- The Indians are pursued.
- Council of war held.
- A prudent decision made.
- McGary's rash act.
- Battle of the Blue Licks.

DIVISION OF THE COUNTY

- Terrible slaughter of the whites.
- Great anguish caused.
- The blow retaliated.
- Village after village destroyed.
- The Indians are conquered.
- No more serious invasions of Kentucky.

II – THE STRUGGLE FOR INDEPENDENCE, 1782-1792

CHAPTER V

THE DISTRICT OF KENTUCKY, 1782-1784

Beyond the borders of Kentucky, the Confederated Colonies were passing through their victorious conflict for independence from Great Britain – six terrible years of ceaseless warfare from the battle at Lexington, 1775, to the surrender of Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown, 1781. Cut off from the East by the high wall of the Cumberland Mountains, separated from the neighboring regions of the Northeast, the North, and the West by a connected system of waters, Kentucky was waging alone, unaided by continental arms and continental supplies, an equally terrible conflict. In the history of this era, too little recognition has been made of this struggle, whose successful issue gave to the nation a strong, faithful State, and opened the way for the conquest of the vast, rich West.

Kentucky's struggle for existence

At Paris, France, on the 30th of November, 1782, the preliminary treaty of peace between the United States and Great Britain was signed. There were no ocean cables in those days, no telegraph lines, no railroads, no postal service. Slowly the news reached the faraway land of Kentucky, told by traveler to traveler, or written in letters which were borne to friends by immigrants to the country. But early in the following spring the cheering fact was known.

Peace with England

At this time there were less than thirty thousand people in Kentucky. Now the growth became very rapid. By 1790, the population had increased to more than seventy-five thousand. The long war which had just closed had left the Atlantic States impoverished. The fertile lands of Kentucky offered an alluring prospect to families

Immigration to Kentucky

whose fortunes had been thus injured. From Virginia, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and the Carolinas, especially from Virginia, came this great influx of people to Kentucky. Of course there were some men among them of low character and slender ability; but the majority of them were clever, educated people of moral strength, who were notable even in that most remarkable epoch of American history.

Among them were officers whose military genius had hastened the victory of the Revolution; soldiers whose unselfish loyalty had aided the cause; and young men of talent, fresh from the colleges of the East. Their names will fill the pages of the following period. The men whose rare courage and entertaining adventures stirred us in the story of the pioneer days, have passed away; either death has come to them, or they have finished their great work. Only one or two recur in the narrative of the public affairs of the new era opening before us.

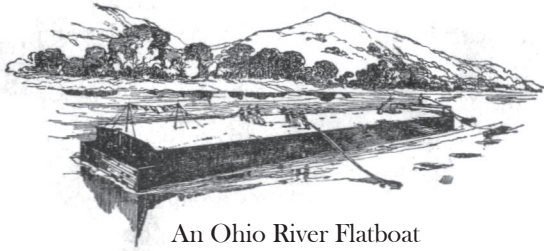
By an act of the Virginia legislature the three counties, Jefferson, Fayette, and Lincoln, were united in 1783 and Kentucky District was established. A district court was erected, and John Floyd, Samuel McDowell, and George Muter were appointed judges. Walker Daniel was also commissioned attorney-general, and John May was selected to be the clerk of the court.

Kentucky District established

Shortly after his appointment, John Floyd, the vigorous, intellectual pioneer, was killed by an Indian. He had fought, unscathed, through the terrible border wars, and now, in the time of peace, riding unguardedly in the woods near his home, wearing his scarlet wedding coat, – a definite mark for the savages, – he received his death wound. It is a curious coincidence that two other members of this dis-

The District Judges

trict court, pioneers like Floyd, met a similar death, — Walker Daniel in 1784, John May in 1790. The other judges were Virginians, whom the close of the war brought to Kentucky. They had been officers in the Revolution and each bore the rank of colonel. Their recognized worth and ability are indicated by their appointment to this position of trust and dignity. We shall have need to refer to them frequently in the following pages.



An Ohio River Flatboat

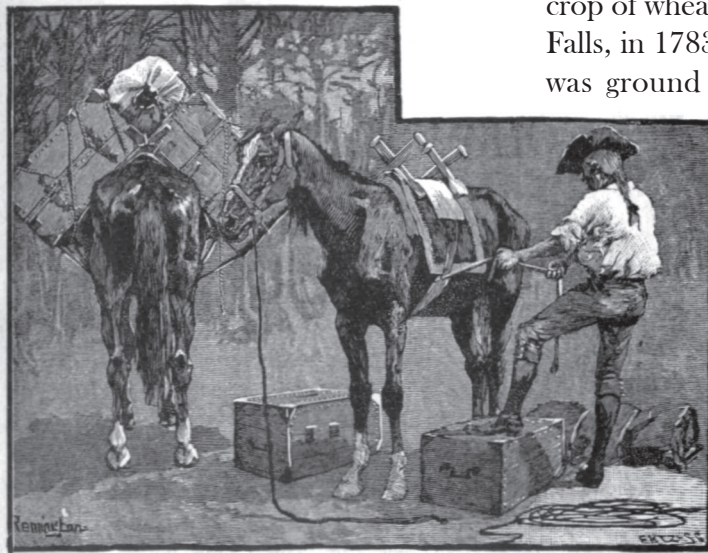
On the third day of March, 1783, the court was opened at Harrodsburg; but there being no house

Founding of Danville

large enough at that place for its accommodation, it adjourned to a church six miles away. One of its first

official acts was to order a log courthouse to be built at some place near Crow's Station (about ten miles from Harrodsburg), and a jail also, of "hewed or sawed logs at least nine inches thick." The location was wisely chosen; it was on the Wilderness Road, the great high-

way through Kentucky, and within the famous Blue Grass region. From this judicial beginning grew the town of Danville, which became the seat and center of all the public affairs of the District, and whose



Pack Horses

early history suggests so many picturesque and interesting events. Each town in Kentucky has its particular tone. Danville may be characterized as sober and

intellectual, self-respecting in the management of its own affairs, and unworldly.

Security and hope prevailed in Kentucky District, and its reputation increased abroad. Flatboats filled with immigrants were constantly landing at the Falls (Louisville), in the northwestern part of the settled region, and at Limestone (now Maysville), in the northeast. Heavily laden pack horses brought a continuous stream of settlers through Cumberland Gap, over the Wilderness Road.

Prosperity

At Louisville, Daniel Brodhead, an officer in the Revolution, who had recently come to Kentucky, opened a shop where all kinds of goods, imported from Philadelphia, were sold. The

Brodhead's store

home-woven cotton gowns and sunbonnets were replaced by gay-figured calicoes and straw bonnets. There were also more costly articles for gala days, — silks and parasols for the maidens, broadcloths and silk stockings for the men. A Frenchman, landing at the Falls in 1784, described a party of young people that he saw thus attired starting off for an excursion on the river.

There is on record, also, an account of a party given by Mrs. Martha Donne to celebrate the first crop of wheat raised at the Falls, in 1783. The wheat was ground with a hand mill, sifted

Early merry-makings

through a cambric handkerchief which Mistress Martha had brought from Philadelphia, shortened with raccoon fat, baked, and served for the refreshment of the guests. Thus early the town of Louisville took on its brilliant, fashionable, hospitable tone.

In February, 1784, General James Wilkinson made his advent into Lexington as the representative of a mercantile firm in Philadelphia of which he

James Wilkinson's advent

was the head. Wilkinson was brilliant in mind and

affable in manner, but corrupt in morals and selfish in character. He acted an important part in the political events of the period. Wilkinson's shop, like Brodhead's, was a great advantage to the neighboring region.

At this time there were eight towns in Kentucky: Louisville and

Lexington's position

Bardstown, in Jefferson County; Harrodsburg,

Boonesborough, and Danville, in Lincoln County; and Lexington, Leestown, and Greenville, in Fayette

County. Of these, Lexington was the largest. Never rapid, but always steady in growth, Lexington was advancing into that substantial business and social position which she has maintained until the present day. Her early interest in all things intellectual caused her to become the center of the literary culture of the District, and gave to her the title, — in the high-sounding phraseology of the time, — Athens of the West.

Here John Filson¹ wrote the first history of Kentucky, which was likewise the first history of any portion of that vast region lying west of the Alleghanies. The fame of the "happy climate and plentiful soil" of Kentucky had reached Filson in his home in southern Pennsylvania, and he went thither



James Wilkinson

death in 1788. Shortly before that time, he had entered into a partnership with Matthias Denman and Colonel Robert Patterson

John Filson

(one of the founders of Lexington) to lay off a town where the present city of Cincinnati stands. Filson brought his Greek, Latin, and French knowledge into use to coin a name for his town: Losantiville — *the city opposite the mouth of the Licking*. While out surveying, he became separated from his companions and was never again seen.

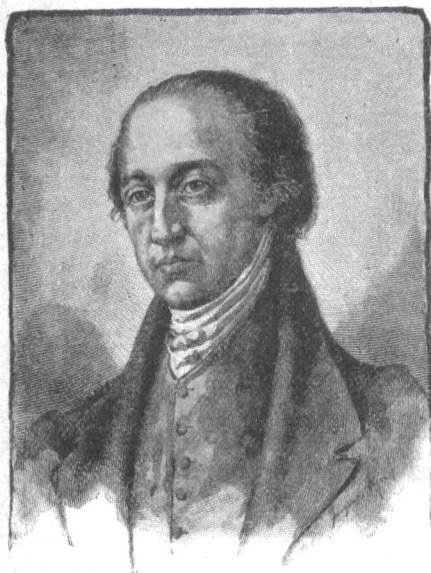
He was either killed by savage Indians, or by beasts of the forest.

Filson gained the information for his history, and the map with which it is illustrated, from a close intercourse with Daniel Boone, Levi Todd, James Harrod, Christopher Greenup, John Cowan, and William Kennedy,

First history of Kentucky

whose "distinguished assistance" he gratefully acknowledges. Beside the map, the history is made further entertaining by a narrative of "The Adventures of Colonel Daniel Boone," which the author learned from the old pioneer himself. There was no printing press in Kentucky at that time, so Filson carried the manuscript of the history to Wilmington, Delaware, and that of the map to Philadelphia, where the book was published in 1784. One year later it was translated into French by M. Parraud, and published in Paris. This little book is now very rare and valuable.

We have noticed the early desire of Kentuckians for education. Thus far, all that had been possible were little private schools held within the stations. Now we are to learn something of the first school or college in the West. In 1780, the Virginia legislature passed an act to establish such a school in Kentucky as soon as the condition of the country should permit. An endowment of eight thousand acres of land was given to it and thirteen trustees were appointed. In 1783, the trustees were increased to



John Filson

to secure lands for himself. This was probably in the year 1782, when he was about thirty-six years old. He was a schoolmaster, and very well educated except in the matter of spelling and the use of capitals. He led a roaming, stirring life until his

1. *The Life of John Filson*. By Reuben T. Durrett. Filson Club Publication No. 1.

twenty-five and the endowment of land to twenty thousand acres. The school was to be called Transylvania

Transylvania University founded

The trustees were influential men in the District. The names of those who attended the first meeting have been preserved for us. They are John Craig, Walker Daniel, Willis Green, Christopher Greenup, Robert Johnson, Samuel McDowell, David Rice, James Speed, Isaac Shelby, and Caleb Wallace. The Reverend David Rice was elected chairman of the board. "Father Rice," as he was commonly called, had lately arrived in Kentucky from Virginia. He was the first Presbyterian preacher in the District, an

Seminary, and the trustees were to hold their first meeting at Crow's Station (Danville) the second Monday in November of that

earnest man, and well educated for that day, being a graduate of Nassau Hall, afterward Princeton College.

At this first meeting, the trustees did little but grow more enthusiastic concerning the advantages of education. Their uncultivated lands gave them no money with which either to buy a schoolhouse or to pay teachers. Two years later, however, the seminary was opened at the home of the chairman, near Danville, and, in 1788, it was removed to Lexington. Before long, theological differences arose in the school, and, in 1796, the Presbyterians withdrew their support and established Kentucky Academy, at Pisgah. But in 1798 all disagreements were adjusted, and the rival institutions were united at Lexington under the name "Transylvania University."

RECAPITULATION

- Kentucky's unaided struggle during the Revolution era.
- Her important service to the nation.
- Treaty of peace, November 30, 1782, proclaimed in Kentucky the following spring.
- High class of immigrants.
- Pioneers pass away.
- New names appear in public affairs.
- Kentucky District established, 1783.
- Samuel McDowell and George Muter.
- Floyd, Daniel, and May murdered by Indians.
- Court opened at Harrodsburg.
- Removed to Crow's Station.
- Danville founded.
- Characteristics of Danville.
- Prosperity in the District.
- Brodhead's store.
- Louisville's flourishing condition.
- Wilkinson's arrival in Kentucky.
- Lexington's substantial position.
- John Filson comes to Kentucky.
- Filson's first history of the region.
- Transylvania Seminary established.
- Becomes Transylvania University.

CHAPTER VI

BEGINNING OF THE STRUGGLE, 1784-1786

The security of the Kentuckians was beginning to be disturbed. The country which the Americans wrested from Great Britain consisted of the Atlantic States, extending from Canada to the thirty-first degree of latitude, and Kentucky and the Illinois country, which the pioneers had won. Off in the Northwest, — far away then, but now at the very threshold of that vast region, which has become thickly settled, — at and about Detroit, the British still held the military stations which they had gained from the French. In their treaty of peace with the United States the British had promised to surrender these posts; but, because of certain complications, they now refused to comply with their agreement.

When the news of this fact reached Kentucky, great fears of Indian hostilities were felt. We have learned that the Indians had been instigated to attacks upon the Kentuckians by the British. If the British still held stations in America, then the Indians would still be urged to warfare. Virginia was far away from Kentucky — too far to send her assistance in time of trouble. But as Kentucky was not independent, no military expedition could be undertaken beyond the borders of the District unless so ordered by the Virginia government. The question of asking for separation from Virginia was continually discussed.

The Congress of the Confederation of States did not advise any attempt to exterminate the Indians; but recommended a peaceful course of action toward them. To this end, commissioners were appointed to treat with the various tribes to induce them to recognize the authority of the victorious States. But certain Indians on the east of the Miami River,

who had been induced against their will to enter into a treaty, still retained their animosity toward the Kentuckians; and certain others farther to the west, who had never entered into any treaty, were likewise inflamed at the thought of the Americans possessing their lands. Furthermore, lawless men in Kentucky, who believed there could be no good in any Indian and that it was never well to let one live, would sometimes kill those that were harmless. The revengeful savages retaliated by murdering innocent white men.

Information came to Colonel Benjamin Logan that a serious invasion by the Cherokees might be expected. General Clark had been retired. Colonel Logan was now the ranking officer of Kentucky. Accordingly, in November, 1784, he called, at Danville, an informal meeting of the military officers of the District, to consider the manner of resisting the anticipated attack. This meeting agreed that the Kentuckians must passively await the inroads of the savages, as they had no authority among themselves to order an expedition into the Indian country in order to repel the invasion. Therefore it was resolved that it would be wise to call for the election of one delegate from each of the militia companies in the District, who should meet in convention to consider the subject of seeking independence from Virginia.

As there was no printing press in Kentucky, a circular address setting forth facts was many times copied and distributed among the people. We can picture the Kentuckians, chafing under a sense of restraint as they alertly listened for the war whoop of the Indians.

Causes of Indian hostilities

Meeting of military officers

Military posts in the Northwest

Indian hostilities anticipated

At Danville, on December 27, 1784, the first convention for separation met, and decided by a large majority that the dangers to which the District was subject could be remedied only by its becoming an independent State. But the subject as it presented itself to the people at that time was one of grave importance. It demanded calm, deliberate action. Therefore a second convention was called for May 23, 1785.

First convention for independence

The second convention duly assembled at Danville and elected Judge Samuel McDowell president, and Thomas Todd secretary. The matter was again presented and considered the most earnest deliberation, and it was again decided that separation was necessary. A petition to the Virginia Assembly was prepared as well as an address to the people of the District. The former was calm, the latter inflaming in tone. It was written by General James Wilkinson; he was not a member of the convention, but his brilliant, florid style had won him the admiration of the Kentuckians. The convention had full power to apply immediately to Virginia for action in the matter; but with surprising caution it forbore to do this, and, in order that the will of the people might be known positively, called for a third convention to ratify what had already been done.

Second convention for independence

Kentuckians, when they act individually, are generally impulsive, often hot-tempered and rash in their deeds; when they act in concert, they are deliberate, prudent, and wise in their decisions. They are people of intellect. The individual standing alone acts from emotion before he has time to think. The individual as a part of a body of men cannot act on his own impulse. Thus opportunity is gained for reason to assert itself and to as-

Prudence of the Kentuckians



Samuel McDowell

sume control. This fact should be borne in mind; the truth of it will be proved as we continue.

The third convention assembled in August, 1785, and elected the same president and secretary that had served in the former conventions, — Samuel McDowell and Thomas Todd. They were reelected at each succeeding convention. Wilkinson managed to have himself elected a member, and now began his scheming, dazzling career in Kentucky. The calm petition to the Virginia Assembly was discarded for one he prepared, “which was less a petition than a demand.” The chief justice of the District, George Muter, and the attorney-general, Harry Innes, were appointed to present this petition to the Virginia Assembly.

Third convention

In spite of the tone of the petition, the State of Virginia passed an act setting forth the conditions upon which the separation might take place. They were as follows: Delegates were to be elected to a

First act of separation

fourth convention, which should meet in Danville, September, 1786, to determine whether it was the will of the people of the District to be erected into an independent State. If such were their will, they were to fix upon a date later than September 1, 1787, when the authority of Virginia should forever cease. But this was to take place provided “that prior to the 1st day of June, 1787, the United States in Congress assembled shall consent to the erection of the said District into an independent State, and shall agree that the new State shall be admitted into the Federal Union.”

The majority of Kentuckians regarded this act of the Virginia assembly as reasonable, and submissively bore the delay in the longed-for separation. But there were others who received it with opposition, and in whom it caused the greatest irritation. Of these Wilkinson was the recognized leader. The party he represented was called the Court party, on account of the official position of its members. Wilkinson now offered himself as a candidate for delegate from Fayette County to the

Court and Country parties

fourth convention. Humphrey Marshall, a representative of the opposite faction, which was called the Country party, was the contending candidate.

Great excitement prevailed in this county. The elections were not then conducted as rapidly as they are today, — they lasted five days. On the first day, Wilkinson was put forward by his friends to speak to the people. He urged them to disregard the act of Virginia and to declare themselves independent at once. Marshall answered him in a sensible, logical speech. Wilkinson's speech was, as usual, showy and oratorical. The election closed, and Wilkinson was found to have obtained the larger number of votes.

The great dreaded Indian invasion did not take place; but serious distress was caused throughout the District by petty depredations of small parties of Indians. The Kentuckians complained to Virginia, and Virginia petitioned Congress to raise troops to protect this frontier region. But at the time about which we are studying, the Congress of the Confederation of States was not so powerful a body as the Congress of today. It

Self-protection authorized

out the District by petty depredations of small parties of Indians. The Kentuckians complained to Virginia, and Virginia petitioned Congress to raise troops to protect this frontier region. But at the time about which we are studying, the Congress of the Confederation of States was not so powerful a body as the Congress of today. It



Indian Depredations

could do little more than recommend certain measures to the different States; it had no ability to cause them to be carried out. However, Congress granted the Kentuckians the privilege of protecting themselves.

In accordance with this permission, early in September, 1786, more than one thousand troops collected at Clarkesville (opposite Louisville), with the intention of attacking the Wabash Indians living in the present State of Indiana. They were organized under General George Rogers Clark. Colonel Benjamin Logan was sent back to Kentucky to raise volunteers for an expedition against the Shawnee Indians living in the present State of Ohio. Logan quickly secured four or five hundred men. With this force he proceeded to the Indian towns on the Mad River, burned them to the ground, and took seventy or eighty prisoners. He returned in twenty days, after a successful expedition. Unfortunately, General Clark's expedition proved fruitless. The provisions were delayed on their way to Vincennes, where his troops were stationed. Insubordination took place. The great general had lost control over the men who served under him, and many of them deserted.

Expeditions of Clark and Logan

When the time came for the fourth convention to assemble, so many of the delegates were absent with Clark and Logan that a quorum could not be obtained. Those who were at home, however, met every day, and adjourned until the following January, when the necessary number were present. The condition required by the Virginia Assembly for the separation was that prior to the first day of June, 1787, the Congress of the United States should have agreed to admit the new State into the Federal Union. It was now too short a time, in those days of slow travel, for the Kentuckians to take the necessary steps toward this end. Therefore, they petitioned the Virginia Assembly to alter that clause in the act. Their petition was presented by John Marshall (afterward the great chief justice), who strongly urged his request. But the Assembly did not see fit to grant it. Consequently, another act was passed which fixed the time for the separation to take place as January 1, 1789, instead of September 1, 1787.

Postponement of separation

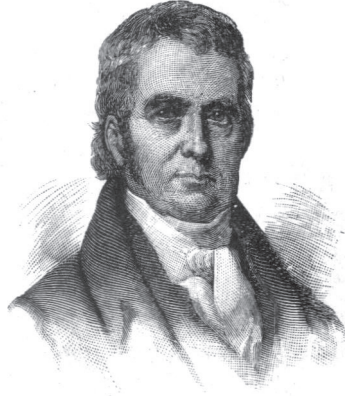
John Marshall's letter bearing this fact reached Danville while the convention was still as-

sembled. It is needless to describe the disappointment it brought the Kentuckians. Virginia had acted

Result of the disappointment

as seemed to her right; but we can well understand how her long postponement of the separation might have appeared to restless men, impatient of delay, like indifference to their sufferings. Throughout the District, there was a growing resentment towards Virginia. This was inflamed by certain ambitious politicians, notably by General Wilkinson. But in spite of the passions of some, reason and dignity controlled the meeting, and it adjourned submissive to the act of Virginia. Another convention had been ordered for the following September.

Shortly after this, another incident occurred which led to further distrust of Virginia's good feeling toward Kentucky: A man was killed by Indians in Lincoln county. Benjamin Logan, the commandant of that county, was absent; but his brother quickly raised a company and pursued the murderers into Tennessee. The Indians were overtaken, several of



John Marshall

them were slain, and the horses they had stolen were captured. On pushed the victorious Logan and his

men, like heroes of the Round Table, seeking further adventures. They discovered the trail of another band of Indians, came upon them, killed seven, and captured their horses and game.

Virginia misunderstood

Now it happened that these latter were peaceable tribes living under a treaty with the United States. Intense wrath consequently prevailed among the Indians. They complained to the governor of Virginia, and he directed the attorney-general of the District, Harry Innes, to take the necessary steps "to prevent and punish, if possible, all unjust violences." As this very reasonable direction was many times repeated it became exaggerated. Thus it came about that numbers of people in the District honestly believed that Virginia had commanded them not to protect themselves from the barbarities of the Indians. The Kentuckians were now about to enter a trial that would reveal their character.

RECAPITULATION

- Treaty of peace not fulfilled.
- Military posts in the Northwest still held by Great Britain.
- Fears of Indian sieges felt in Kentucky.
- The Indians are aided by the British.
- Kentucky's dependent position.
- Separation from Virginia discussed.
- Miami and other Indians are hostile.
- Lawless Kentuckians cause trouble.
- Great Indian invasion dreaded.
- Colonel Logan's called meeting of military officers.
- They order an election of delegates to a convention.
- First convention meets at Danville.
- Considers separation from Virginia desirable.
- Another convention called.
- Second convention considers separation necessary, and prepares a petition to the Virginia assembly.
- Wilkinson prepares the address to the people.
- The convention shows rare caution.
- Character of Kentuckians.
- A third convention held.
- Virginia passes the first act for separation.
- The act not satisfactory to many Kentuckians.
- Court and Country parties.
- Wilkinson advocates illegal separation.
- Congress allows Kentucky to protect herself from Indian inroads.
- Clark's expedition unsuccessful; Logan's successful.

BEGINNING OF THE STRUGGLE

- Fourth convention set for September, 1786.
- No quorum obtained.
- Meets and adjourns every day until January.
- Too late then to comply with the conditions of the act.
- Virginia petitioned to alter the act.
- She refuses, but passes another act.
- John Marshall informs the convention of this fact.
- Kentuckians grievously disappointed.
- Some resent Virginia's course toward Kentucky.
- The convention submits.
- John Logan's expedition causes trouble.
- Virginia forbids all unjust violences towards Indians.
- Virginia's action is misunderstood by many.
- Her good feeling toward Kentucky is momentarily doubted.

CHAPTER VII

THE SPANISH CONSPIRACY, 1786-1788

The southern territory of the United States extended to the 31st degree of latitude. Below this line the Spanish still held the dominion they had exercised since the discovery of the continent. In 1513, Ponce de Leon landed on the southeastern coast, and claimed in the name of the Spanish king a region of indefinite extent, to which he gave the name of Florida. Here he planted a short-lived colony, composed of men who had come to drink of the fabulous fountain of immortal youth. Through this region the intrepid and ambitious De Soto had led his deluded followers in their hopeless search for gold, only to find his grave in the Mississippi River. Here the Huguenots had sought refuge from religious persecutions in France, and here Menendez had established the first permanent Spanish colony at St. Augustine, in 1565, years before the English had settled at Jamestown or the Pilgrim fathers had landed at Plymouth. It was a land of warmth and beauty, of luxuriant vegetation, of stagnating civilization. Soon the vigorous Americans were to drive out their weaker neighbors, but not before the Spanish king had made an adroit effort to hold and increase his dominions in the New World.

Spanish possessions lay on both sides of the Mississippi River. The United States demanded the right to navigate that river. Spain refused to concede this privilege. John Jay, of New York, secretary for foreign affairs, was most anxious to conclude a treaty with Spain. Furthermore, he was ignorant of the great growth of the Western Country, as Kentucky and the neighboring region was then called. In the summer of 1786, he went before congress and proposed a "project" which he hoped would bring about the desired treaty. It was this: that the United

Spanish dominions

Jay's proposition

States should agree to forbear to navigate the Mississippi below the southern boundary for twenty or thirty years. To this the seven northern States voted in the affirmative, the six southern States, in the negative; and Virginia immediately passed resolutions in opposition to the proposition. It required the concurrence of nine States to carry such a motion. Nevertheless, Mr. Jay, acting upon the decision of the majority, made his proposition to Gardoqui, the Spanish minister; but it was rejected with scorn.



John Jay

These transactions took place in faraway New York. There were only a few citizens in Kentucky who knew of them shortly after their occurrence. Most of the people were in ignorance of the truth concerning them. The action of Congress was misrepresented. Already Wilkinson had done much to inflame the people against the Federal government. Excitement in the District was rising to a high degree. There was no other way of transportation except by water. Kentucky's present and future prosperity seemed to depend upon her being able to carry her products on the Ohio River into the Mississippi, and thus to the markets of the world. It was the subject of vital importance. A meeting of citizens was held at Danville in May, 1787, to discuss the navigation question.

Kentucky's reception of the action of Congress

In the early summer, Wilkinson gathered together all the tobacco and other products he could buy, and went to New Orleans, ostensibly on a trading expedition. His real object, however, was to offer his services to Spain in order to restore his now reduced fortune. If he failed in this effort, his inten-

tion was to turn to England for the same purpose. At New Orleans, an order was given to seize his cargo;

The Spanish conspiracy

but the cunning general sought an interview with Miro, the Spanish governor of the province. He explained his visit. Then he was treated with the utmost courtesy. He was allowed to sell his goods, for which a high price was paid; and permission was granted to him to ship goods to New Orleans for sale.

The evidence goes to prove that then and there Wilkinson sold himself to Spain.¹ He bound himself to use all the influence in his power (and that influence was great) "to obtain the separation of Kentucky from the United States, and then to deliver the District thus separated into the hands of his Majesty the King of Spain, to become a province of that power." All privileges of trade were granted to Wilkinson, in order that he might prove to the people of Kentucky the advantages they would obtain by becoming Spanish subjects. A large sum of money was now advanced to him, and in the following February he returned to Lexington, to display the success of his trading venture, in a carriage drawn by four horses, and accompanied by slaves as attendants. He gave brilliant balls, and the young people danced and



Wilkinson's Return to Lexington

praised the gallant host; he gave fine dinners, and in the midst of the good cheer and flashing conversa-

tion the older men applauded the captivating politician.

In the meantime, a most notable undertaking had been accomplished. On the 18th day of August, 1787, John and Fielding Bradford issued at Lexington the first news paper published in Kentucky, and the second west of the Alleghanies, to which they gave the name *Kentucke Gazette*

The Kentucke Gazette

Accustomed as we are to a multiplicity of journals containing a wide range of information, it is hard for us to realize the general satisfaction and rejoicing occasioned by the appearance of this meager, quaint little sheet, still reverently preserved in the public library at Lexington.



Early Printing Press

During Wilkinson's absence, the fifth convention assembled, September 17, 1787. It held a quiet session, and adjourned submissive to the act of Virginia, after having prepared a petition to Congress, in which the 31st of December, 1788, was fixed upon as the time when the authority of Virginia over Kentucky should terminate. The people of the District were now informed of the proceedings of the convention through the columns of the *Gazette*.

The fifth convention

John Brown was commissioned to present to Congress Kentucky's application for admission into the Confederation of States, by which name the thirteen original colonies were first called. John

John Brown

Brown,² the son of a Presbyterian clergyman of Augusta County, Virginia, had come to Kentucky in 1783, the year which brought over so many men who acted important parts in the public affairs of the period. He had been a member from the District in the Virginia Senate, and was now going to take his seat in Congress, to which he had just been appointed.

1. *The Spanish Conspiracy*. By Thomas Marshall Green.
 2. *The Political Beginnings of Kentucky*. By John Mason Brown.

Unfortunately, no quorum in Congress was obtained until late in January, 1788. Kentucky's application was not presented until the 29th of February.

From the opening of Congress the absorbing interest had been the question of adoption of the new Federal constitution, which had recently been prepared and offered to the several States to be voted upon. It was a topic of deep importance. If this constitution were adopted, — its supporters wisely foresaw, — a new, strong Union would be established in place of the old, weak Confederation then existing. No attention was paid to Kentucky's application until the end of May. While Congress was slowly considering this all-important matter for Kentucky, news was received that New Hampshire had voted in favor of the constitution. Nine states — enough to cause the adoption — were now secured, and Virginia was soon to add her ratification. Of the Kentucky delegates in the Virginia Assembly only three voted in the affirmative. They were Robert Breckinridge, Rice Bullock, and Humphrey Marshall.

In Kentucky the new constitution did not meet with hearty acceptance. This fact was due to a misapprehension of the situation. The people were afraid that if a stronger central government were established, their right to the navigation of the Mississippi would be bartered away in order to secure a treaty with Spain. The different points contained in it were freely discussed, night after night, at the meeting of the Political Club, an organization that was founded in Danville in 1786, and existed until 1790. Many of the prominent citizens of the neighborhood were members of the club, and matters of vital interest to the District were considered by them with an ability that proves the Kentuckians of that time to have been a remarkable people. The minutes of the club, which were carefully preserved by the secretary, Thomas Speed, have recently been published.

As the new constitution was now adopted, the Congress of the old Confederation, then in session, resolved that it had no authority to act upon the application of Kentucky. It was therefore referred to

the consideration of the new government. The resolutions were conveyed to the sixth convention, assembled at Danville, July 28, 1788. About the same time, a letter was received by Judge Samuel McDowell, the president of the convention, from John Brown, the congressman, which contained information concerning the act of Congress, and also an account of an interview Brown had had with Gardoqui, the Spanish minister. In this conversation the Spaniard had "stated that if the people of Kentucky would erect themselves into an independent State and appoint a proper person to negotiate with him, he had authority for that purpose, and would enter into an arrangement with them for the exportation of their produce to New Orleans on terms of mutual advantage."

It is not surprising that the acts of Congress created the utmost disappointment in Kentucky, after the tedious, now useless efforts which had been made to obtain independence. They did more, — they heightened the resentment of some of the people, and increased their doubt of the good disposition of the central government toward them. The northern States had been indifferent to the welfare of the Western Country, and there were many disinterested though unwise men in Kentucky, who were exasperated at the slow action of Congress in their affairs. Recognizing the necessity of the District's becoming an independent State, and the value of the permission to navigate the Mississippi River, they were willing to resort to revolutionary means in order to obtain these advantages. But there were others who had no thought of the good of the community, and acted solely from selfish interest. Whatever conflicting views may be held regarding the motives of some during this most confusing period, there can be no doubt of the falsity of Wilkinson and Sebastian, — they are self-convicted. There was another class, to whom too much honor cannot be given, — those who in the midst of the excited passions of the time remained loyal to the government of the United States. The two former classes

Constitution adopted

Application referred to new Congress

The Political Club

Three classes in Kentucky

1. *The Political Club*. By Thomas Speed. Filson Club Publication No. 9.

belonged to the Court party; the latter, to the Country party.

Still that controlling spirit of wise moderation (which has been pointed out in the second chapter of this period) held the convention back from any rash act. However, as an outgrowth of the prevailing excitement, it called for the election of delegates to a seventh convention, who should be empowered "to do and accomplish whatever, on a consideration of the state of the District, may in their opinion promote its interest." Now was Wilkinson's opportunity to lead the people to believe that it would "promote their interests" to become Spanish subjects; but like all schemers he worked slyly, never openly.

Before the election of delegates to the seventh conventions, George Muter, chief justice of the District, published in the *Gazette* an address to the people. He proved that they had no authority to act for themselves independently of Virginia, and that by so doing they would be guilty of treason. He pointed out the evident meaning of the resolution of the late convention. He showed that it clearly gave to the delegates of the next convention power to treat with Spain to obtain the navigation of the Mississippi. He proved that such action would be contrary to the Federal constitution, and he therefore suggested to the people of the Fayette County that they should instruct their next delegates not to agree to frame a constitution and form of government without first obtaining the consent of the Virginia legislature and not to make any application for the navigation of the Mississippi other than to the legislature of Virginia or to the Congress of the United States.

This had the desired effect. The contest in the other counties was quiet; but in Fayette it was attended by great excitement. As usual, the election lasted five days. It became evident that the Country party was going to be completely victorious. The ever adroit Wilkinson, one of the candidates of the Court party, perceived the situation, and promptly

Temper of the sixth convention

Judge Muter's address

The Fayette election

announced that he would be guided by the wishes of his constituents. This promise and his great popularity secured his election, while his associates were defeated. The other four delegates chosen were John Allen, Colonel Joseph Crockett, Colonel Thomas Marshall, and Judge Muter.

The seventh convention assembled November 4, 1788. The most vital question in the life of Kentucky was about to be decided: whether she should determine to submit to the recent act of Congress and take the necessary legal steps to obtain her separation from Virginia and admittance into the Union, or whether she should determine to separate herself illegally from Virginia and erect herself an independent State. If the latter course were followed, the Spanish government had a good chance to obtain control of Kentucky.

The forces in the convention were drawn up against each other. Let it not be supposed, however, that all those who favored violent separation from Virginia knew of, or sympathized with, Wilkinson's scheme to make Kentucky a Spanish province. At the outset a discussion arose as the power which the convention possessed. The Court party contended that it had all power necessary to frame a constitution, to declare the District independent, etc. The Country party, on the contrary, strongly opposed every argument of this nature.

Upon the day following this discussion Wilkinson made a speech before the convention. He dwelt freely upon the dangers of Indian hostilities, and described brilliantly the advantages of the navigation of the Mississippi River, and pointed out the inability of Congress to obtain for Kentucky this benefit. He openly advocated the violent separation of Kentucky from Virginia; but he only hinted at his real scheme, — to deliver Kentucky when thus separated into the hands of the Spanish government. And all the while he watched the faces of his hearers to see what effect his adroit suggestions would have upon them. If he discovered satisfaction on their countenances, he would go further and declare his plan; if

Seventh convention

Wilkinson's speech

he discovered disapproval, he had not committed himself in words, and he could yet retreat.

The majority of the convention were not only indisposed to listen to any overtures from Spain, but

Loyalty of the convention

they were decidedly loyal to the government of the United States, and opposed to an illegal separation from Virginia.

Wilkinson misunderstood the Kentuckians. They applauded his showy oratory, but they were independent in action and staunch in principle. They were thoroughly aroused to an appreciation of the dangers which might arise from their dependent position, and of the fatal results of the Mississippi being closed to them. And yet they nobly resisted the temptation of benefits offered to them by Spain, and remained loyal to the country for which they had fought, and had been ready to give their lives.

In the revulsion of feeling created by the sentiments thus boldly advocated by Wilkinson a resolution, offered by John

Turning point in the contest

Edwards and seconded by Thomas Marshall, was agreed to, which proved to be the turning point in the

contest. The resolution provided for the appointment of "a committee to draw up a decent and respectful address to the people of Virginia, for obtaining the independence of the District of Kentucky agreeable to the late resolutions and recommendations of Congress."

But even after this decisive indication of the loyal feeling of the convention had been given, other efforts were made by the opposite faction to carry their object. Before the "decent and respectful" address was accepted, Wilkinson offered a resolution

that a committee be appointed to draft an address to the good people of the District urging them to furnish the convention at its next session with instruction how to proceed in this important subject of an independent government.

This resolution was adopted, greatly to the fears of the party opposing illegal separation. Whereupon, Colonel Crockett, lately an officer of the revolution and a staunch adherent of the Union, left the

Patriotism triumphs

convention and hastened to Fayette County. He returned in two days, having obtained the signatures of several hundred citizens who were opposed to an illegal separation. Wilkinson, who had given his promise to be guided by the will of his constituents, was obliged to submit. Patriotism carried the day. The address to the Virginia Assembly was accepted, and the convention adjourned to meet again the following July.

This was the crisis in the life of Kentucky. It had been dwelt upon thus at length because no other event in her history so clearly reveals the character of the people. Let every one who studies this subject learn that in the

Loyalty characteristic of Kentucky

midst of high excitement the Kentuckians acted deliberately and soberly; in the midst of strong temptations they acted wisely and patriotically. Let him also learn that in Kentucky every individual has weight. Although Wilkinson did not abandon his scheme to separate Kentucky from the United States, and although his friend, Sebastian, after this received a pension from Spain for his efforts in that work, yet there was no further danger that Kentucky would become disloyal to the Union.

RECAPITULATION

- Spanish possessions in America.
- Spain desires to hold the region.
- Owns both sides of the Mississippi below the 31st degree of latitude.
- Refuses navigation to the Americans.
- "Jay's project."
- Action of Congress on the subject misunderstood.
- The navigation necessary to Kentucky's prosperity.

- Excitement in the District.
- Meeting of the citizens at Danville.
- Wilkinson goes to New Orleans.
- Allies himself with Spain.
- Right of trade, etc., granted him.
- He returns in state to impress the people.
- *Kentucke Gazette* established.
- Fifth convention holds a quiet session.
- Fixes the time for separation.
- Proceedings published in the *Gazette*.
- John Brown, congressman of the District.
- He presents Kentucky's petition.
- Congress is absorbed in other matters.
- Pays no attention to the petition.
- New Federal constitution adopted.
- The petition is brought before the old Congress.
- Is referred to the new Congress.
- The sixth convention is informed of this fact.
- Brown's letter to McDowell.
- Gardoqui's proposition to Kentucky.
- Kentucky distracted because of her situation.
- Two classes in the Court party.
- The Country party loyal.
- Wilkinson and Sebastian.
- The convention moderate in action.
- Dangerous resolutions are adopted.
- Muter's card points out the meaning of the resolutions.
- Effect upon the election in Fayette County.
- Wilkinson's promise and election.
- The vital question before the seventh convention.
- Illegal separation advocated.
- Wilkinson's adroit speech.
- Convention opposed to his suggestions.
- Contrary resolutions carried.
- Wilkinson's further effort.
- Crockett's petition from Fayette County.
- Wilkinson obliged to submit.
- Victory of the loyal party.
- Kentucky's sober conduct.
- The people control.

CHAPTER VIII

THE END OF THE STRUGGLE, 1788-1792

Still the struggle for statehood was not ended. Nowhere was there any official opposition to Kentucky's becoming an independent member of the Union, neither within the District, in the Virginia Assembly, nor in the Congress of the United States. And yet, by some strange enchantment, it seemed impossible to accomplish the desired end. The fruitless conventions have been compared to "the card edifices of children which are no sooner erected than, at a breath, they are destroyed".

Statehood not yet attained

No parallel occurs in history of such exasperating, needless delay in a worthy cause. The annals of history may be searched in vain, also, to find a parallel to the patience with which the high-spirited Kentuckians bore these trials, and to the loyalty which they cherished toward the government of their country. Kentucky's situation was isolated; but the deep excitement which prevailed in the District concerning the separation and the navigation of the Mississippi was known abroad.

In the autumn of 1788, Dr. John Connolly appeared in Kentucky. He was the same Connolly for whom, in 1773, lands had been surveyed at the Falls of the Ohio, where the city of Louisville now stands. He announced that he came to look after these lands, of which he had been deprived because he was a Tory. But in reality he was a British agent. His mission was to induce Kentucky to withdraw from the Union and to throw herself upon the protection of Great Britain, who would assist her with troops, ammunition, etc., to take possession of New Orleans, and thus to force the navigation of the Mississippi from Spain by arms.

British intrigue

The fertile Kentucky country and the vast West connected with it were objects of desire to foreign kingdoms. Already it had been known to the people of the District that Great Britain stood ready with open arms to receive them. Connolly visited many prominent men in Louisville, and then went to Fayette County, where he held an interview with Colonel Thomas Marshall, a few days after the exciting seventh convention (November, 1788). But Marshall was strongly attached to the Federal government and a friend of Washington, the President elect of the United States. Dr. Connolly met with no encouragement, and the British intrigue came to an end.

Still other acts were to be passed by the Virginia legislature, and further conventions held in Kentucky, before the weary work of separation was over. The eighth convention, which assembled July 20, 1789, objected to certain points in the third act of Virginia. A fourth act was then passed. To this, the ninth convention, assembled July 26, 1790, agreed, and fixed the 1st day of June, 1792, as the date the separation should take place. This convention called for the election of delegates to a tenth convention.

Other conventions

Other acts regarding Kentucky were also passed by the Virginia legislature about this time. One sixth part of the surveyors' fees, formerly paid to William and Mary College (Virginia), were ordered to be paid to Transylvania Seminary. Also the county of Woodford was established, the last of the nine formed while Kentucky was a District. They were in order: Fayette, Jefferson, Lincoln, Nelson, Bourbon, Mercer, Madison, Mason, and Woodford.

Other acts of the Virginia Assembly

The last towns established during the colonial period were Bardstown and Hopewell. The latter was settled as Houston's Station, in 1776. In 1790, the name was changed to Paris. Today it is the thriving center of the wealthy county of Bourbon. Many prominent men lived in and about Bardstown in the early times. There, in the cemetery, is the grave of poor John Fitch (bearing the date of his death, 1798), whose name is so pathetically connected with the invention of the steamboat. The town and surrounding neighborhood was settled largely by Maryland Catholics at the close of the Revolution. They were people of culture, and they have held the region to the present day, planting in it their institutions of learning and religion. Thither fled Trappist monks from France, who founded the "Home of Silent Brotherhood". Near by the pious Sisters of Loretto dwell in the convent of the Stricken Heart.

The Presbyterians in Kentucky have already been dwelt upon. The Baptists entered Kentucky in the very beginning of its settlement. The Rev. William Hickman preached here as early as 1776; but it was not until 1781 that there existed an organized church. In September of that year, the Rev. Lewis Craig, and most of his congregation, left Spottsylvania County, Virginia, for Kentucky.¹ As they traveled, they stopped occasionally on the way to hold regular services. Thus they entered the District as an organized church.

The next in point of time were the Methodists, whose evangelistic spirit early led them forth to preach the Gospel in the new country. The Episcopalians had no church until many years after the District had become a State. That large and ever increasing denomination known under the broad appellation the Christian church had not yet taken its rise.

Again the depressing account of Indian depredations must be continued. The people of the Dis-

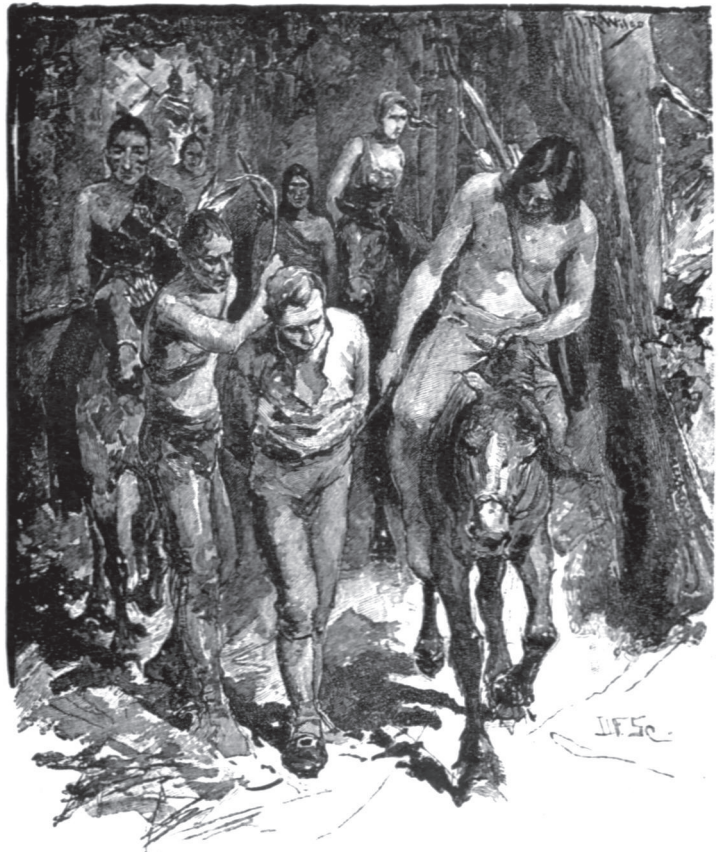
trict had left the protection of the forts, and were now living in separated homes. The Indians no longer came in large numbers, but small parties would fall

Indian depredations

upon and murder single individuals, or several traveling together. Men hunting game for their families were attacked. Men and women calmly going to church were killed or captured. Tragedies upon the Ohio River were especially frequent. Boats bearing travelers from, or settlers into, the District were seized, and the occupants were subjected to the most cruel tortures. Far and wide rang the cry of these distressing facts. Complaints were made to the President of the United States and to the secretary of war. In answer, the President assured the people that measures for their protection would be taken; and the secretary of war authorized the



Captured on the Way to Church



Kentucky Captives

1. Other immigrants had attached themselves to the expedition. There were in all between five and six hundred. *The Traveling Church*, by George W. Ranck.

county lieutenants to call out scouts to guard the frontier.

At last the government of the United States had learned that treaties with Indians were of no avail,

Harmer's defeat

and that the only way to subdue them was to carry war home to them in their own country. General Harmar was now placed at the head of three hundred and twenty regulars of the United States army. Soon a force amounting to more than eleven hundred volunteers was collected in Kentucky, under Colonel John Hardin. These troops assembled at Fort Washington (where Cincinnati now stands), September 30, 1790, and marched to the towns of the Miami Indians. Harmar had been an officer in the Revolution; but he seems to have lost his ability upon this expedition. He might have overawed and conquered the Indians by meeting them with his whole body of troops. But instead of doing this, twice he sent out small detachments, each time under the command of Colonel Hardin, and each time these were surprised and almost completely destroyed; while not far away, the larger portion of the army remained calmly in camp. Harmar's defeat lost him his reputation, and made the Indians exultant and consequently more murderous toward the Kentuckians.

Between the years 1783 and 1790, about fifteen hundred persons had been killed or taken captive within the District, or on their way to it. Further efforts were made to stop such tragedies. A local

Local Board of War

Board of War was appointed by Congress, which should have charge of the protection of the District. The men chosen for this position of trust were Colonel Isaac Shelby, the man who had turned the tide at Point Pleasant, and who had planned the scheme of attack which led to the decisive victory at King's Mountain; General Charles Scott, also a tried officer of the Revolution; Hary Innes, formerly attorney-general of the District, now judge of the Federal court; Congressman John Brown; and Benjamin Logan, well known to us as a pioneer.

About this time General Arthur St. Clair, then governor of the Northwestern Territory, was ap-

pointed commander in chief of the army of the Northwest. Another expedition against the Miami Indians was planned. As a preparation for this serious undertaking two small, but successful, expeditions against the Wabash Indians were arranged by the local Board of War, — the first under General Charles Scott, the second led by Colonel James Wilkinson. Their object was to subdue these Indians, so that they would not aid the Miami tribes. General St. Clair's appointment was not agreeable to the Kentuckians. While he was an honorable man and a brave officer, he was old and infirm, and altogether unfitted for the projected campaign against the most formidable of Indian confederations. No volunteers offered in Kentucky. Therefore, one thousand unwilling men were drafted and placed under the command of Colonel William Oldham. Many of these deserted before reaching their destination.

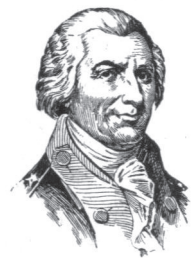
St. Clair's appointment

St. Clair was not aided by the government as he might have been.¹ By the day of the battle not more than fourteen hundred men remained in his army. Of these only a small

St. Clair's defeat

portion were regulars. The rest were dissatisfied, undisciplined troops, with whom a very capable leader would have found victory difficult. With St. Clair defeat was inevitable. On the 3rd of November, 1791, the army was encamped on the eastern fork of the Wabash River. During the afternoon and evening,

Indians were discovered in the vicinity, and were frequently shot at by the sentinels. St. Clair had been expressly warned by Washington against a surprise, and yet he made no preparations for an attack. Consequently, just after sunrise,



Arthur St. Clair

the next morning, when the Indians opened fire upon the army, there was the old story of a surprise, with all the panic and slaughter that usually follow. St. Clair and General Richard Butler, the second in command, courageously tried to rally their men, but in vain. The Indians were so

1. *St. Clair's Defeat*. By Hon. Theodore Roosevelt. Harper's Magazine, February, 1896.

hidden by the smoke of the artillery of the whites that they could not be seen. They seemed suddenly to spring out of the earth to shoot down the foe, and then to disappear. Most of the officers (among them, General Butler) were killed, and about two thirds of the army. Then only one thought inspired the rest, — every man made a mad rush to save his own life, and the Indians followed in close pursuit.

The previous February, the Congress of the United States had agreed to admit Kentucky into the Union as an independent State, June 1, 1792. Accordingly, April 3, 1792, the tenth and last

Constitutional convention

convention assembled at Danville, as usual, to form a constitution for the new Commonwealth. The convention was composed of five delegates from each of the nine counties then existing. The majority of them were very able men; many of them had served repeatedly in former conventions. The constitution was modeled after the recently launched Federal constitution.

The government was organized under three heads, — legislative, executive, and judicial. The legislative power was vested in a General Assembly, consisting of a Senate and a House of Representatives.

Features of the constitution

The senators were chosen for four years by a college of electors. The representatives were chosen for one year, and were elected by the people. The executive power was vested in a governor, who was likewise chosen for four years by the college of electors. The judicial power was vested in a supreme court and inferior courts, which the legislature might from time to time establish. The judges of the supreme court and of the inferior courts were nominated with the consent of the Senate, were appointed by the governor, and held office during good behavior. Elections were made by ballot, and the right of suffrage was granted to every free male white inhabitant of the State, of the proper age, who had not been disfranchised by conviction of crime. Ministers were not allowed to hold any legislative office. No point in the document is more worthy of

convention assembled at Danville, as usual, to form a constitution for the new Commonwealth. The convention was composed of five delegates from each of the nine counties then existing. The majority of them were very able men; many of them had served repeatedly in former conventions. The constitution was modeled after the recently launched Federal constitution.



Isaac Shelby

note than the fact that commerce in slaves is prohibited. While the provision was made that the legislature could not emancipate slaves without the consent of the owners, yet the power was given to that body to force the owners of slaves to provide properly for them, and to treat them with humanity.

“Immediately after the adoption of the constitution, Colonel Isaac Shelby was elected governor. In him the State secured an admirable chief magistrate. The people could not have chosen better. He was a Marylander, who became,

Isaac Shelby, the first governor

in his early manhood, a citizen off what is now Tennessee (then a part of North Carolina). He did brilliant service in the battle of Point Pleasant, in October, 1774. Afterwards, in North Carolina, he playing a most gallant part in small expeditions, but especially in remedying the ruin that the defeat of Gates at Camden brought upon the continental cause. When others were appalled by the magnitude of this disaster, Shelby seemed to awake to a full sense of his really great military power. He saved a little army he then commanded, and secured a large number of prisoners in his hands by a swift march to the west into the recesses of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Then, when he had disposed of his captives, he turned upon the famous Ferguson, and by the well-conceived and ad-



Battle of King's Mountain

mirably executed move on King's Mountain, destroyed the force of that able commander at a single

blow. Although Shelby was not in name the chief in this action, there is no reason to doubt that the conception of the campaign and the vigor of its execution were his alone. His also was the scheme of attack which led to the battle of Cowpens. He went to Kentucky in 1783, where he married and remained,

taking part in the early struggles for emancipation from Virginia's control. As brave in action as he was wise in council, his choice as the first governor was an honor and a blessing to the young Commonwealth."¹

RECAPITULATION

- Statehood not yet attained.
- The fact known abroad.
- A British agent sent to Kentucky.
- The bribe ready for Kentucky.
- The intrigue disclosed to Colonel Thomas Marshall.
- The end of the intrigue.
- Eighth convention rejects the third act of Virginia.
- Ninth convention agrees to the fourth act.
- Date for separation fixed.
- Tenth convention called.
- The counties of the colonial era.
- Hopewell established.
- Bardstown established.
- Roman Catholic occupation.
- Baptists in Kentucky.
- "The Traveling Church."
- The Methodists.
- Other denominations.
- Troubles from Indians again.
- Treaties with Indians of no avail.
- An expedition against the Miamis planned.
- Force sent from Kentucky.
- Harmar's defeat.
- Indians more belligerent than ever.
- Local Board of War appointed.
- St. Clair's appointment.
- Dissatisfaction of Kentuckians.
- Kentucky troops are drafted.
- Expedition against the Miami Indians.
- St. Clair's overwhelming defeat.
- Kentucky admitted into the Union.
- Tenth convention.
- State constitution framed.
- Resembles the Federal constitution.
- Legislative, executive, and judicial powers.
- Commerce in slaves prohibited.
- Isaac Shelby chosen governor.
- His military and civil services and fitness for the position.

1. The above quotation is taken from Professor Shaler's scholarly study *Kentucky* in the American Commonwealth Series.

III – FOUNDING OF THE COMMONWEALTH, 1792-1850

CHAPTER IX

ORGANIZATION OF THE GOVERNMENT, 1792-1796

The years of weary waiting were over at last, and the government of the new Commonwealth was about to be organized. On the morning of the 4th of June, 1792, the town of Lexington – appointed to be the first capital of the State – was stirred with eager anticipation. The day before, Isaac

Lexington the first capital

Shelby had left his country place in Lincoln County and started on his journey to assume the duties of governor. At Danville the citizens poured forth to offer their congratulations in an address which had been prepared for the occasion. On the way, Shelby was met by a company of volunteer troops, which had been sent out from Lexington to conduct him into the capital. From various parts of the State, strangers had come to witness the ceremonies of the inauguration. The people were all in the streets, arrayed in their best attire. There was a generous mingling of broadcloth costumes and buckskin, of imported silk and homespun gowns.

As the procession neared the town, loud cheers arose, which were somewhat drowned by the firing of a cannon, the cracking of rifles and the beating of drums. At the corner of Main Street and

The inauguration

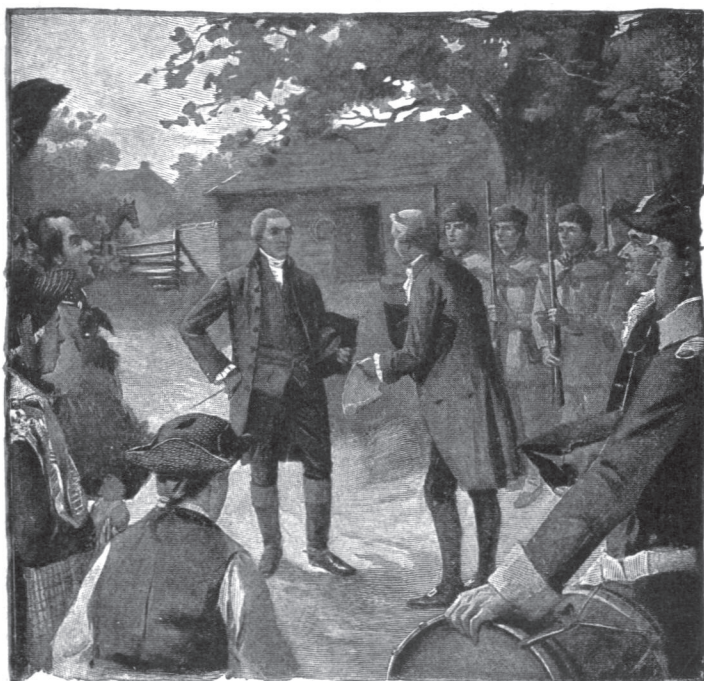
Broadway the governor was received with military honors by the Lexington Light Infantry. There he alighted from his horse to receive the address of welcome which was presented to him by the chairman of the town Board of Trustees, John Bradford, otherwise "Old Wisdom," who has already been introduced to us as editor of the *Kentucke Gazette*. Courtly formality and homely simplicity met in the unpaved public square. The oath of office was administered to the governor. Then, with the same stateliness and military parade that had characterized

the entire proceeding, he was escorted to his chambers to rest at the Sheaf of Wheat inn, while the enthusiasm of the citizens continued and the bells of the town broke forth in joyous acclamation.

Later in the day, the governor sent his reply to the address of welcome and, at the same time, announced his appointments for secretary of state and attorney-general.

State appointments

James Brown, selected for the former office, afterwards served repeatedly in the United States Senate and ably filled the high position of minister to France. George Nicholas, appointed to the latter office, was one of the brilliant Virginians who had sought Kentucky at the close of the Revolution. He was a truly great lawyer. His career here was as successful as it was short. He settled near Danville in 1788, and died in Lexington in 1799.



Shelby's Inauguration

The legislature assembled and chose the speakers of the two houses, — Alexander Scott Bullitt, for the Senate, and Robert Breckinridge, for the House of Representatives.

Legislature assembles

On the sixth day, the governor met the legislature in person, after the ancient custom of English kings which had been followed by the colonial governors. He appeared at the door of the Senate chamber of the first log statehouse, attended by his secretary of state. The speaker of the Senate advanced to meet him to conduct him to his seat. After a moment of solemn silence, he arose, read an address to the two Houses, and presented a manuscript copy to each of the speakers, and then retired in an impressive manner. The speaker of the House of Representatives and the members thereof likewise retired to transact business in their own hall. The Legislature elected two United States senators, — John Brown, who had already represented Kentucky in the old Congress, and John Edwards. The House of Representatives elected five commissioners to fix upon a permanent seat of government.

The court of appeals consisted of three judges. The persons appointed by the governor for this dignified position were

Judges appointed

Caleb Wallace, another able Virginia lawyer who had risen to high standings in Kentucky; Benjamin Sebastian, the same who had entered into the Spanish conspiracy, but whose treason was not then suspected; and



Hary Innes

Hary Innes, who was selected to be chief justice. Innes declined, however, in order to receive the office of United States district judge, and George Muter was appointed in his stead.

On the 22nd of December, 1792, the second session of the first Kentucky

legislature adjourned, to hold no more meetings in Lexington. The commissioners had selected Frankfort as the permanent capital of the State. Nestled in the midst of hills, on the banks of the Kentucky River, Frankfort had certainly the advantage of a picturesque situation. A private dwelling was employed as a temporary statehouse while a permanent stone building was being erected. This was occupied November 3, 1794. A governor's mansion was likewise built.

Frankfort the permanent capital of the State

The Indians were not yet subdued and still continued to harass the Kentuckians. Major John Adair, with about one hundred Kentucky militia, after a gallant fight at Fort St.

Military affairs

Clair, in Ohio, was defeated by a large body of Indians under Little Turtle. Colonel John Hardin and Major Truman were sent by General James Wilkinson on a mission to the Indians in northwest Ohio, and both were murdered. Boats were continually waylaid, and isolated frontier stations were attacked.

After his disastrous defeat, General St. Clair retired from the command of the armies of the Northwest, and General Wayne, known as "Mad Anthony," was appointed to that position.

General Wayne called upon Kentucky for volunteers; but the Kentuckians had lost confidence in regular troops, because of the defeats of Harmer and St. Clair, and none offered. Governor Shelby ordered a draft, and in this way one thousand mounted militiamen were raised and placed under General Charles Scott's command.



Anthony Wayne

They joined General Wayne, October 24, 1793, at his headquarters, about eighty miles north of Cincinnati. Because of the approach of winter, however, the commander in chief decided not to prosecute the proposed campaign at that time. Fort Greenville was built, and the regular troops went into winter quarters, while the Kentucky militia were dismissed. One benefit had

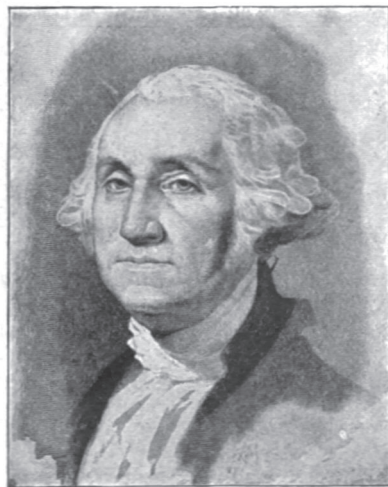
been obtained: General Wayne's military ability had inspired the Kentuckians with confidence.

Two issues ran side by side in the State and divided the thoughts of the people: the cessation of their Indian troubles, and the navigation of the Mississippi River. For years there had been many politicians in Kentucky who believed that these benefits might have been obtained for them, if Congress had not been indifferent to their welfare. Great animosity was felt toward England, which still held the military posts in the Northwest, and toward Spain, which had closed to the Mississippi.

In 1793, news reached Kentucky that France had declared war against England, Spain, and Holland. The further fact was made known that the President had refused to enter into an alliance with France. Washington knew that war at this time would be disastrous to the United States. He stood firm on this point through that marvelous, calm foresight which controlled all his actions. But the majority of the people of the United States sympathized with France, who had so recently aided them in their conflict with Great Britain. Nowhere was this attachment more ardent than in Kentucky. Nevertheless, as is invariably the case, there was a division of sentiment.

Those who adhered to the policy of the government of the United States were called Federalists; those who were opposed to it were called either Anti-Federalists, or Republicans, and later, Democrats. At Lexington there was organized a Democratic Club, — an outgrowth of the one already established at Philadelphia, which was modeled on the Jacobin clubs of France. Others sprang up at Georgetown and Paris. In Ken-

Political affairs



George Washington

Federalists and Anti-Federalists

tucky the horrors of the French Revolution were still unknown. It represented only an inspiring movement toward liberty. The tone of the Lexington society is indicated by the following resolution: "That the right of the people on the waters of the Mississippi, to its navigation, is undoubted, and ought to be peremptorily demanded of Spain by the United States government."

John Breckinridge was its first president. He was a young lawyer, who had recently come to Kentucky from Virginia. His clear mind and eloquent oratory had brought him recognition in his native State. In Kentucky he took an active part in political affairs. He died in 1806, having held for one year the office of attorney-general in Jefferson's cabinet.

John Breckinridge

Citizen Genet, minister of France, had recently landed at Charleston, South Carolina, for the purpose of enlisting aid for his country in the impending war. Immediately he saw the situation in Kentucky, and sent thither several agents to raise volunteers for an expedition against New Orleans and the Spanish possessions. So intense was the feeling in Kentucky on the navigation question, that the Frenchman succeeded in enlisting two thousand men for this conspiracy. George Rogers Clark accepted the commission of "major general in the armies of France and commander in chief of the revolutionary legions on the Mississippi."

French conspiracy

The proposed conspiracy became known to the Federal government. Letters passed between Washington and Shelby on the subject. It was a time of trial to the governor, but his conduct was marked with caution and wisdom.

Governor Shelby's position

As governor of Kentucky he stood ready to perform whatever was constitutionally required of him; but he believed that this matter concerned the Federal government, and not that of the State. He did not believe he had the power to forbid the expedition if it could be accomplished. Moreover, he did not believe it would be carried out. But the matter offered him a fitting opportunity to make known to the Presi-

dent the intense feeling of the Anti-Federalists in Kentucky against the central government, which had not obtained for the State the navigation of the Mississippi. Happily the expedition was not accomplished. Washington succeeded in having Genet recalled, and another minister was appointed in his stead.

The campaign against the Indians in the Northwest, projected by General Wayne in the autumn of 1793, was carried into effect the following summer. In July, General Charles Scott, with sixteen hundred Kentucky volunteers, joined General Wayne at Fort Recovery. The regular force under General Wayne was about equal in numbers to the Kentucky militia. On the 20th of August, 1794, a battle was fought at Fallen Timbers, on the Maumee, which resulted in a brilliant victory for the Americans. An equally beneficial event followed close upon Wayne's conquest. In November, Chief Justice John Jay succeeded in concluding a treaty between the United States and Great Britain. Consequently the British posts in the Northwest were at last surrendered.

It was some time before this last fact was known in Kentucky. Prior to that time, in the year 1795, the Spanish governor of Louisiana again attempted to bribe Kentucky to secede from the Union, and to form an alliance with Spain, in order to obtain the navigation of the Mississippi. Thomas Power, a naturalized Spaniard, was sent to Kentucky to secure agents to accomplish this end. The man selected to receive Power's communication was Judge Benjamin Sebastian, one of the accomplices in the first Spanish conspiracy.

Sebastian conferred with several prominent Kentuckians. He then proceeded to Natchez, and on to New Orleans, to negotiate with the authorities there. However, before any agreement had been reached between the Kentuckian and the Spanish governor, news came that a treaty between the United States and Spain had been effected, and that Spain had granted to the United States the free navigation of the Mississippi River. Nevertheless the Spanish

governor was not willing to renounce, at once, all hope of ever gaining Kentucky. Sebastian was paid two thousand dollars for his efforts in this dishonorable work, and continued to receive that amount annually for eleven years. Sebastian's treason was unknown to his fellow-Kentuckians, with probably two or three exceptions. He continued to hold his office of judge of the court of appeals until 1806, at which time he was exposed and compelled to resign.

We have learned that the opposition of Kentuckians to the Federal government had its origin in their own trials; for a large majority of the people believed that the central government might have put an end to those if it had attempted to do so. But there were also clauses in the constitution of the United States to which they were directly opposed. Many objected to the policy of the Federalists (by whom the constitution was framed) because they believed it tended toward a monarchical rather than a republican form of government. We have noticed Kentucky's isolated situation and her long, single-handed struggle for existence. Naturally her people were watchful for their State's rights and liberties. But we have learned also, that in the times of greatest temptation her people stood true to the Union. This fact indicates loyalty and sagacity and calls forth the highest admiration.

Now the Indian troubles were at an end, and the Mississippi was open to Kentucky. Added to this, the feeling on the French question had changed. Genet's illegal actions in the United States had awakened disapproval. A fuller knowledge of the French Revolution had produced a natural revulsion of feeling. Consequently, the Federal party in the State rose into temporary power. In 1795 Humphrey Marshall, the pronounced leader of the Federal side, was elected United States senator over John Breckinridge, the popular representative of the Republicans. During this same year, however, the governor appointed Breckinridge attorney-general of the State.

In the year 1793, the first steamboat which ever successfully moved on any waters was exhibited

Wayne's victory

Second Spanish conspiracy

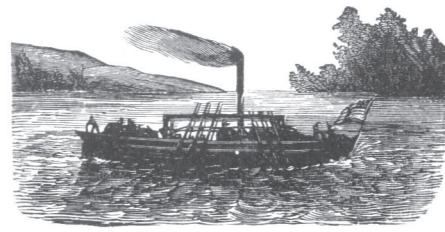
Summary

Temporary change of sentiment

at Lexington. The town branch of the Elkhorn — now disappeared from sight, but then a considerable

Invention of the steamboat

stream — was dammed up for the trial of the miniature model which had been constructed, and crowds of enthusiastic spectators rejoiced over the success of this important invention. The inventor was Edward West, who emigrated from Virginia to Lexington in 1785, where he died in 1827, after a long life spent in experimenting in inventions. The honor of having invented the steamboat belongs, however, to John Fitch, — before referred to in these



Fitch's Steamboat

pages, — who, as early as 1785, completed his model. But unfortunately Fitch's invention failed of success, either because he lacked the necessary funds or the adequate force of character to bring it to the knowledge of the people.

RECAPITULATION

- Lexington the first capital.
- Governor Shelby inaugurated.
- Military honors and picturesque parade.
- Two appointments announced.
- Legislature assembles; speakers chosen.
- The governor opens the legislature.
- Stately proceedings.
- United States senators elected.
- Judges appointed.
- Frankfort selected as the permanent capital.
- Public buildings erected there.
- Indian troubles again.
- One thousand Kentuckians drafted.
- Campaign postponed.
- The French war.
- England, Spain, and Holland involved.
- Washington refuses to take part.
- United States divided on the subject.
- Kentucky is indignant.
- She dislikes England and Spain.
- Desires to aid France.
- Federalists and Anti-Federalists.
- Democratic clubs.
- The Lexington club.
- John Breckinridge its president.
- The French conspiracy.
- General Clark's commission.
- Governor Shelby's cautious action.
- Failure of the conspiracy.
- Wayne's victory.
- British posts resigned.
- Second Spanish conspiracy.
- Sebastian's treason.
- Treaty with Spain concluded.
- Kentucky generally Anti-Federal.
- Opposed to a strong central government.
- Momentary change of sentiment after the Indian troubles are ended and the navigation granted.
- Federal party rises into power.
- Humphrey Marshall elected United States senator.
- Edward West at Lexington.
- Models a steamboat in 1793.
- Successful trial on Elkhorn Creek.
- Fitch's invention unsuccessful.

CHAPTER X

POLITICAL SITUATION IN KENTUCKY, 1796-1811

In May, 1796, James Garrard was elected second governor of Kentucky. The first year of his administration was marked by few events of importance. The following spring, the advisability of revising the State constitution was discussed, and a vote was taken to obtain the will of the people. But no decision was reached in the matter, as a number of the counties failed to make returns. A second vote was taken on the same subject in 1798, and met with a similar result. In the autumn of that year, the question was brought before the legislature, and as a majority of the members voted in favor of revision, a convention was called for July 22, 1799.

Garrard's administration

During the summer of 1797, Thomas Power was again sent to Kentucky to concert with Benjamin Sebastian regarding the separation of the State from the Union. But this third Spanish conspiracy failed in its very beginning.

The November session of the legislature revised the criminal code, and punishment by death was allowed only for murder in the first degree.

The interval of quiet which Kentucky had been enjoying was destined to be interrupted by a profound agitation. In the spring session of 1798, the Congress of the United States passed two acts

Alien and Sedition laws

known in political history of the nation as the Alien and Sedition laws. The particularly objectionable features in these acts were the following: The first act gave to the President authority over all foreigners. He might grant them license to remain in the United States; he might order them to depart from its territory if he suspected them of treasonable designs; he might imprison, according to his judgement, all foreigners who returned to

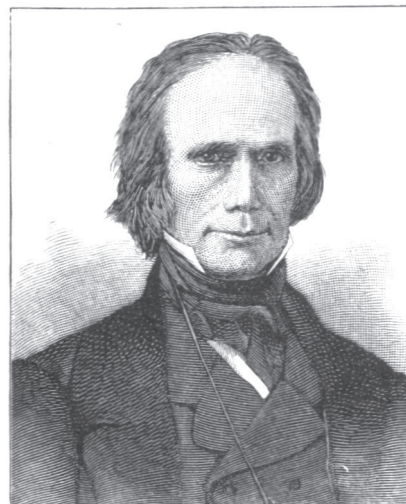
the United States without having obtained his permission. The second act was an attempt to control the people in the free expression of opinion. By this law it became an offense, subject to fine or imprisonment, for any one to utter, print, or publish any libel against the government of the United States, the President, or either House of Congress.

The Kentuckians were aroused, almost to a man. There was no wavering in their judgement of these obnoxious laws.

They deemed them directly unconstitutional. In their opinion they indicated an assumption, on the part of the Federal government, of an authority which did not belong to it.

Kentucky's action

The first to issue a protest against them were the citizens of Clark County. They embodied their opposition in a vigorous set of resolutions, which were transmitted to their representative in Congress to be presented by him to each branch of that body and to the



Henry Clay

President. In the crowd which gathered at Lexington to discuss the subject was young Henry Clay, — twenty-one years old, — who had come from Virginia the year before to make his home in Kentucky. He had already made himself known in the State by advocating the gradual emancipation of slavery. The people called upon him to speak to them. The subject was one to stir the unfledged genius of the orator. He was lifted into a cart, from which “proud eminence” he poured forth such denunciations of the act of Congress as won the

admiration and satisfaction of his high-wrought audience.

But the most bold, far-reaching, effective summary of political doctrine called forth by these laws was that contained in the resolutions known as the Kentucky Resolutions of 1798.¹ The resolutions were drafted by Thomas

Jefferson, and revised and offered to the legislature, on November 8, by John Breckinridge, the representative of Fayette County in the State legislature and a leader in the Republican party. These resolutions had perhaps a deeper import than the mere expression of righteous indignation against the passage by Congress of two odious acts that were destined to exist only for a brief term. In them we find the germ of the doctrine of nullification which became an important factor in the causes which led to the Civil War.

This doctrine is briefly as follows:

That the several States composing the

Doctrine of State rights

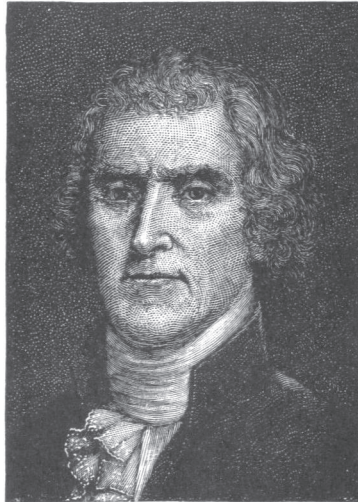
a compact of the several States, each State agreeing thereto, and yet reserving to itself the right to its own self-government; that the government created by this compact is not made the final judge of the powers delegated to it; that as each State is a party to the compact, therefore each State "has an equal right to judge for itself as well of infractions as of the mode and measure of redress."

The resolutions thus presented to the legislature in an ardent speech by their mover, passed the

Resolutions accepted by the legislature

Lower House with one dissenting voice. William Murray, a clever lawyer, made an earnest protest against them. In the Senate, John Pope made an unsuccessful effort to amend them, and they were unanimously accepted. At the

time of their adoption the possible tendency of the resolutions was not considered. They were framed to meet a need of the hour. The Federal government had assumed an authority, the Kentuckians believed, which was unconstitutional. Therefore, the Federal government must be censured, else it might encroach and assume greater power, and then become monarchical, instead of Democratic. Kentucky was passionately Democratic or Republican. The resolutions were signed by the governor, and then submitted to the other States to be considered. Only Virginia, however, concurred with the action of Kentucky.



Thomas Jefferson

The convention to revise the State constitution assembled July 22, 1799, at Frankfort, and chose Alexander Scott Bullitt president, and Thomas Todd — who so many times before had served in this capacity — clerk. The outburst of feeling awakened by the mere suspicion of a monarchical inclination in

Second constitutional convention

the central government largely influenced the changes which were made in the constitution. The governor was no longer to be elected by a college of electors, but directly by the votes of the people. Furthermore, his authority was limited. His veto might be overruled by a majority of the legislature. The office of lieutenant governor was created. This officer, similarly elected by the people, should be the speaker of the Senate. The senators, likewise, were to be elected by the direct votes of the people.

The new constitution went into effect June 1, 1800. James Garrard had again been chosen governor, and Alexander Scott

Local politics

Bullitt was elected lieutenant governor. John Breckinridge was chosen speaker of the House. There was the utmost quiet in local elections. Kentucky's whole political interest was now absorbed in the affairs of the nation, — the forthcoming contest between the Federalist and Democratic parties. When Thomas Jefferson, the

1. *Kentucky Resolutions of 1798*. By Ethelbert Dudley Warfield.

Democratic nominee, was declared President, the satisfaction in the State was almost universal. It expressed itself in exuberant speeches of delight. Of course, the hated Alien and Sedition laws were then repealed.

But the most important event to Kentucky in Jefferson's administration was the purchase of Louisiana from the French, to whom it had been ceded by Spain. General James Wilkinson, whose character has only been understood in recent years, was then holding the rank of major general in the United States Army. It is an entertaining and curious fact that on the 20th of December, 1803, the French governor general delivered up the territory to that officer. Thus at last the projector of the Spanish Conspiracy took possession of New Orleans; but in a manner totally different from what he had imagined, — under the honorable authority of his national government.

But Wilkinson is often accused of complicity in another equally romantic and treasonable conspiracy, and in this, too, the bold, adventure-loving Kentuckians were tempted to disloyalty. Aaron Burr, late Vice President of the United States, — now bearing upon his soul the crime of having taken the life of Alexander Hamilton, —

Aaron Burr's conspiracy



Aaron Burr

being cut off from all high official attainment, restlessly sought a means to gratify his proud ambition. Burr's dazzling scheme was to conquer the Spanish province of Mexico, then friendly to the United States, to unite it to the southwestern States, to make New Orleans the capital of this vast country, and himself the emperor or ruler. Wilkinson, according to his accusers, was to be second only to Burr.

Blennerhasset, a wealthy Irish scholar, living on a beautiful island in the Ohio River, had become fascinated by Burr's allurements to the extent of employing his vast fortune for the cause, and he was to be a powerful duke or chief minister of the empire. The cooperating Kentuckians were likewise to reap

the reward of their assistance. To arrange his project, Burr made frequent trips to Lexington and Louisville, and through the southern cities.

Joseph Hamilton Daveiss, United States attorney for Kentucky, first became suspicious of Burr's movements, then convinced of his treacherous designs. On November 3, 1806, he appeared in the court at Frankfort and brought an indictment against Burr for high treason. Burr met the charge with cool denial. Several days later, with a semblance of sincerity, he urged the court to continue the prosecution. A day was set for the trial. After giving a written pledge of his innocence, Burr secured Henry Clay and John Allen for his counsel. Intense popular interest was aroused.

Burr indicted



Joseph Hamilton Daveiss

The prosecution seemed to take on the form of a persecution, because of the ardent political feeling of the time. Burr had won many friends in Kentucky. Daveiss was a staunch adherent of the despised Federalist party. Henry Clay had thrown the weight of his influence into Burr's faction. The trial did not come off because of the failure, on the part of the United States attorney, to obtain the attendance of the necessary witnesses. Nevertheless, the expectant audience was granted the excitement of listening to a flashing debate on the subject between Clay and Daveiss. Never have two greater, more brilliant men met in opposition at the famous bar of Kentucky.

Shortly afterward, a ball was given in Frankfort in Burr's honor. This was followed by a similar

festivity given by the friends of the United States attorney. For a while Daveiss suffered a great loss of popularity on account of his efforts toward the prosecution; but he was soon to be vindicated. Burr's times of success were at an end.

Fate of the conspirators

He was tried in Richmond, Virginia, in March, 1807. Though certain legal technicalities prevented his conviction, no one doubted his guilt. His last days were spent in wretched poverty and sorrow. Blennerhasset also died forlornly. Only Wilkinson lived on in the favor of fortune.

Running along by the side of these social agitations was a deep spiritual movement which spread throughout the State. This revival began in the Methodist church, but it awoke religious enthusiasm in all

The great revival

the existing denominations. Thousands flocked to the camp meetings which were constantly held, and



An Early Methodist Church

humble laborers and learned statesmen were equally stirred by a consideration of the greatest problem of life. In the trend of

this Christian movement came the formation of an association called the Friends of Humanity. Six Baptist ministers of note and others of less conspicuous ability, united themselves together for the purpose of advocating the abolition of slavery. Their numbers increased at first, but they were discountenanced by their brother associations, and soon vanished.

In 1804, Christopher Greenup was elected governor. He was one of the strong characters of the early days. For more than ten years, he had been actively connected with the public affairs of Kentucky.

Years of quiet

It was during his administration (1806) that the trial of Judge Benjamin Sebastian occurred. Burr's conduct led to the investigation concerning Sebastian. During the same year, George Muter resigned from

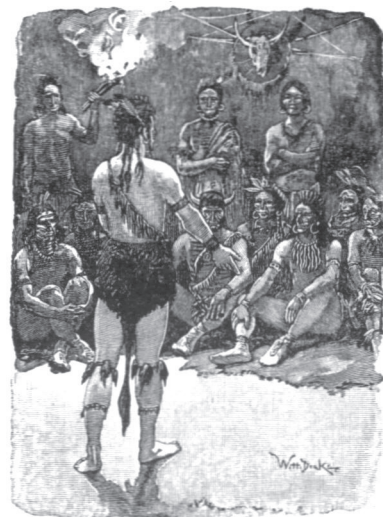
the office of chief justice, and Thomas Todd was appointed to fill the vacancy. But Judge Todd did not long execute the duties of chief justice, as higher honors awaited him. In February, 1807, he was appointed judge of the United States supreme court in the newly created circuit of Kentucky, Ohio, and Tennessee. Several eminent jurists now occupied the chief justice's bench in quick succession. Felix Grundy, Judge Todd's successor, resigned after a few months to make his home in Tennessee. Ninian Edwards, the next appointee, resigned after a little more than a year's service to become governor of the Illinois Territory. He was followed by George M. Bibb, who also resigned in less than a year.

In 1807, the Bank of Kentucky was chartered with \$1,000,000 capital. Robert Alexander was appointed president by the governor. Prior to this time, Kentucky had been rigorously opposed to banking; but through some curious misunderstanding on the part of the legislature, in 1802, the Kentucky Insurance Company had been chartered with banking powers.

In 1808, General Charles Scott was elected to succeed Governor Greenup. His opponent was the rising young lawyer, John Allen, who made a vigorous canvass. But the Kentuckians were pleased

Beginning of war

to honor the military services of the veteran officer, especially as the years of peace were at an end. For some time the Indians living on the Wabash River had been growing restless under the advance of white



Tecumseh inciting the Creeks

civilization. They were roused to rebellion by their two great chiefs, Tecumseh and his brother the Prophet, and also by the influence of the English, who now anticipated another war with the United States. In the summer of 1811, General Harrison, governor of the Indiana Territory, called for



The Prophet

volunteers from Kentucky. Many brave men, ambitious for military glory, answered the summons. The battle of Tippecanoe was fought November 7, 1811. Harrison was surprised in the night by the Indians; nevertheless, he bravely and successfully met the attack. But Kentucky suffered a deeply felt loss by this battle, in the early death of two of her valued citizens, Colonel Joseph Hamilton Daveiss and Colonel Abraham Owen. A county of the State was named in honor of each.

RECAPITULATION

- James Garrard, second governor.
- Legislature orders a constitutional convention.
- The third Spanish conspiracy.
- Alien and Sedition laws.
- The first gave the President control of aliens.
- The second restricted the expression of opinion.
- Kentucky condemns the laws.
- Clark County makes the first protest.
- Henry Clay denounces them.
- Kentucky Resolutions of 1798.
- Doctrine of State Rights involved.
- The general government a compact of States, each State retaining the right to govern itself.
- Each State has the right to judge acts of the general government, and to nullify them if they are objectionable.
- John Breckinridge, the mover of the Resolutions.
- Opposition of Murray and Pope.
- Resolutions carried in the legislature.
- Second constitutional convention.
- Recent agitation causes certain changes in the constitution.
- James Garrard, third governor.
- A. S. Bullitt, lieutenant governor.
- John Breckinridge, speaker.
- Local politics quiet.
- National politics absorb attention.
- Kentucky rejoices over Jefferson's election as President.
- Alien and Sedition laws repealed.
- Louisiana purchased.
- Delivered up to General Wilkinson.
- Aaron Burr's conspiracy.
- Wilkinson implicated.
- Blennerhasset's part in the scheme.
- Bribe offered to Kentuckians.
- Burr is indicted by J. H. Daveiss.
- H. Clay and John Allen, Burr's counsel.
- Burr's cool audacity.
- Speeches of Clay and Daveiss.
- The two balls given at Frankfort.
- The fate of the conspirators.
- The great revival.
- "The Friends of Humanity."
- Christopher Greenup, governor.
- Benjamin Sebastian is tried and convicted.
- Judge Thomas Todd.
- The first banks in the State.
- General Charles Scott, governor.
- The beginnings of war.
- The battle of Tippecanoe.

CHAPTER XI

THE WAR OF 1812, 1812-1815

War with all of its horrors and feverish anticipations was again at hand. The causes which led to the second conflict with Great Britain had long been accumulating. England and France were in arms against each other, and the United States maintained a neutral position. In order to injure France, England blockaded with men of war the whole coast of France, and France retaliated by declaring a similar blockade of the coast of England. American vessels were seized as prizes, and the commerce of the United States was interrupted in a most disastrous manner.

Causes which led to the war

But this was not all. A greater injury, in that it contained an insult to our nation, was endured from England before war was declared. By the policy of the United States, any foreigner, after having thrown off allegiance to his own government, might become an American citizen, if he so desired. On the contrary, England claimed that a man born an English subject was always an English subject. American vessels were boarded by English officers, and searched by them to find sailors whom they claimed to be deserting Englishmen. In this way thousands of our seaman were captured. The United States deeply resented this outrage. Then the crisis came. On the 18th day of June, 1812, war was declared.

In addition to the regular army ordered to be raised, one hundred thousand militia were to be furnished by the different States of the Union. Many of the States were opposed to the war, and conse-

quently refused to comply with the President's demand. But not so Kentucky; her people had ever looked upon England as the cruel enemy of their prosperity; and they eagerly rushed forward to aid in righting the wrong against their nation. Only five thousand five hundred men were required of Kentucky, but she was granted the privilege of furnishing seven thousand. And the State did not hold back her best, but offered her worthiest sons for the cause. A righteous resentment of offenses, and an unsurpassed courage and high sense of honor, were indicated by this eager desire to participate in the opening conflict.

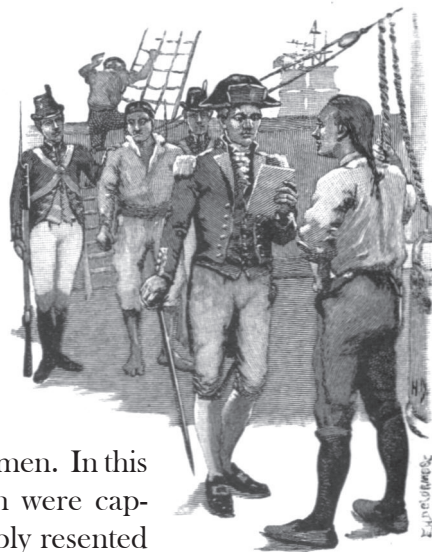
Kentucky's war enthusiasm

On the 15th of August, two thousand troops, destined to join the army in the Northwest, assembled at Georgetown. They con-

sisted of a regiment of regulars, under Colonel Samuel Wells, and three militia regiments under Colonels John Allen, J. M. Scott, and William Lewis. Of the companies under Lewis, Lexington had furnished six, and one was the Lexington Light Artillery, even then historic, commanded by the gallant young captain, Nathaniel G. T. Hart. They were formed into a brigade, and placed under the command of Brigadier General John Payne. Several days later, the troops were reviewed in the presence of thousands of interested spectators. Henry Clay made a speech, and Dr. Blythe, president of Transylvania University, preached a sermon; and thus animated and encouraged, they were prepared to begin their hard, eventful campaign.

Troops leave the State

On their march to Detroit the troops learned that General Hull, governor of Michigan Territory,



Impressment of Seamen

had surrendered in the most cowardly manner to the British. Great indignation was aroused. Letters were

Harrison's appointment

written to Kentucky to request the appointment of General Harrison as commander of the Kentucky militia. Governor Scott's term of office was drawing to a close, but some action was imperative. He sought a council of ex-Governor Shelby, ex-Governor Greenup, Henry Clay, Judge Thomas Todd, and several other distinguished citizens. They unanimously agreed in recommending the appointment. It was therefore made. In a few more days three other companies were raised by Colonels Richard M. Johnson, James Johnson, and Captain John Arnold. General Harrison was also appointed by the President as commander of the army of the Northwest, to supersede General Winchester. On the 29th of September, he left Lexington to join the forces thus placed under his control.



William Henry Harrison

The Kentucky troops reached the Rapids of the Maumee the 10th of January, and halted to await the arrival of General Harrison. But they were not long to remain inactive. A few days later a call for assistance reached them

First battle at Frenchtown

from Frenchtown, on the river Raisin, about thirty-eight miles away. A detachment commanded by Colonel Lewis, under whom were Colonel John Allen and Majors Martin D. Hardin, George Madison, and Benjamin Graves, eagerly hastened to respond to the summons. On the 18th a successful battle was fought, and the British were driven from the village. But this victory was to be followed by an awful tragedy.

Two days later, General Winchester arrived with a reinforcement consisting of regulars. Although General Winchester was soon informed that a large force of the enemy was on its way toward the town, he made no preparation for the attack. The night was bitterly cold, and the caution of placing pickets on the road by which the enemy would approach the

town was neglected. Accordingly, before daylight on the morning of January 22, the camp was surprised by an army of two thousand British and Indians under General Proctor. The firing was opened upon the stockade of the Kentuckians and was returned with considerable loss to the British. But Colonel Wells's company was encamped on the open field. It was impossible for it to resist the attack, and the men retreated panic-stricken.

Second battle at Frenchtown

At this crisis, Colonels Lewis and Allen, with a detachment of one hundred men, rushed forward like typical Kentuckians to rally the retreating soldiers. Nearly all of Wells's men were killed or wounded, as were very many of those under Lewis and Allen. Lewis was wounded, and Colonel Allen was slain. Thus fell in early manhood one of the most promising citizens of Kentucky, a man of pure life, of heroic character, and strong legal ability. Then came a summons to surrender. To the heroes of Kentucky death was far preferable to defeat. But after a consultation, in view of their situation, the remaining officers wisely determined to comply with the demand of the enemy. Having obtained a solemn promise from the British that the wounded Americans would be safely guarded, they agreed to lay down their arms.

But the pledge was not fulfilled. The Indians were not restrained by the British, and early the next morning they entered the cellar of the tavern where some of the wounded soldiers were

The massacre

quartered, broke open casks of liquor, and drank until they were maddened far beyond their usual state of cruelty. Soldiers were dragged out of their beds and tomahawked. A house containing other wounded men was burned to the ground. Several of the officers attempted to escape under the escort of Indians whom they paid to guide them, and were treacherously murdered on the way by their escorts.

Never did a more barbarous butchery of human beings occur. The details are too ghastly to be repeated. In Kentucky, anguish prevailed such as had not been felt since the fatal battle of the Blue Licks. There were many widows and mourning

friends and relatives left to recount the horrors of the Raisin massacre. And Kentucky has preserved the memory of some of her brave soldiers who lost their life at that place by naming various counties of the State after them, — Allen and Edmonson, Graves, Hart, and Hickman.

In August, 1812, Isaac Shelby had been elected governor for the second time. He had consented to become the chief executive again, only because the United States was involved in war. He now exerted all his influence to arouse the patriotic ardor of his fellow citizens to reinforce the army of the Northwest and retrieve the loss at Raisin. Thousands of Kentuckians hastened to volunteer for the service. A strong brigade of three thousand men was formed under Brigadier General

Reinforcements from Kentucky



Green Clay

Green Clay, consisting of four regiments commanded by Colonels Dudley, Boswell, Cox, and Caldwell. This force reached the banks of the Maumee, opposite Fort Meigs, on the night of the 4th of May. In the distance could be heard the cannon of the enemy. Since the first day of the month, General Proctor with about two thousand British and Indians had surrounded the camp of the Americans. The fact of the approach of the Kentuckians was borne to General Harrison, and orders were returned to the brigadier general.

The next day General Clay, with the larger portion of his men, fearlessly and successfully pushed his way through the ranks of the British to the southern shore of the river. With this reinforcement, the fort was enabled to repel Proctor's attack so vigorously that the siege was raised on the ninth day.

But the fate of the other portion of the Kentucky troops was far different. While the main body was proceeding to Fort Meigs, a detachment of seven or eight hundred men, commanded by Colonel William Dudley, had been dispatched to the north-

ern shore of the river to storm the British batteries. In this they were successful. But other orders, which commanded them to return immediately to their boats, were misunderstood. The Kentuckians delayed, to return a straggling fire from the Indians. They were surprised by Proctor, greatly outnumbered, and completely defeated. Many were slain and many wounded. Again the Indians treated their prisoners with the barbarous cruelty that had been practiced upon the victims of the Raisin massacre; and the British did not forbid the outrage. Only one hundred and fifty men escaped, and these also might have been murdered if the noble Indian chief, Tecumseh, had not rushed with his sword drawn, into the midst of the carnage, and controlled his savage brethren.

Dudley's defeat

Again Kentucky was called upon for reinforcements, and again she offered double the number demanded. Governor Shelby announced that he would take the field in person, and called upon volunteers to meet him at Newport. In less than thirty days, four thousand Kentuckians had assembled. Outside of Kentucky the governor has no authority to command; but his authority rested with his men, whose confidence in their leader expressed itself in the watchword of the time, — "Old King's Mountain will lead us to victory!"

Kentucky sends more volunteers

It is a fact of curious interest that Governor Shelby and his large reinforcement of Kentuckians reached the camp of General Harrison just at the moment when Commodore Perry was landing with his prisoners after his important victory over Commodore Barclay on Lake Erie. Later on a council of war was held, to decide whether the American forces should cross the lake into Canada and pursue the British army, which was known to be retreating.

Result of the council of war

The practicability of pursuing and overtaking Proctor was carefully argued and weighed as a military proposition. But in the mind of Governor Shelby there was no hesitation. He had gone all that

distance with his "Kentucky boys" to meet the enemies of his country, and his determination was fixed to seek an encounter. Therefore an affirmative decision was cast. The order was given by General Harrison to parade the army for embarkation on Perry's fleet.



Battle of Lake Erie

Kentuckians have always shown a tendency to be strongly influenced by eloquent oratory. On the Governor's staff were two young officers, who later became famous throughout the nation, — Majors John J. Crittenden and William T. Barry. Upon the suggestion of the Governor, each addressed the troops of his State. Whatever reluctance to cross on to foreign soil may have existed among them, vanished under the fire of eloquence poured forth by the young speakers. They recounted in picturesque and dramatic words the wrongs their nation had endured from the British, and the awful slaughter of their countrymen at the hands of the enemy, until every heart was stirred with patriotic impulses. "*Remember Raisin,*" rang in their ears, and all were eager for action.

The march the first day was made in close order in solid columns. To the alert and practiced eye of Shelby this manner of movement seemed to be too slow for the hazardous undertaking before them — that of reaching Proctor and bringing him to battle. He communicated his fears to General

Power of oratory over Kentuckians

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Harrison, who, perceiving at once the truth of the suggestions, commanded that the order of the march be changed in accordance with Governor Shelby's advice. The columns, therefore, were broken, and the army moved forward as a great company of travelers, each individual being urged to the utmost speed. Colonel R. M. Johnson's regiment of Kentucky cavalry was pushed eighteen or twenty miles in advance, to prevent surprise. Soon all recognized the advantage of the new order of the march. On the third day, straggling soldiers from the British army were captured at the crossing of different streams, and were passed to the rear of the American army as prisoners. This fact gave hope and increased vigor to the movements of our men.

The march into Canada

On the fourth day the American army came upon General Proctor encamped at the Moravian town, on the river Thames, eighty-six miles northeast of Detroit. Here a decisive battle was fought, October 5, 1813. The American force was larger than the British and more cleverly ordered. Tecumseh fell early in action, and the Indians grew disheartened at the loss of their great chief. The result was complete victory for the Americans and an end to the war in the Northwest.

The battle of the Thames

Almost the entire force was from Kentucky, and many distinguished men were included in its number, — General John Adair, who fought bravely at the battle of New Orleans, and afterward became governor of his State; Barry and Crittenden, already mentioned; General Joseph Desha, prominent in the political affairs of his day, and also destined to be governor of Kentucky; the gallant Colonel Richard M. Johnson, the slayer of Tecumseh; and Colonel Charles S. Todd, who in times of peace served



Richard M. Johnson

his country in the halls of Congress and as an ambassador to Russia.

A treaty of peace was signed at Ghent, December, 1814; but before the news reached this country several more battles were fought. Of these, the only one which concerns the history of Kentucky was the brilliant battle of New Orleans, January 8, 1815. The British forces were commanded by Sir Edward

Pakenham; the American, by General Andrew Jackson of Tennessee. Here again Kentuckians rendered important assistance, and again had the joy of participating in a triumph.

Battle of New Orleans

It has been said of them that they "formed the strength of that central force which repulsed Pakenham."

RECAPITULATION

- England and France at war.
- United States neutral.
- American commerce interrupted.
- Sailors captured by England.
- United States resents the insult.
- Declares war, June, 1812.
- Kentucky enthusiastic for the war.
- One hundred thousand militia ordered to be raised.
- Kentucky furnishes seven thousand.
- Gives her worthiest sons.
- Two thousand troops leave Georgetown.
- Their request of Governor Scott.
- A council of distinguished men.
- General Harrison's appointments.
- He becomes commander of the Kentucky militia, and of the army of the Northwest.
- He leaves Lexington for his post.
- The Kentucky brigade reaches the Northwest.
- Is not long inactive.
- Battle at Frenchtown.
- British driven from the village.
- General Winchester arrives.
- Makes no preparation for an attack.
- Is surprised by Proctor.
- Fate of Colonel Wells's regiment.
- Heroism of Lewis, Allen, and others.
- Kentuckians obliged to surrender.
- British promise safety to prisoners.
- Promise not fulfilled.
- Indians become intoxicated.
- Terrible slaughter of prisoners takes place.
- Counties named for slain officers.
- Isaac Shelby again governor.
- Brigadier General Green Clay.
- He reaches Fort Meigs.
- Clay divides his force.
- Reinforces General Harrison.
- Dudley's defeat.
- Again prisoners are butchered.
- Tecumseh's timely appearance.
- Governor Shelby's call for volunteers.
- Four thousand meet him at Newport.
- The governor takes command.
- Dramatic meeting at Harrison's camp.
- Decision to pursue Proctor.
- Speeches of Crittenden and Barry.
- The battle of the Thames.
- Death of Tecumseh.
- End of the war in the Northwest.
- Distinguished Kentuckians in the battle.
- Brilliant battle of New Orleans.
- Kentucky's part in the victory.

CHAPTER XII

LOCAL AFFAIRS, 1816-1835

War was now at an end, but peace did not await the people of Kentucky. They were about to enter a political conflict as severe as any they had ever fought with arms. The first contest in the legislature arose in 1816, when George Madison, the newly elected governor, suddenly died, and the question whether the legislature had the power to order a new election came up for decision. After a fight, the vote was cast in the negative, and Gabriel Slaughter, the lieutenant governor, became governor. He fulfilled the duties of that position until 1820, although the matter was not suffered to rest with this first decision, and was repeatedly agitated during various sessions of the legislature. But the disturbance thus caused was as an ordinary strong wind to a cyclone in comparison with the storm which was caused by the financial condition of the country.

While war prevailed in Europe, America had been cut off from foreign trade. The capital of the country was therefore employed in establishing factories for home manufactures. But when the war in Europe was over, foreign goods were again sent over to the United States. The newly established trades of this country could not at once compete with the cheaper and better commodities of the older country; hence resulted a temporary financial depression. Furthermore, during the European wars, and the war of America with England, gold and silver had been banished from circulation, and in their place had been substituted a paper currency, which gave a high nominal value to commodities. The return to specie payment lowered this value, and the result was very gen-

The return to State affairs

Financial depression

eral bankruptcy. Beside these causes of disaster, the country was burdened with an enormous war debt.

For a time Kentucky was in a prosperous condition. Her portion of the war debt was promptly paid. Manufactories sprang up all over the State. In Lexington alone, in 1817, there were more than sixty mechanical shops, and Louisville, the town next in importance, soon vied with Lexington. The increase of trade in the State demanded a better circulating medium than had existed before. In the earliest days, skins of wild animals had constituted the only currency. Later on, Spanish milled silver dollars were introduced. These were cut into four parts to make quarters, which again were cut to obtain smaller bits. Of course dishonesty resulted and great loss was caused, and the need for something more satisfactory was strongly felt.

We have learned that Kentuckians were opposed to banks. In 1817, there existed in the State only one such institution, the Bank of Kentucky, which was on a solid foundation. But, moved by the exigencies of the time, the people went to rash extremes. The legislature of 1817-18 chartered forty-six independent banks which were not required to redeem their notes with specie. The State was flooded with the paper of these banks, and a mere shadow of prosperity hung over the people. Speculation rose to an exorbitant degree. Then the shadow disappeared, and the true financial condition was exposed. Before the end of the year 1818, most of these unsubstantial banks were wrecked; and, in 1820, the legislature repealed the charters which gave them existence.

With the banks went under also a vast number of speculators who had relied upon them. The

Kentucky's financial condition

Independent banks chartered

suffering from debt was terrible. The cry for some means of relief resounded throughout the State. And now began and intense political conflict.

The State became divided into two bitterly antagonistic factions, known as the Relief and Anti-Relief parties. Each enrolled many of the distinguished names of the time. On the one side may be mentioned William T. Barry, George M. Bibb, Joseph Desha, John Trimble, and John Rowan; on the other, Richard C. Anderson, John J. Crittenden, R. A. Buckner, Sr., George Robertson, Christopher Tompkins, and Robert Wickliffe. At first the Relief party was stronger in the State. The great mass of debtors were in favor of the measures it advocated. General John Adair and Major William T. Barry, both Relief candidates, were elected governor and lieutenant governor.

As a "relief measure," the legislature of 1820-21 chartered the Bank of the Commonwealth. This bank was allowed to issue \$3,000,000 of paper money, and was not required to redeem its notes in specie. Soon the paper of the bank fell far below its face value, and creditors refused to receive it in payment of their debts. But the legislature had passed a further act, known as "the two years' replevin law," under which every creditor was obliged to accept in payment of his debt the paper of the Bank of the Commonwealth, or receive nothing at all for two years, with the risk at the end of that time of further delays, or the failure of his securities.

The question of the power of the legislature to pass such an act was brought before the judges of the State. The first to give an opinion on the point was Circuit Judge James Clark, of the Clark County district, who fearlessly declared the act unconstitutional. The Relief party was strong in numbers and power. The storm raged about him; but no recognition of individual loss made Clark waver in

Two new State parties

Bank of the Commonwealth

Judge Clark's decision

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pronouncing the judgment which seemed to him correct. He was brought before the legislature in the spring of 1822, and resolutions were entered requiring the governor to remove him from office. The resolutions, however, failed to receive the necessary two-thirds vote, and were consequently lost.

All now anxiously awaited the decision of the court of appeals. This highest tribunal of the State was then filled by men of recognized integrity and unsurpassed legal ability. John Boyle was chief justice, William Owsley and Benjamin Mills, associate justices. In the midst of an intense excitement which pervaded the entire State, the judges maintained a dignified silence, and awaited the time when they should be called upon to give a decision as a court. This occurred in the autumn of 1823.

The verdict of the court sustained the decision of Clark and the other judges who had concurred with him, and declared the "replevin law" unconstitutional; that is, directly in opposition to the constitution of the United States, which provides that no State has the right to pass any law which shall impair the obligation of contracts. Now, there were many men in Kentucky at this time who believed that a State had the right to nullify or disobey a law of the United States, if that law interfered with what seemed to them the right of the State. Thus was brought into the controversy the old point of divergence between the Federalist and Democratic parties of 1798.

The mass of the people were for the time in sympathy with the Relief party. The decision of the judges awakened great opposition and caused intense excitement in the State elections of 1824.

The result was victory for the Relief party. General Joseph Desha, the Relief candidate, was elected governor by a majority of nearly sixteen thousand over his opponent, Christopher Tompkins, of the opposite faction; and General Robert B. McAfee, also a Relief candidate, was elected lieutenant governor by a majority

Decision of the court of appeals

Temporary power of the Relief party



Joseph Desha

of about eight thousand over William B. Blackburn, of the Anti-Relief side. The Relief party also had a majority in both houses of the legislature.

The judges of the court of appeals held office for life, during good behavior. They could only be removed by the concurrence of two thirds of both houses. That their removal might be accomplished, the judges were brought before the legislature the following December. But as in the case of Judge Clark, the number of votes necessary for their removal was not obtained. Nevertheless, it was the will of the majority that the judges should be removed.

Another means to accomplish this object was now resorted to. A bill was introduced to repeal the act under which the court of appeals had been established. If this were carried, then a new court might be organized in harmony with the will of the people. For three days, before crowded houses, the bill was debated. Each side put forth its best efforts in this unique contest. Logical and brilliantly illogical arguments mingled with the bold charge and counter-charge of the combatants. The bill passed both houses by a large majority, and was signed by the governor.

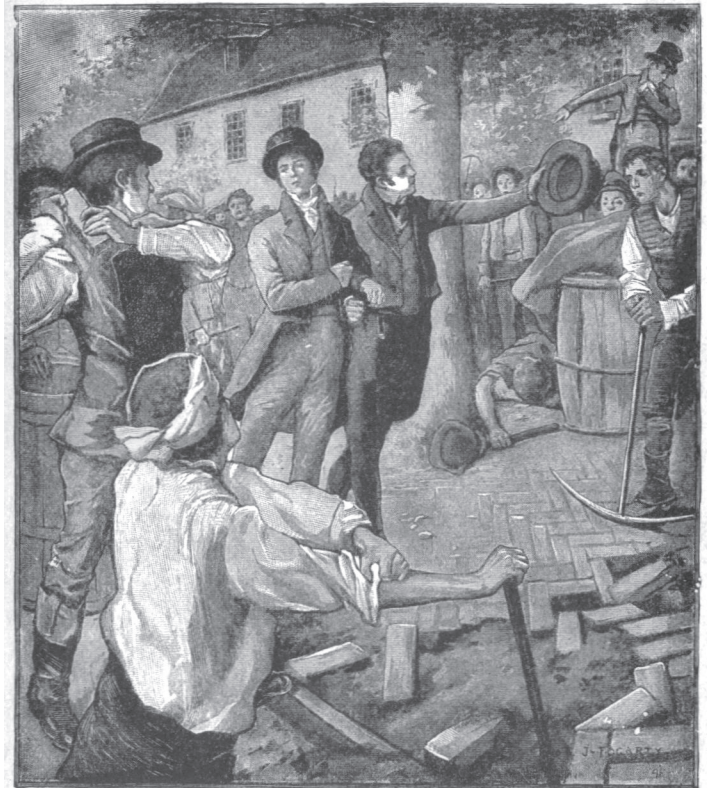
A new court of appeals was soon organized. William T. Barry was appointed chief justice, John Trimble, James Haggin, and Rezin H. Davidge, associated justices. The clerk of the old court refused to give up the papers and records of the court to the new clerk, whereupon the office was broken open to obtain them.

During all this time of trial, the old judges stood firm in their conviction, and continued to sit as a court, in spite of opposition. A majority of the lawyers recognized them as the only court and obeyed their decisions. Some recognized the new court, and others refused to decide between them.

An entertaining incident, which expresses the high excitement of this time, is recorded as having taken place in Lexington. There occurred in the streets of that town a regular pitched battle on this subject. Men appeared armed with pickaxes, with

which they tore up the sidewalks, that they might have bricks to hurl at those who differed from them. When the riot was at its height, R. J. Breckinridge and Charlton Hunt, young men then in the beginning of their careers, came out with locked arms and walked through the midst of the combatants. These young men were opposing candidates, the former being an adherent of the old

How a riot was quieted



How a Riot was Quieted

court and the latter, of the new court. It is needless to add that the rioters were covered with shame, and quiet ensued.

Party names were now shifted. The Relief party became the New Court party; the Anti-Relief party, the Old Court party. The elections of 1825 were fought under this issue. The storm had gathered velocity as it raged. This was the most exciting period in the whole tempest. But a calm was soon to follow. The result indicated a great change in the sentiment of the people. A large majority of the Old Court candidates was elected

Old Court and New Court parties

to the House, and the following year a majority of that party was likewise gained in the Senate.

The new court was abolished and its acts annulled. The old court was reestablished, and the salaries were paid to the judges for the time during which they had been debarred from office. Of course, the "replevin law" was now repealed. The paper of the Bank of the Commonwealth was destroyed, and branches of the United States Bank were established at Louisville and at Lexington. Again the conservative element was victorious in Kentucky.

Quiet being now attained, a matter of national politics next divided the people of the State. In 1824,

Henry Clay's temporary loss of power in Kentucky

the vote for United States President was thrown into the House of Representatives. Henry Clay, member of Congress from the Ashland district, cast his vote for John Quincy Adams, and it was perhaps due to Clay's exertion that Adams was elected. The majority of Kentuckians were eager for the election of General Jackson, the closest contending candidate. Clay's support of Adams was received with disap-



John Quincy Adams

approval throughout the State. This dissatisfaction among his own people arose at the time of Clay's highest national power. He had just succeeded in carrying in Congress his famous Missouri Compromise bill, by which the difficulties between the North and South on the

slavery question were temporarily subdued. Although an account of Clay's work belongs more to the history of the United States than to that of Kentucky, his influence was so distinct upon the political affairs of the Commonwealth during his day, that it must not be lost sight of.

The mass of the Old Court party, which represented the conservative element of the State, warmly upheld Clay. This faction now became merged into a new party that had adopted the name National Republican, while the disagreeing faction united with the Democratic Republican party. The opposition

to Adams had been obliged to smolder during the time of local agitation; but when he was offered as candidate for reelection against Jackson, the latter carried the State by a majority of eight thousand.

Change of party names

The Democratic Republicans carried also all the State elections with the exception of that of governor. Thomas Metcalf, the candidate on the National Republican ticket, was elected over William T. Barry, by a majority of only a few hundred.

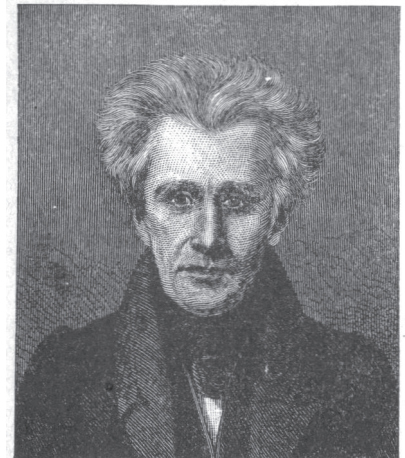
For a time, the control of State politics wavered between these two parties. But finally, Henry Clay's great ability forced for him the renewed support of his fellow citizens. In 1831, he was elected to the United States Senate.

Triumph of the National Republicans

Although the National Republicans obtained a majority in the legislature, the triumph of that party in the State was not yet assured.

A vigorous contest for governor occurred in 1832, and the Democratic Republican candidate, John Breathitt, was elected over Judge R. A. Buckner, Sr., by a small majority.

In the exciting presidential campaign of 1832, Clay and Jackson were opposing candidates. The State gave Clay a majority of over seven thousand votes. Thus also was attained the complete victory of the National Republican party in Kentucky.



Andrew Jackson

Under various names and through various changes, that party held control of the politics of the State thereafter for more than thirty years.

In the spring of 1825, Kentucky arrayed herself in proudest attire to do honor to the French hero of the Revolution, the Marquis de Lafayette. The distinguished visitor was received with ovations at Lou-

isville, Frankfort, Versailles, Lexington, and Maysville; and each place vied with the other in the

Social and literary matters

grace of the dinners and balls given him. The State had now recovered from its first financial crisis, and home life in the largest towns was as luxurious as that in Philadelphia or Boston.

Perhaps this was the era of Kentucky's highest fame. Her statesmen towered by the side of the greatest in the Union. Her lawyers were renowned. Transylvania University, under the presidency of the accomplished and fascinating Dr. Horace Holly, had attained high rank, and was recognized as a great institution of learning, not only in the United States, but abroad. For seven years Professor C. S. Rafinesque,¹ known to the scientists of the world, had occupied the chair of Natural Sciences and Modern Languages. During this time, he projected his dream of establishing botanical gardens at Lexington, and though he was unsuccessful in this undertaking, it added a charm to the town and to the State. By Dr. Holly's resignation in 1825 the University suffered a loss, but the brilliancy of his day lingered over it for years.

In Lexington, also, during this time, was established a Lyceum, or literary society, in which the

Scientific and artistic productions

best talent of the day took part in lectures and debates. Here, in 1827, Thomas Harris Barlow constructed the first model railroad and locomotive ever successfully run in western America, and here he achieved his most complete invention, known as Barlow's Planetarium. Neither was Kentucky barren of artistic productions. During this time Matthew Harris Jouett was producing a series of portraits which have given to his name

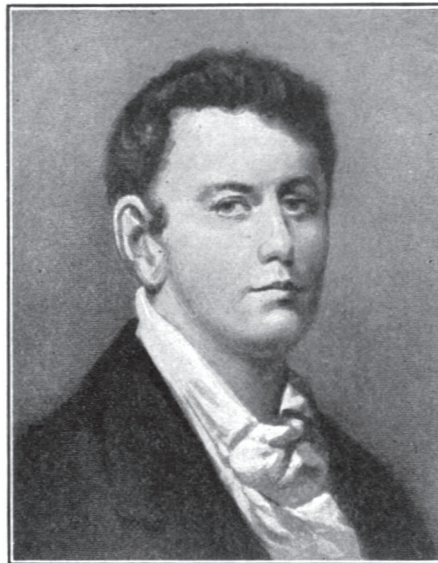
an ever-increasing fame. Many prominent Kentuckians of his day were painted by him. On the walls of the old homesteads of the State hang these priceless relics of cherished ancestors. Jouett, whose Revolutionary forefathers had taken part in the founding of the Commonwealth, was born in Mercer County, April 22, 1788, and died in Fayette County, August 10, 1827, at the early age of thirty-nine. Something of his talent for making portraits and for beauty of coloring descended to his pupil, Oliver Frazer of Lexington (born 1808, died 1854). Older in point of time than the latter was another artist-son of Lexington, Joseph H. Bush (born 1793, died 1865), who did vigorous, though perhaps less polished work than the others mentioned.



Marquis de Lafayette

One of the most celebrated of Kentucky artists was the sculptor, Joel T. Hart, who was born in Clark County in 1810, and died in Florence, Italy, in 1877. Hart's circumstances were restricted, and he was obliged to begin his career as a stonemason. But by virtue of the genius within him, and that necessary accompaniment to genius, — the power to labor unflinchingly, — he succeeded in the profession toward which his ideal ever aspired. He made several statues of prominent men of the day; but his chief claim to fame rests upon the imaginative group to which he gave the name Woman Triumphant.² He spent twelve years' work upon this statue, death alone ending his efforts to perfect it.

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Matthew H. Jouett

1. *The Life and Writings of C. S. Rafinesque.* By Richard Ellsworth Call, M.A., M. Sc., M.D. Filson Club Publication No. 10.

2. In 1884 a Hart Memorial Association was organized at Lexington by Mrs. Issa Desha Breckinridge, for the purpose of raising \$5000 with which to purchase of Messrs. Tiffany & Co., of New York, Woman Triumphant. The statue was secured, and is now in one of the public buildings of the city.

RECAPITULATION

- George Madison, newly elected governor, dies.
- Power of legislature to order new election agitated.
- Gabriel Slaughter, lieutenant governor, succeeds.
- European wars interrupt foreign trade.
- Home manufactories established.
- War ended, foreign trade resumed.
- American manufactories fail.
- Gold and silver banished from use.
- Commodities bring high prices.
- Specie payment resumed after the war.
- Financial depression ensues.
- Kentucky prosperous for a time.
- Shops in Lexington and Louisville.
- Unique currency of the early days.
- A better currency needed.
- Wild extreme of the legislature.
- Forty-six banks chartered.
- State flooded with paper money.
- Banks and speculators break.
- Commonwealth's Bank a "relief" measure.
- "Two years' replevin law" passed.
- Judge Clark decides against the law.
- Failure of attempt to remove him from office.
- Court of appeals concurs with Judge Clark.
- State rights element in the question.
- Relief party carries the State.
- General Joseph Desha governor.
- Failure of attempt to remove court of appeals judges.
- Charter of the court of appeals repealed.
- A new court organized.
- Old court firmly guards papers, etc.
- New court takes forcible possession.
- An entertaining incident.
- Old Court and New Court parties.
- A change of sentiment in the State.
- Old Court party victorious.
- A return to national politics.
- Henry Clay's vote for President Adams.
- Dissatisfaction occasioned in Kentucky.
- Two new parties.
- The Democratic Republicans elect all the State officers except governor.
- Thomas Metcalf chosen governor.
- Victory wavers between the two parties.
- John Breathitt, Democratic Republican, elected governor.
- Henry Clay elected to the United States Senate.
- Final triumph of National Republicans in the State.
- Lafayette's visit to Kentucky.
- A brilliant era.
- Transylvania University.
- Dr. Holly and Professor Rafinesque.
- Botanical gardens projected at Lexington.
- Thomas H. Barlow, inventor.
- The artists of Kentucky.

CHAPTER XIII

CIVIL AFFAIRS AND THE MEXICAN WAR, 1836-1849

The National Republican party became merged into the Whig party, and the affairs of Kentucky were now controlled by that conservative element. As an evidence of this change of sentiment in the State, James Clark, the judge who gave the decision against the replevin laws, was elected governor in 1836. The elections of the following year gave a continued triumph to the Whigs. It was as a result of a congressional contest of this year that one of the most gifted sons of Kentucky was brought within the recognition of the nation.

Rise of the Whig party

Among those men who shed luster upon Kentucky in the early days of the present century, none surpassed, if any equaled, Richard H. Menefee. He was born in Bath County in 1809. His public career began in 1832, before he had completed his twenty-third year, when he was appointed Commonwealth's attorney.



Richard H. Menefee

With one term in the State legislature, one term in the Congress of the United States as the Whig representative of his district, and less than two years' legal practice at the Fayette bar, his brief life closed at the age of thirty-two. In legal ability and the powers of oratorical persuasion he has never been surpassed, and in those distinctive characteristics of high-spirited chivalry which mark the Kentuckian, he has never had a superior. But his name is connected with no great event in history.

Such men are forgotten unless they are held up in grateful remembrance before the people of the State upon which they brought honor in their day and generation.

And it must be understood that this was the day of great men in Kentucky. From the long list of notable names, one or two may be selected as representative of the others.

Thomas F. Marshall

Thomas F. Marshall was born in Frankfort, June 7, 1801, and died at his old home, "Buck Pond," near Versailles in Woodford County, September 22, 1864. In wide scholarship and fervent, imaginative oratory he was rarely gifted. As a speaker he possessed the rather unusual combination of vigorous logic and captivating brilliancy. If his moral character had equaled his intellectual ability, he might have made an enduring impression upon his country.



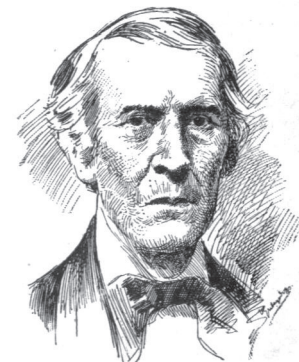
Thomas F. Marshall

In the beginning of his second term, President Jackson vetoed the bill to recharter the Bank of the United States. As a result of this measure State banks sprang up all over the Union. The legislature of Kentucky, in 1833-1834, established the Bank of Kentucky, the Bank of Louisville, and the Northern Bank of Kentucky. Paper money became abundant; as usual, speculation increased, and bankruptcy followed. In the year 1837, all the banks in the United States were obliged to suspend specie payment. By

Financial depression

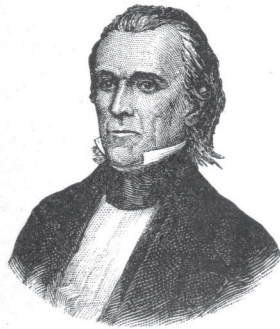
prudent management, however, they were able to resume specie payment the following year. But unfortunately for the country, the spirit of speculation had been stifled only momentarily, not destroyed. Business ventures increased, and again, the next year, there occurred a universal suspension of banks. This financial depression not only existed in Kentucky, but was general throughout the United States for several years. In 1842 an attempt was made to revive the old "relief measures." But there was no danger now of the passage of any radical laws by the legislature. The people had at last learned that legislation does not remedy evils.

Still the Whigs led in State politics. In 1840, Robert P. Letcher, who had been a member of Congress for ten years, was elected governor by a majority of nearly sixteen thousand votes over the nominee of the Democratic party — by which name the Democratic Republicans were now called. But the political contests of 1844 were the most exciting that had occurred in the State for many years. The Whig nominee for governor was Judge William Owsley, who will be remembered as one of the distinguished judges of the old court of appeals during the famous controversy. The Democratic nominee was the popular Major William O. Butler, later General Butler of the Mexican War. Butler was a man of ability. Furthermore, he had been a brave soldier. He had survived the slaughter at Raisin and participated in the victory at New Orleans. Nevertheless, the Whigs carried the day. Judge Owsley was elected by a majority of about forty-five hundred votes.



William Owsley

In the autumn of this year the election for President of the United States took place. Again Henry Clay had been chosen the nominee of the Whig party. Kentucky stood true to Clay, and gave



James K. Polk

him a majority of over nine thousand votes. But James K. Polk, of Tennessee, was elected after a very close contest. The issue had turned upon the question of annexation of Texas to the United States. Clay opposed this measure for various reasons, two of which were that it would increase the slave-holding territory in the United States, and that it would inevitably result in war with Mexico. Just before the inauguration of Polk, and under his advice, the acting President, Tyler, signed the bill for the annexation of Texas to the Union.

Issue of the presidential election

As had been foreseen by Clay, war with Mexico was inevitable. Immediately after the annexation was accomplished, the authorities of Texas sent an urgent request to the President to forward an army for their protection. General Zachary Taylor, of the United States army, a Kentuckian by adoption, was dispatched. Hostilities immediately began. On the 13th of May, 1846, Congress declared war with Mexico. Although the people of Kentucky, by their vote for Clay, had shown their opposition to the measure which brought about the Mexican War, yet, when war was declared, they were ready, as they had always been, to aid the Union in her time of need. Of the fifty thousand troops which the President called for, Kentucky quickly offered ten thousand and many more were eager to be called into service. Three of the important officers of this war were Kentuckians, — Zachary Taylor, major general of the regular army; William O. Butler, major general of volunteers; and Thomas Marshall, brigadier general of volunteers.

Outbreak of the Mexican War

One hundred and five companies, nearly twice as many as were called for, went out from Kentucky to join General Taylor's army. The first regi-



Zachary Taylor

ment of infantry, comprising nine companies from Louisville, was commanded by Colonel Ormsby; the

second, by
Kentucky troops
 Colonel William R. McKee, of Lexington, Lieutenant Colonel Henry Clay, Jr., and Major Cary H. Fry. The first regiment of calvary was commanded by Colonel Humphrey Marshall, of Louisville, Lieutenant Colonel Ezekiel H. Field, of Woodford County, and Major John P. Gaines, of Boone County.

The war was fairly commenced before the Kentucky troops reached their destination. The first action in which any of them fought was the charge on the city of Monterey. The Louisville legion took part in that successful assault, September 24, and were reported to have showed obedience, patience, discipline, and calm courage. General Butler was wounded, and Major Philip N. Barbour was killed. The legislature the following year, 1847, passed resolutions in compliment of the Louisville legion, and ordered swords to be presented to Generals Taylor and Butler, and to the widow of Major Barbour.

The only important action in the Mexican War in which Kentuckians largely took part was the memorable battle of Buena Vista, fought February 22 and 23, 1847, around which have gathered so many stirring recollections. Here fell two of the most gallant sons of Kentucky, — Colonel William R. McKee and Lieutenant Colonel Henry Clay (eldest son of Henry Clay the statesman). One fifth of the troops in this battle were from Kentucky, and of the seven hundred and twenty-three men killed or wounded, one hundred and sixty-two were from this State.

The successful issue of this battle led to the capture of Vera Cruz, the daring attack upon Cerro Gordo, and the final capture of the City of Mexico. With the triumph of the American arms, peace was gained in Texas, and vast territory was surrendered

by Mexico to the United States. An independent company of one hundred men from Clark County, commanded by Captain John S. Williams (afterward General Williams of the Confederate army, and later United States senator), took part in the battle of Cerro Gordo, April 18, 1849, where the Mexicans lost in killed and wounded one thousand men, besides three thousand who were taken as prisoners, and all their materials of war.

The Kentucky troops buried their dead comrades upon the field of Buena Vista; but a few months

Funeral ceremonies at Frankfort

later the State brought home the ashes of some of her heroes to rest in the cemetery of the capital. On the 20th of July, 1847, the solemn and interesting ceremonies took place. An address was delivered by the Rev. John H. Brown of the Presbyterian Church, and an oration by John C. Breckinridge.



Humphrey Marshall



General Taylor at Buena Vista

A little later the State erected a handsome monument in memory of the heroes. It was for the occasion of its unveiling that Theodore O'Hara wrote his immortal elegy, *The Bivouac of the Dead*. O'Hara,¹ born in Danville, Kentucky, in 1820, was

1. *O'Hara and His Elegies*. By George W. Ranck.

the son of Kane O'Hara, an Irishman exiled for his religion, who was celebrated in his day in Kentucky

O'Hara's elegy

for profound classical scholarship. Theodore O'Hara had himself served with distinction in the Mexican War. Entering the army under the appointment of a captaincy, he retired with the rank of brevet major. His heart was stirred by the events through which he had just passed, and his genius expressed itself in as great a poem of the kind as was ever written. It is thrilling even to think of the scene in the cemetery at Frankfort that summer day — with the State's great dead resting all around under the shade of the primeval forest trees — when the soldier poet lifted up his voice in the impressive measure of his verse:

“The muffled drum's sad roll has beat
 The soldier's last tattoo;
 No more on life's parade shall meet
 The brave and daring few.
 On fame's eternal camping ground
 Their silent tents are spread,
 And Glory guards, with solemn round,
 The bivouac of the dead.”

In 1848 John J. Crittenden retired from the Senate of the United States to accept the Whig nomination for governor of Kentucky. He was elected by a large majority over his opponent, Lazarus W. Powell, one of the most notable men in the Democratic party of that day. Crittenden was born in the county of Woodford in 1786. After he was called to

**John Jordon
 Crittenden elected
 governor**

the bar, he moved to that portion of the State known as the Green River country, then attracting many young men of talent. From Russellville, in the county of Logan, in 1811, he was sent, for the first time, as a representative to the legislature. In 1817, he was chosen United States senator. During the troublous times of the Old and the New Court controversy he again consented to take part in his State's affairs. Accordingly he was elected a representative from Frankfort, where he had settled



John J. Crittenden

to practice law. In 1835, he was again called into national politics. He held the office of governor of Kentucky until 1850, when he resigned to become attorney-general in President Fillmore's cabinet. John L. Helm, the lieutenant governor, was inaugurated governor.

In 1849, the State constitution was revised for the third time. Four important changes may be noted: (1) The judiciary, which formerly had been appointed by the governor, was made elective by the people. (2) The power which the legislature had possessed to raise money for debt on the credit of the State was abolished. (3) Certain provisions for the continuation of slavery were made. (4) No convention to revise the constitution could be called without a two-thirds vote of the entire voting population of the State.

**Third revision of the
 constitution**

RECAPITULATION

- Rise of the Whig party.
- James Clark, governor.
- Richard H. Menefee.
- Thomas F. Marshall.
- Charter of United States banks repealed.
- Three banks chartered by the legislature.
- Paper money plentiful.
- Speculation followed by bankruptcy.
- Momentary return of prosperity, followed by widespread failure.
- Attempt to revive “relief measures.”
- Extreme measures not to be carried.

CIVIL AFFAIRS AND THE MEXICAN WAR

- Robert P. Letcher governor.
- Exciting contest for the succeeding governor.
- William Owsley, Whig, elected.
- Clay the Whig nominee for President.
- Kentucky gives him a large majority.
- The annexation of Texas the question of the contest.
- Clay's opposition to the annexation defeats him.
- War with Mexico inevitable.
- General Taylor of the United States army dispatched to Texas.
- Hostilities begin.
- War declared.
- Kentucky's attitude toward the war.
- She offers 10,000 militia.
- Kentuckians high officers in the war.
- The Kentucky troops.
- The Louisville legion.
- The charge on Monterey.
- Battle of Buena Vista.
- One fifth of the troops Kentuckians.
- Distinguished Kentuckians slain.
- The battle leads to the American victory.
- Peace in Texas.
- Acquisition of a vast territory.
- Ashes of the heroes of Buena Vista buried at Frankfort.
- Memorial monument later erected.
- O'Hara and his *Bivouac of the Dead*.
- John J. Crittenden governor.
- Succeeded by John L. Helm in 1850.
- Crittenden's ability.
- State constitution revised in 1849.
- Four important changes made.

IV – THE CIVIL WAR, 1850-1865

CHAPTER XIV

THE SITUATION IN KENTUCKY, 1850-1860

Long before the peal of thunder and the flash of lightning announce the downpour of rain, forces have been at work in the heavens to produce a storm. Long before the outbreak of the Civil War, events had been slowly tending toward the inevitable conflict. With

Causes of the Civil War

the first slaves introduced upon American soil began the conditions which brought about the final tragedy. Of course there were many branches that grew out of the main vine, – the slavery question, – and one was so important and grew so rapidly as time went on that it seemed to many the parent vine, – the original source of the controversy. This was the different and directly opposite views held by the North and the South as to the nature of the government of the United States, the former believing that sovereign power resided in the Federal government; the latter, that it resided in the States.¹

In the warm Southern States where cotton was extensively produced, slavery was deemed a necessity to the agricultural life. This was not the case in Kentucky. But the institution had existed and flourished from the earliest days of the settlement of the region. In 1850 the population of the State was 982,405, of which over 200,000 were slaves.

On the great landed estates of the Commonwealth the lot of the slave was comparatively happy. And yet, over and over again, in important conventions of the State, this problem of human property had claimed the consideration of the people. For

Slavery in Kentucky

years, Henry Clay had been president of the American Colonization Society, and he had advocated a system of gradual emancipation. Many of the prominent citizens of the State, who were large slave owners, concurred in this humane project; but they were in the minority, and we have seen that the revised constitution of 1849 provided for the continuation of slavery.

This provision in the constitution grew out of Kentucky's resentment of the course which extreme persons in the North were beginning to pursue toward the slave-holding States of the South. It had its immediate cause in a desire to oppose the conduct of certain abolitionists who, as early as 1841, began a system of stealing away slaves from their masters and running them in Ohio (a free State) and thence into Canada. These persons had accomplices stationed in different parts of Kentucky, and along routes known only to themselves. When the negroes were stolen, they were passed on from one station to another until they were safely out of the country. Thus the means by which this business was accomplished received the name of the "underground railroad." Again and again the conspirators were discovered in different parts of the State, and were tried and condemned;² but still the work went on because those engaged in it believed they were doing right. Hundreds of slaves were stolen in this way from their owners.

Effect of Abolitionism

In many cases the slaves were unwilling to leave their homes. While they greatly desired freedom, they were as a class a peaceable people that dreaded change. They knew the life they were liv-

1. *The War between the States*. By Alexander H. Stephens.

2. The most noted case was that of Miss Delia A. Webster, who was tried at Lexington, in 1844, and sentenced to two years in the State penitentiary. But the same jury that had condemned her for what they judged a crime, signed a petition to the governor for her pardon. She was released because she was a woman, while her companion in the work was sentenced to serve fifteen years in the penitentiary.

ing. It had sore trials; but they realized that they would always be provided for. They knew nothing about the life into which they would be taken.

Characteristics of the slaves

Moreover, the careless, irresponsible existence they led made them unthinking.

They lived for the moment, and if they could steal



Negroes' Dance

off at night and meet together at some neighboring "quarters" for a dance, they gave themselves up to the frolic with reckless disregard of the punishment which might follow on the morrow.

The leader of the antislavery movement in Kentucky was Cassius M. Clay, a man of strong will, fearless in advocating his opinions.

An abolition newspaper

In 1845, he began to issue at Lexington an abolition newspaper called *The True American*. Its tone was inflammatory and was considered altogether improper. The citizens of that town met and decided that its publication was detrimental to the peace of the community, and that it must be discontinued. When the editor, who was at home ill at the time, was informed of the action of the meeting, he sent back a defiant reply; whereupon

a committee of sixty of the most honorable citizens of the place were deputed to go to the office of *The True American* and take possession of it. The whole proceeding was managed in the most orderly manner. The secretary containing the private papers of the editor was sent to him at his home. The press, type, etc., were packed by printers and sent to the care of a reliable firm in Cincinnati, and the editor was informed that he would find them there awaiting his order.

Of course the committee of sixty had to be tried, for their action was illegal; but the jury, without hesitation, gave a verdict of "not guilty."

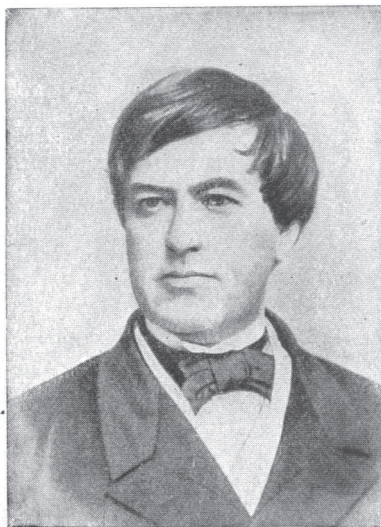
The State commends the action of Lexington

All over the State enthusiastic meetings were held in commendation of the action of the citizens of Lexington, and strong resolutions were passed recommending the prevention of such incendiary publications as *The True American* in the State. This shows that the unwise conduct of extreme abolitionists awakened much excited feeling that otherwise might not have existed.

Kentucky was rapidly growing intensely proslavery. The majority of her people believed to a certain extent in the doctrine of State rights.

Proslavery and Union sentiments

All their sympathies were in harmony with the customs of the Southern States; and yet, at the same time, Kentucky had ever been most ardently attached to the Union. As an evidence of this fact note the words which the legislature of 1850 ordered to be engraved on a block of Kentucky marble that was to be placed in the "General Washington Monument" at Washington City: "Under the auspices of heaven and the precepts of Washington, Kentucky will be the last to give up the Union."



Cassius M. Clay

Slowly, steadily, the division between the two sections of country was widening. But all the while the great and patriotic mind of Henry

Clay was struggling to adjust the differences which threatened dissolution to the Union. The prediction which Clay had made concerning the annexation of Texas in 1845 was fast being fulfilled. Already a war with Mexico had been

Henry Clay's Compromise Bill

fought. Out of the vast territory ceded by Mexico in 1848 to the United States, new States were forming. Already California had framed its constitution and asked for admission into the Union. The question whether slavery should be allowed in the new States raised a conflict of opposition on the one hand, and advocacy on the other, such as had never before occurred in the nation.

In this condition of affairs, on the 29th of January, 1850, Henry Clay came forward in the United States Senate with his celebrated Compromise Resolutions, which were known later as the Omnibus Bill. Clay's earnest speech in exposition of these measures of peace lasted two days, beginning February 5. For months the bill called forth exciting debates in the halls of Congress; but finally the various measures which composed it were passed before the close of that memorable year. This was Clay's last great effort. Two years later he died,



Clay's Home, Ashland, Kentucky

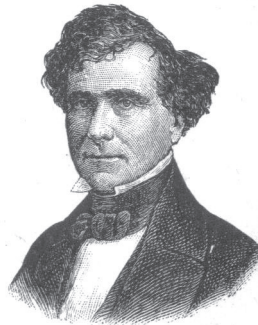
just prior to the downfall of the Whig party, of which he had long been the leader in spirit, if not in place.

In 1851, Lazarus W. Powell, one of the most talented members of the Democratic party, was elected governor. But the Whigs secured a majority of the other State offices and elected most of their men to both houses of Congress. At this time the

State politics

first Emancipation ticket in Kentucky was run, with Cassius M. Clay at its head, as nominee for governor. His vote, was only about thirty-six hundred. Archibald Dixon, who had been the Whig nominee for governor against Powell, was elected United States senator in the place of Henry Clay, resigned. The days of the Whig party were numbered.

With the election of Franklin Pierce, the Democratic nominee for President, in 1852, the Whig party disappeared



Franklin Pierce

from national politics, never to reappear.

Downfall of the Whig party

In Kentucky, for several years longer, it continued to exist as a distinct organization, under the leadership of John Crittenden. But a disruption had occurred in its ranks. Some of its members, more extreme in one direction, had gone off with the abolition movement; while others, of the opposite tendency, had united with the Democratic forces.

In the unsettled, agitated condition of the nation it was inevitable that new parties should arise to embody the various opinions the times inspired. The American or Know-Nothing party, as it was commonly called, appeared like a meteor only to fall like a meteor. It existed from 1853 to 1856. In Kentucky elections of 1855 for State officers and members of Congress this ticket was mainly successful. Charles S. Morehead, a former Whig, became governor.

Know-Nothing party

But the variations in the politics of the State were like the waverings of a newly started pendulum before it finally assumes its regular beat. The hour of Democratic supremacy was at hand. In 1856, John C. Breckinridge of Kentucky, the Democratic nominee for Vice President, was elected, with James Buchanan as President. Young Breckinridge was peculiarly fitted to become the leader of the Democratic forces of his State. He was brave, with a winning manner and a ready ora-

Democratic supremacy

tory. His sympathies went out ardently toward the South in the question which was now before the nation. In the ensuing State elections, the Democrats were victorious. In 1859, Beriah Magoffin, Democrat, was elected governor, and a majority of Democrats was obtained in both houses of the legislature.

Although the Democracy held the scepter of power, yet there still existed in the State that old conservative element whose influence has been repeatedly noted. This element has been known to us most recently under the appellation Whig. Left now without a party name, the men of that policy became designated for a time simply as the "Opposition." But they were soon to make for themselves a name which is expressive of the work they did for their State and the nation, — Conservative Union party.

This body was composed of some of the purest and most patriotic men the State has ever produced. In their number will be found the names of such able judges as L. W. Andrews, R. A. Buckner,

The conservative element

C. F. Burnam, W. B. Kinkead, Joseph R. Underwood, and Nathaniel Wolfe; of such distinguished statesmen as Joshua F. Bell and James Guthrie; and of such brilliant editors as George D. Prentice of the *Louisville Journal*, John H. Harney of the *Louisville Democrat*, and D. C. Wickliffe of the *Lexington Observer and Reporter*. And there were many others who, in the legislature, in public speeches to the citizens of the State, and in the newspaper editorials, likewise labored to avert the threatened dissolution of the nation. Of these men, John J. Crittenden stood as the representative type in the Federal Congress. All hopes turned to him to save the Union.



John C. Breckinridge

RECAPITULATION

- The North and the South hold contrary views.
- They interpret the Federal constitution differently.
- Slavery becoming a serious problem.
- Slavery not necessary to Kentucky.
- Large slave population of the State.
- The slave problem repeatedly disturbs the people.
- Gradual emancipation advocated.
- Extreme abolitionists excite temper in the people.
- "The underground railroad."
- Many slaves captured in this way.
- The careless lives of the slaves.
- An abolition newspaper forcibly discontinued.
- The "committee of sixty" tried and acquitted.
- Lexington's action commended by the State.
- Kentucky opposed to abolitionism.
- Her belief in State Rights.
- Her ardent attachment to the Union.
- Henry Clay's prophesy concerning Texas fulfilled.
- New States ask admission to the Union.
- Question of slavery in the new States.
- Clay's Resolutions of 1850.
- The various measures carried.
- Clay's death two years later.
- Whigs carry most of the elections of 1851.
- Lazarus W. Powell, Democrat, elected governor.
- Cassius M. Clay heads an Emancipation ticket in 1851.
- Archibald Dixon succeeds Clay in United States Senate.
- National downfall of the Whig party.
- Crittenden holds it together a little longer in Kentucky.
- Rise and fall of the Know-Nothing party.

THE SITUATION IN KENTUCKY

- Democratic supremacy.
- John C. Breckinridge the Democratic leader.
- Beriah Magoffin, Democrat, governor.
- Old Whig party first called the “Opposition.”
- Becomes the Conservative Union party.
- Its members men of weight in the community.

CHAPTER XV

KENTUCKY'S POSITION OF NEUTRALITY, NOV. 1860-JUNE 1861

It is a curious coincidence that the two men who were destined to take the political lead in the great conflict of the nation were born in Kentucky, within one year of each other.

Lincoln and Davis, natives of Kentucky

Jefferson Davis was born June 3, 1808, in that part of Christian County which afterward became Todd County. In his infancy his family moved southward to Mississippi, where he became imbued with the spirit and the customs of the planters. Abraham Lincoln was born in a log cabin in that part of Hardin County which afterward became Larue County, on the 12th day of February, 1809.

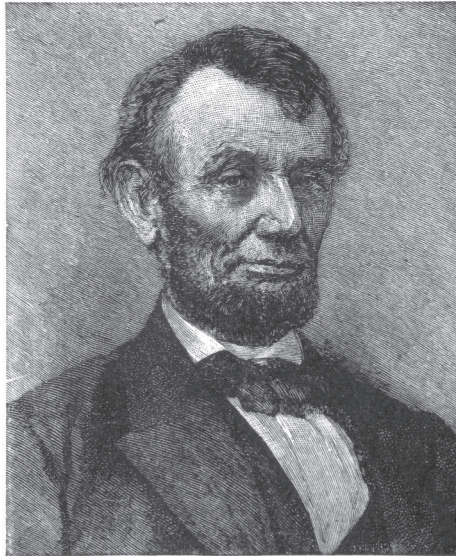
In his boyhood, his family moved northward into the uncultivated regions of the newly opened West. From a life of vigorous physical toil and earnest mental exertion, he learned those lessons of truth and freedom which prepared him for his mission.

In November, 1860, Abraham Lincoln was elected President of the United States.

Secession of Southern States

The leaders of the South had declared that in the event of his election they would withdraw from the Union. Secession feeling was growing. On December 17, South Carolina met in a State convention that resulted in the secession of that State from the Union on December 20. Within two months Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, and Texas followed this precedent. On December 18, John J. Crittenden offered in the United States Senate certain compromise propositions

which, if adopted as amendments to the Federal constitution, he hoped would bring peace between the North and the South. But the propositions were voted down. The country was in no state of mind to listen to reason. Ten years had passed since Clay had carried in that same body his compromise measures of 1850. For ten years fuel had been added to the flame which was then burning in the North and in the South. In 1850, it was possible to subdue it; in 1860, it had grown beyond the power of man to quench.



Abraham Lincoln

In January, 1861, a committee composed of one member from the representation in Congress of each of the Border States met and framed other compromise resolutions which Crittenden, a member of the committee, accepted as substitutes for his own. But these proposed amendments met the same fate as their predecessors. In the meanwhile, at home, the Union men upheld the hands of their senator. Conventions passed resolutions

in favor of his efforts to avert the approaching catastrophe. Earnest speakers addressed the citizens in different parts of the State and implored them to be moderate in their actions. "Secession," they said, "means revolution, and revolution means war. And war with whom? With our neighbors, our friends, our brothers!" In glowing language they urged the citizens nobly to face the wrongs which the South had suffered from the North, not failing to recognize, at the same time, the honor and the blessing of living in a great united coun-

Efforts toward compromise unavailing

try; and to stand firm in the position they had taken for the Union.

On the 17th day of January, 1861, the legislature met in called session. **Governor Magoffin, in his message, set forth the condition of the country as it appeared to him at the time, and strongly recommended the calling, forthwith, of a State convention to determine the future attitude of Kentucky toward the Federal government.**

The governor's message

The governor also recommended the arming of the State; the appointment of commissioners to act for Kentucky in a convention of Border Slave States to meet in the city of Baltimore at an early day; and the presentation of the Crittenden compromise, or its equivalent, as an ultimatum.

Many members of the Democratic party advocated calling a State convention. Notable among these was Vice President Breckinridge, who definitely expressed his views on the subject in a letter to

Democratic views

the governor received a few days before the legislature convened. After giving a summary of the Crittenden compromise propositions, and mentioning other efforts which had been made to settle the political differences then dividing the country, he stated his firm conviction that no plan of adjustment would be adopted by Congress. He therefore gave his voice for a State convention. In his opinion, civil war was imminent unless it could be arrested by the prompt and energetic action of the several States in their sovereign capacity. He believed that it might be arrested if Kentucky and the other Border States should calmly and firmly present a united front against it. But if the war could not be avoided, he desired that Kentucky should be in a position to decide whether she would support the Federal Union or the Southern cause.

On the other hand, the Union men were distinctly opposed to calling a State convention. They argued that such a convention would not better the condition of Kentucky, that the legislature had full power to do everything necessary for the good of the Commonwealth. On one point only it could not act. It could not withdraw the State from the Union. It

was only through the action of a State convention that such a step could be taken. They believed that if a convention were called, Kentucky might be led to secede. They were assured that most of the people of the State were attached to the Union; but they knew that in times of high excitement men may be tempted to rash action, contrary to their sober judgment.

Union views on the subject

In the legislature, this important matter was earnestly argued by both sides; but finally the decision was reached that action at that time on political affairs was both unnecessary and inexpedient, and the legislature refused to call a convention that might take the State out of the

Legislature against a State convention

Union. On February 11, the legislature adjourned until March 20. Little was done at this second session of sixteen days beyond further discussion of the state of the country. By special invitation, an address from the Union standpoint was delivered by John J. Crittenden, which was followed several days later by another from the Democratic point of view by John C. Breckinridge. Crittenden had just left the United States Senate. Breckinridge was his successor.

On the 4th of February, a Peace Conference of twenty-one States assembled at Washington. Kentucky sent six delegates, — William O. Butler, Joshua F. Bell, James B. Clay, James Guthrie, Charles S. Morehead, and Charles A. Wickliffe; but nothing was accomplished by this meeting. All efforts toward compromise were of no avail. Matters were tending to a crisis. By this time seven States had seceded. On the same day that the Peace Conference opened in Washington, delegates from six of the seceded States met at Montgomery, Alabama, to frame a government for The Confederate States of America. Jefferson Davis was elected President. On the 4th of March, Abraham Lincoln was inaugurated President of the United States.

Definite turn in affairs

On the 12th of April, 1861, the first gun in the war between the States was fired on Fort Sumter, in South Carolina. The garrison was under the com-

mand of Major Robert Anderson of the United States army, a native of Kentucky. On the 14th, the Federal forces were compelled

Beginning of the war

to abandon the fort. The President immediately made proclamation for troops. Kentucky was called on to furnish four regiments for the service of the government. Governor Magoffin promptly telegraphed the following reply to this demand: "In answer, I say, emphatically, Kentucky will furnish no troops for the wicked purpose of subduing her sister Southern States." Troops requested for the Confederate States were also refused by the governor.

The Union men now nerved themselves for a mighty effort to hold Kentucky in a

Efforts to hold Kentucky neutral

position of neutrality. On the 17th of April, Crittenden made a speech to a large audience in Lexington. He brought all the weight of his great intellect to bear on his appeal to the people to maintain an independent course. Kentucky, he showed, had done nothing to bring on this war; she had done everything in her power to prevent it. Now that civil strife was begun, there was no reason why Kentucky should be forced to take part either with the North or the South. Let her strand true to the Union alone and remain in her place as a peacemaker.

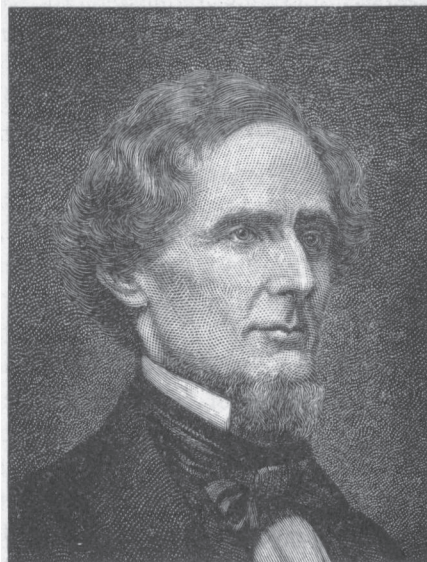
The Union State Central Committee (formed January 8) followed up this line of argument in an address to the people. They earnestly urged that Kentucky should persevere in a position of neutrality, and they recommended that she should arm herself thoroughly, so that she might protect her soil from the invasion of either the Federal or Confederate forces. Similar Union meetings were held in various localities. Everywhere, it was evident, the desire of the people was for neutrality.

Thus two facts are apparent to us, — that the people of Kentucky were ardently attached to the Union, and that they were distinctly opposed to war.

They believed that the disagreement between the North and the South ought to be settled in some peaceable way. They shuddered at the thought of civil war — war between friends and kindred. Therefore there was no probability, just at this time, that the State would decide to unite with the Federal government in resisting the secession of the Southern States.

Kentucky's attitude toward the war

The extreme Unionists — those who were ready for war — were in the minority. But it was possible that Kentucky might decide to support the Southern cause. The Conservative Union men and the Democrats were agreed in believing that the



Jefferson Davis

Northern congressmen had no right to make laws against the slave property of the South. But the Democrats believed in the doctrine of State rights, — that a State had the right to secede when it judged that the Federal government had acted unconstitutionally toward it. They dwelt upon the wrongs the South had suffered, and the subject appealed to the spirit of many of the gallant young men of the Commonwealth. The Kentuckian, from the days of his earliest conflict with Indians, had allowed no foe to overcome him. It was his impulse now to rush forward and take his stand beside his

resisting brethren. It would not have been impossible, perhaps, by a few impassioned speeches on this line, to have turned the State into the Confederacy.

In this state of feeling the legislature was again assembled in called session, May 6. At first it appeared as if the Southern Rights element was in the majority. But there were in that body a number of old tried Whigs, — Union men

Legislature favors mediatorial neutrality

now, — who braced themselves to exert every effort to keep their State from the horrors of this war, and to hold her true to the Union. Their strength was as the strength of many because they were convinced that their purpose was righteous. Moreover, they were upheld by the will of the people. Petitions

poured in from the women of the State, imploring the legislators to “guard them from the direful calamity of civil war.” Furthermore, several members who had been elected as Democrats before this crisis of war had come, now went over to the aid of the Union men. Notably among these was Richard T. Jacob, later colonel of the Federal army, and lieutenant governor of the State. And so it came about that this legislature decided the fate of the State, and perhaps of the nation, by voting in favor of mediatorial neutrality.

Kentucky’s position of mediatorial neutrality was primarily a decision for the Union. It did not

Meaning of mediatorial neutrality

mean that the Federal government had no right to raise troops for its defense on her soil. It rather indicated

such a right, and was simply a request to the Federal government for a postponement of that constitutional right, in order that an effort might be made on her part to try to win back the seceded States to the Union and to secure peace.¹ But if peace were impossible, and the war should continue, Kentucky was determined to stand by the Union, even to her temporary disadvantage in the possible destruction of her slave property. What was gained by this position was delay. In that hour of impassioned action every moment of rational inaction was of vital importance.

The Union victory was attained by only one vote in the House and a meager majority in the Senate; but none the less was it

Union victory

regarded by the Conservatives as a triumph which would result in immeasurable good.

In the list of those who accomplished it are found the names of men who are known to the nation. There are R. A. Buckner, Speaker of the House, C. F. Burnam, Lovell H. Rousseau, James Speed, Joseph R. Underwood, Nathaniel Wolfe, and others too numerous to mention. Old men who were present in that legislature tell us today of the deep earnestness of the discussion through which that decision was reached.

Throughout this study we have had occasion to notice the sober dignity with which Kentucky has met every serious issue in her history; and we have also observed the important work she has done for the nation. Let us especially recall the period of her severest trial, — her tedious struggle for independence from Virginia, — and we shall find that she decided her course of action in this present vital hour of the nation’s life in harmony with that judgment which controlled her in the former period.

The governor issued a proclamation setting forth the fact of Kentucky’s neutrality, and likewise warning and forbidding any State, whether of the United States or of the Confederate States, to enter or occupy Kentucky

The governor’s proclamation

with armed forces. The legislature also directed that the State should be armed for her own protection. The necessary funds were immediately raised, and arms and ammunition were procured for the State Guards and the Home Guards; and it was especially provided that neither the arms nor the militia were to be used against either the United States or the Confederate States, but solely for the defense of the State of Kentucky. The governor appointed Simon Bolivar Buckner inspector general, Scott Brown adjutant general, and M. D. West quartermaster general.

The President called a special session of Congress for July 4, 1861. The election thus made necessary is described by one of the Union workers of that time as follows:

Union men elected

“And now the contest opened before the people of Kentucky, and the Union men went boldly and confidently into the fray.... All eyes were at once turned to Mr. Crittenden, and his services were demanded in that Congress.... The noble old man heard the call and did not hesitate for a moment.... Animated by intense patriotism and the stirring scenes around him, he moved through the district with all the vigor and spirit of a young man, unbent by age, his manly form erect, his voice clear and thrilling, his eye blazing with

1. Synopsis of House Resolutions in exposition of the position of the legislature of 1861. Offered by the member from Oldham, Richard T. Jacob, and accepted by the legislature, September 1, 1861.

all the fervor which the high responsibility of his position inspired. Crowds flocked to listen to him; the people everywhere responded to his appeal.... He was elected by a large majority. Many others of the best men of the State were sent to Congress.¹ The most trusted men were selected for the legislature, and secession was no longer thought of in Kentucky.

"No one doubts that had Mr. Crittenden faltered at all, or had he pursued any other course than that which he did pursue, Kentucky would have been lost to the Union. His personal influence in the late

legislature had contributed much to prevent injudicious action. His eloquence and his great popularity secured the triumph of the Union men in his district; and the great confidence the whole State reposed in him kept the State in the Union. Should Kentucky at that critical moment have cast her destiny with the South, who can calculate what might have been the result?"²

Crittenden's influence

RECAPITULATION

- Both Lincoln and Davis born in Kentucky.
- Lincoln elected President of the United States, 1860.
- His election objectionable to the South.
- South Carolina and six other States secede.
- Crittenden's compromise resolutions rejected by the United States Senate.
- Border States' compromise resolutions also rejected.
- Crittenden's efforts for peace appreciated at home.
- Speakers urge the people to be moderate in action.
- The legislature meets in called session.
- The governor's message.
- He recommends calling a State convention.
- Democrats generally desire this step.
- Views of Vice President Breckinridge on the subject.
- He earnestly advocates holding such a convention.
- It would enable the State to decide her course toward the war.
- Union party strongly oppose calling a State convention.
- They fear the State might thus be led to secede.
- Legislature decides not to hold a State convention.
- Legislature addressed on the condition of the country.
- J. J. Crittenden speaks from the Union point of view.
- J. C. Breckinridge speaks from the Democratic point of view.
- Peace conference at Washington accomplishes nothing.
- The crisis approaching.
- The Confederate States of America formed.
- Jefferson Davis chosen President.
- Lincoln inaugurated President of the United States.
- Confederates fire upon Fort Sumter, South Carolina.
- Major Robert Anderson, U.S.A., in command.
- Federals obliged to abandon the fort.
- President Lincoln makes proclamation for troops.
- Confederate States also request troops.
- Governor Magoffin declines both requests.
- Union men strive to hold Kentucky neutral for a time.
- Crittenden recommends an independent course.
- He shows that Kentucky had no part in bringing on the war.

1. The men selected to represent the State in this Congress were Henry C. Burnett, James S. Jackson, Henry Grider, Aaron Harding, Charles A. Wickliffe, George W. Dunlap, Robert Mallory, John J. Crittenden, William H. Wadsworth, and John W. Menzies.

2. W. B. Kinkead in an article on John J. Crittenden in the *New York Sun*.

THE CIVIL WAR

- He urges the people not to rush into the contest, but to remain peacemakers, true to the Union.
- Union meetings held in various localities.
- All recommend the same course.
- Kentucky much attached to the Union.
- Generally opposed to war.
- Does not intend just yet to enter the war on the Federal side.
- More chance of her supporting the Confederate cause.
- It appeals to the sympathy of the young men of the State.
- Conservative Union men and Democrats widely differ on one point.
- Democrats believe that a State has a right to secede.
- Second called session of legislature.
- Southern Rights element in the majority at first.
- Conservative Union men make a strong fight.
- Several Democrats come to their aid.
- Mediatorial neutrality carried.
- This was a plea to the Federal government to postpone raising troops in the State while further efforts for peace were made.
- Above all it meant a decision for the Union.
- The State armed for her own protection.
- Special election of Congressmen held.
- Crittenden helps to secure the Union victory.

CHAPTER XVI

THE INVASION OF KENTUCKY, JULY 1861-APRIL 1862

Had the other States followed Kentucky's example of forbearance, there would have been no war. But perhaps war was necessary. Perhaps it was the only means by which the abolition of slavery could be accomplished. Of course it was impossible for Kentucky to make peace, and equally impossible for her to remain apart from the combat.

Beginning of the tragedy

Outside the borders of the State, at Camp Clay opposite Newport, and Camp Joe Holt opposite Louisville, Federal regiments were being recruited, and thither in the summer of 1861 hastened many Unionists of the State. Many dissatisfied Secessionist assembled at Camp Boone near Clarksville, Tennessee, where Confederate troops were being enlisted. And thus began the tragedy in Kentucky! Most of the other States went solidly with one side or the other; but Kentucky was divided against herself! Fathers differed from sons, and went forth to fight against them. Brothers parted from brothers, friends from friends. Ah, the awful anguish of it all!

On the soil of Kentucky itself Federal forces were organized at Camp Dick Robinson, in Garrard County, by

Federal and Confederate forces organized in Kentucky

General William Nelson. General Humphrey Marshall had a recruiting camp in Owen County, thirty miles from the capital, where Confederate forces were organized. In other parts of the State, Confederate troops were raised by Colonel

General William Nelson. General Humphrey Marshall had a recruiting



Union Soldier

Blanton Duncan. And still, the State's neutral position was not yet officially abandoned.

On the 20th of May, 1861, the definite Confederate government was organized at Richmond, Virginia. In that State, on the 21st of July, the first great battle of the war was fought along the



Confederate Soldier

banks of Bull Run stream, not far from Manassas Junction. The result was defeat to the Federals, and a general rout and flight of their forces.

Hope was inspired in the hearts of the Confederates; but the Federals fought with renewed energy. Each side watched Kentucky with interest.

The August elections came off, and the State voted overwhelmingly in favor of the Unionists. Seventy-six Union to twenty-four State Rights members were elected to the House; twenty-seven to eleven, to the Senate. The newly elected legislature assembled September 2, 1861.

The day following, by an almost simultaneous move upon Kentucky, the State was invaded by Confederate forces at two different points. Major General Leonidas Polk, of Tennessee, occupied and fortified a strong position at Hickman and Columbus, in the southwest, and General Zollicoffer established troops near Cumberland Gap, in the southeast. Whereupon, on the 5th, a Federal army of several thousand strong, under an order from Brigadier General U. S. Grant, entered Kentucky and took its position at Paducah. The legislature promptly ordered that the flag of the United

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Confederates invade Kentucky

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States be hoisted on the capitol, to proclaim Kentucky's Union attitude.

General Polk notified Governor Magoffin that he would withdraw his troops provided the Union troops were simultaneously withdrawn; and offered the further guarantee that Confederate troops should remain out of the State provided Federal troops should not be allowed to enter or occupy any point in Kentucky in the future. Now the Union people disapproved of the condition thus laid down by the General Polk.¹ On the 11th, the legislature passed resolutions to the effect that Kentucky expected the confederate troops to withdraw from her soil unconditionally. The governor, who was opposed to the Union policy, and in sympathy with the Confederacy, vetoed the resolution, but it was passed immediately over his veto.

Legislature orders withdrawal of Confederates

As the Confederate forces refused to comply with this order, on September 18, the State, in her General Assembly, abandoned the neutrality position, and declared herself an active supporter of the Federal government.

Neutrality position abandoned

Resolutions were introduced and carried: (1) to request General Robert Anderson, who had already been appointed commander of the Department of the Cumberland, which included Kentucky, to take instant command, with authority to call out the volunteer force of the Commonwealth for the purpose of expelling the invaders from the soil; (2) to protect all peaceable citizens while this necessary duty was being performed; (3) to request the governor to give all the aid in his power to accomplish this



Robert Anderson

end, and to call out the militia force of the State under his control, and place it under the command of General Thomas L. Crittenden; (4) to invoke the patriotism and aid of every Kentuckian for the defense of the Commonwealth. Again the governor used his right of veto, and again the legislature disregarded his act. Several days later, a bill was passed, — notwithstanding the usual veto, — directing the governor to call out not less than forty thousand Kentuckians to be placed under the authority of the commanding general, to aid in expelling the invaders.



Thomas L. Crittenden

The State Guard, who had been armed and equipped by the State for her own use and protection, laid down their arms in some instances, and in others carried them with them, and went almost in a body into the ranks of the Confederacy, whither their principles or sympathy led them. On September 18, their leader, Brigadier General Simon B. Buckner, was ordered to invade Kentucky and to fortify a central camp at Bowling Green. This point became, for a time, the headquarters of the Confederate Army of the West, then placed under the command of General Albert Sidney Johnston, a Kentuckian by birth.

The State Guard

As early as July, General Lloyd Tilghman, a resident of Paducah, had resigned his position in the State Guard, and at the head of the third Kentucky regiment of infantry, had joined the Confederate army. Paducah was intensely Southern, and most of the young men of the city, previously members of the State Guard, went with Tilghman. From the force of the State Guard, also, went John Hunt Morgan, then captain of the Lexington Rifles, to become the famous Kentucky cavalry raider, — General Morgan of the Confederacy. By some daring stratagem, he

1. See p. 94, the meaning of mediatorial neutrality.

succeeded in evading the Federal authorities, and leading most of his company, all carrying their arms with them, he reached Bowling Green a few days after General Buckner had taken his station there.

The Home Guard
 On the contrary, the Home Guards were nearly all supporters of the Federal government. But they were a body of undisciplined troops who were not always wise in their conduct. Arrests of innocent persons were frequently made by them, and thereby wrath was awakened among the Southern sympathizers against the Union policy the State had adopted.

The legislature heartily condemned all such unjustifiable arrests, and General Anderson, who was always fair as well as brave, issued a proclamation of protection to the people. It was to the effect that no Kentuckian should be arrested unless he took part, either by action or speech, against the authorities of the general or State government, held correspondence with, or gave aid or assistance to, the enemy.

Prominent Confederates arrested
 Under a construction of this order of the commanding general, a number of arrests were made of men who, by their position, were able to give efficient aid to the Confederate cause. James B. Clay was arrested for this reason, as were also Reuben T. Durrett, editor of the *Louisville Courier*, and ex-governor Charles S. Morehead, who were sent to political prisons in the East. The judge of Harrison County and other officers of that court were arrested and sent to the United States barracks at Newport. Every effort was put forth to constrain the citizens to submit to the Union policy which the State had adopted.

Confederate leaders
 The State was being rapidly divested of her Southern sympathizers among the soldiers. During the last week of September, nearly one thousand Kentuckians passed into Virginia, to join the Southern forces. John C. Breckinridge left his seat in the

United States Senate to become brigadier general in the Confederate army. Other notable leaders of Confederate volunteers were Roger W. Hanson, Ben Hardin Helm, George W. Johnson, Humphrey Marshall, William Preston, and John S. Williams.



William Preston

Meanwhile the State was gathering loyal soldiers for the Federal service. It is difficult to estimate the exact numbers furnished to the Confederate side; but it may be generally stated that about three times as many of the inhabitants of the Commonwealth went into the Federal army as went into the Confederate. Nevertheless, many mothers and aged fathers who remained at home awaited in anguish and suspense the tidings from the opposing armies, each of which contained dearly loved members of their divided families.

Divided households
Important official changes
 The departure of the Confederates left vacant a number of State offices. John W. Finnel, an efficient Union member of legislature, was appointed adjutant general, in the place of Scott Brown, and William A. Dudley quartermaster general, in the place of M. D. West, who had followed his associate into the Southern army. Bland Ballard was appointed United States district judge, that honorable position having been vacated by its holder, Thomas B. Monroe. John C. Breckinridge was deprived of his seat in the United States Senate, and Garrett Davis was chosen by the legislature to succeed him.



Bland Ballard

Previous to the 21st of October, only insignificant skirmishes had taken place on Kentucky soil; but on that day occurred quite a desperate encounter at Camp Wild Cat, in the Rockcastle hills.

The Federal troops were commanded by Colonel T. T. Garrard; the Confederate, by Brigadier General Zollicoffer. The Confederates were outnumbered, and in spite of the efforts of their able commander, were forced to retreat. Shortly afterward, not far away, at Ivy Mountain, in Pike County, a similar victory was gained by Federal troops under General William Nelson.

First battles in Kentucky

On the 18th of November, there occurred a unique event. Delegates, elected by the

Confederate government of Kentucky

dissatisfied minority of the State, assembled at Russellville, in Logan County, and formed what they called a pro-

visional government for Kentucky. George W. Johnson was chosen governor, and a full corps of State officials was also elected. Bowling Green was selected as the new seat of government. Henry C. Burnett, sometime representative in the United States Congress, William Preston, and William E. Simms were sent as delegates to Richmond, Virginia, and on the 10th of December, the government there established went through the form of admitting Kentucky into the Confederate States. This little episode had small effect, however, upon the even tenor of Kentucky's real administration. Soon the principal actors in it themselves left their provisional posts, to enter into the serious events of Southern warfare.

On November 13, Brigadier General Don Carlos Buell succeeded to the command of the department which included Kentucky. Early the following month,

he had organized at Louisville for the Union army about sixty thousand soldiers. The Confederates held a long military line from Cumberland Gap into Arkansas and Missouri. They had strong fortifications on the Cumberland, Tennessee, and Mississippi rivers. They had been greatly discouraged by Kentucky's



Don Carlos Buell



William Nelson

unwavering efforts for the Union; but they still hoped to gain possession of the State. On January 19, 1862, General George B. Crittenden, commanding a Confederate force of about five thousand infantry, came upon the advancing Federal army, commanded by Major General George H. Thomas, under whom

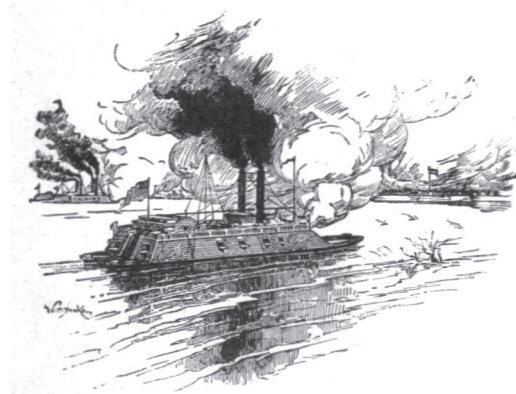
were Colonel Speed

Significant Federal victory in Kentucky

Smith Fry and Frank L. Wolford, at Mill Springs, in Pulaski County. The Confederate attack was led by General Zollicoffer, who was killed after

a few hours' hard fighting. The Federal force, which at the outset was somewhat less than that of the enemy, was about this time reinforced. The Confederates were thrown into confusion and driven to retreat into Tennessee. This was the first of the important victories which led to the evacuation of the State.

Another discouraging defeat to the Confederates was soon to follow. On the 6th of February,



Bombardment of Fort Henry

General Lloyd Tilghman, in command of the Confederate Fort Henry, on the Tennessee River, was compelled to surrender to General Grant. On the 12th of the month, General Grant began his celebrated assault on Fort Donelson,

Fall of Forts Henry and Donelson

on the southwest bank of the Cumberland River. The Confederate troops were commanded by Generals

John B. Floyd, Gideon J. Pillow, and Simon B. Buckner. Two Kentucky regiments were engaged on each side: Colonel John H. McHenry's and Colonel James M. Shackelford's, on the Federal; Colonel Roger W. Hanson's and Colonel H. B. Lyon's, on the Confederate. The terrible carnage lasted nearly five days, during bitterly cold weather, rain, and sleet. On the night of the 15th, Generals Floyd and Pillow escaped with portions of their brigades. On the 16th, General Buckner proposed terms of capitulation, but General Grant demanded and obtained an unconditional surrender.

On the 14th, before the fate of Donelson was definitely decided, the Confederates abandoned Bowling Green. On the 27th, Columbus was also evacuated. Federal troops under the chief command of General Buell — 114,000 men — were meanwhile pressing southward. On the 25th of February, they took possession of Nashville, Tennessee.

The retreating Confederates passed through Nashville before the advance of the Federals. General Albert Sidney Johnston reorganized his army at Murfreesboro, and having been reinforced by General Beauregard, again moved southward to Corinth, Mississippi. General Grant pushed his forces in a parallel direction and established his camp at Pittsburg Landing, near Shiloh Church, on the Tennessee River. The engagement which occurred there on the morning of the

Kentucky evacuated by the Confederates



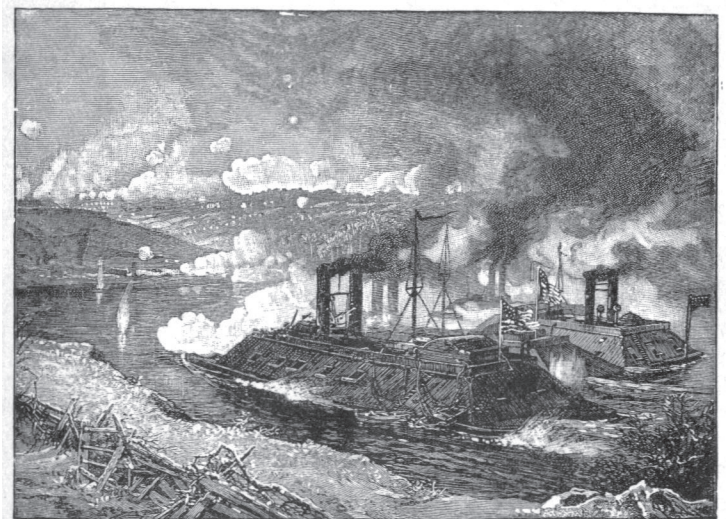
Lloyd Tilghman

6th of April, although desired by the Union army, was hastened by the wisdom of the Confederate commander. The battle of Shiloh was one of the most terrible in the war. The fighting continued for two days. At the close of the first day the Federals were driven in disorder to the river, and it seemed as though victory were with the Confederates, although their commander, General Johnston, had fallen with a mortal wound. But in the night General Grant was reinforced by General Buell with twenty thousand men. After a rushing march of twenty-five miles, General Buell reached the field in time to turn the victory to the Federals. But the loss of life was very great, and the Kentucky regiments suffered more than their proportion.

Battle of Shiloh



Albert Sidney Johnston



Attack on Fort Donelson

RECAPITULATION

- Kentucky's futile efforts for peace.
- It was impossible for her to remain apart from the war.
- Kentucky Federals and Confederates recruited outside the State.
- Kentucky's futile efforts for peace.
- It was impossible for her to remain apart from the war.
- Kentucky Federals and Confederates recruited outside the State.
- Kentucky's tragic situation.
- Federals and Confederates organized within the State.
- The neutrality position not yet abandoned.
- Confederate victory in the battle of Bull Run.
- Conservative Union party carries the State elections of 1861.
- The newly elected legislature assembles September 2.
- Confederates invade the State on the 3rd.
- General Polk establishes troops in the southwest; General Zollicoffer, in the southeast.
- Legislature orders withdrawal of the Confederates.
- General Polk refuses unless Federal troops are also withdrawn.
- Legislature demands an unconditional withdrawal.
- Neutrality abandoned, September 18.
- Kentucky declares herself actively for the Union.
- Robert Anderson appointed commander of Kentucky department of war.
- T. L. Crittenden, commander of Kentucky militia.
- Other important resolutions passed by the legislature.
- State Guard joins the Confederate army.
- Young men from Paducah follow General Lloyd Tilghman.
- General S. B. Buckner invades Kentucky, September 18.
- Bowling Green the Confederate headquarters for a time.
- The Confederate general John Hunt Morgan.
- The Home Guard almost entirely Union.
- A body of undisciplined troops.
- Cause trouble by making unlawful arrests.
- Prominent Confederates arrested.
- Efforts to constrain the citizens to submit to the Union policy.
- Many Kentuckians join the Confederate army.
- Notable Confederate leaders.
- About three times as many join the Federal army.
- The households of the State are divided.
- A number of civil offices left vacant by Confederates.
- First battles in Kentucky.
- Federal victories at Camp Wild Cat and Ivy Mountain.
- Confederates meet at Russellville, Logan County.
- Frame a provisional government for Kentucky.
- George W. Johnson chosen their governor.
- Don Carlos Buell commander Kentucky Department.
- Sixty thousand Federal troops organized at Louisville.
- Battle of Mill Springs, Pulaski County.
- Federals gain a significant victory.
- Fall of Confederate Forts Henry and Donelson.
- Kentucky evacuated.
- One hundred and fourteen thousand Federal troops pressing southward.
- Nashville taken possession of.
- Another Federal victory in the battle of Shiloh.
- General Buell's part in the battle.

CHAPTER XVII

THE SECOND INVASION OF KENTUCKY, APRIL-DEC., 1862

The Conservative Union people of Kentucky loved the Union and the constitution above all property considerations, sacrificing for it kindred and ties of sympathy, and life itself. **Very many of them were large slave owners, and they relied upon the protection which the constitution of the United States gave to their slave property. Many who regretted the existence of such property, as well as those who approved it, were agreed in maintaining that government had no right to interfere with it. During all the early months of that time of trial they clung – with a trust that refused to see the tendency of the issue – to the belief that the government did not intend to invade the rights of the South; that its sole object was to suppress the rebellion, and then to restore the Union and the constitution.** But all the while events were steadily pressing towards the abolition of slavery. In April, 1862, the first step in this direction was taken by Congress abolishing slavery in the District of Columbia. The venerable John J. Crittenden made one of his last great efforts to defeat this measure, as did other of the statesmen of Kentucky, – Aaron Harding and William Henry Wadsworth, in the House of Representatives, and Garrett Davis in the Senate.

An Antagonism was therefore spreading throughout the State to the Federal authorities at Washington. This was greatly increased by the military policy which was now adopted. On June 1, 1862, Kentucky was placed under martial law. Brigadier General Jeremiah Tilford Boyle was made military commandant. Pro-

vost marshals were appointed in every county. Any one suspected of aiding or abetting the Confederacy was arrested and compelled to subscribe to an oath of allegiance to the government of the United States before he was discharged. The printed formula of the oath stated that its violation was death.

Kentucky adverse to this course

For some time the lives and property of loyal citizens had been disturbed by lawless band of men called guerillas. The guerillas were mostly soldiers who had broken away from the ranks of the Confederacy, – wild, reckless men, who had been made inhuman by some injury they or their families had suffered from the Federal soldiers or authorities. They

Martial law offensive

banded themselves together and dashed through the country, wreaking their vengeance upon the innocent victims in the Commonwealth. **Now the order went forth that whenever such depredations should hereafter occur, the Confederate sympathizers in the neighborhood where the offenses were committed should be held responsible and made to pay the damages. Although these raids were exceedingly harassing, the measures employed for their suppression were most objectionable to the Kentuckians generally.** However, General Boyle endeavored to execute the severe orders of the secretary of war with as much leniency

as possible.

Meanwhile, an excitement of a very practical nature had been created in the State. Exaggerated reports were spreading wildly, concerning General John Hunt Morgan, who with his Confederate cav-



Jeremiah T. Boyle

ally had entered Monroe County early in July on his first Kentucky raid. This daring leader of a few hundred men did most effective service to the Confederate cause. The methods he employed required quick wits and coolness of action.

Morgan, the Confederate cavalry raider



John Hunt Morgan

At Tompkinsville he defeated two hundred and fifty Federal cavalry, and then moved northward, following the line of the Louisville and Nashville railroad, through Glasgow, to Bear Wallow. There an expert operator on his staff tapped the telegraph wire and, on the ground that all things are fair in war, sent false dispatches concerning Morgan's numbers and movements, and also received information in regard to the Federal plans. The telegraph was frequently employed in this manner, and Federal officers were much mystified and alarmed.

Along the line of Morgan's march, railroads were destroyed, supply trains were captured, and horses were seized for the use of the Confederacy. At Cynthiana, quite a severe contest occurred. A Federal force of nearly five hundred, under Colonel John J. Landrum, was captured, after a resistance of nearly two hours. Being pursued by General Green Clay Smith and Colonel Frank L. Wolford, with a Federal force somewhat superior in numbers to his own, Morgan hastened southward, capturing several towns on his way, and destroying government stores. He traveled over one thousand miles in twenty-four days, fought repeatedly, and lost only about ninety of his men.

It is noteworthy that in this time of intense excitement a change in the highest civil office of the Commonwealth was made in an altogether dispassionate and rather unique manner. The governor, a Southern sympathizer, had been forced out of accord with the rest of the administration. He indicated his desire to resign, provided his successor

should be agreeable to him. The lieutenant governor, Linn Boyd, having died, the president of the Senate, John F. Fisk (to whom the governor was inimical) would have become governor upon the vacation of the office. That gentleman, perceiving the situation, consented to resign his position. James F. Robinson, a harmonizing member of the Union element, was elected speaker. Governor Magoffin resigned, and Speaker Robinson became acting governor. Whereupon, the honorable John F. Fisk was reelected to his former office.

Orderly change in the State administration

Morgan's bold ride through the State was but a preparation for the military disturbance which was now anticipated. Since the battle of Shiloh there had been organizing at Chattanooga a force of more than forty thousand Confederates,

General E. Kirby Smith's invasion

under the chief command of General Braxton Bragg, for the invasion of Kentucky, and especially for the capture of Louisville and Cincinnati. General Buell, the department commander, did not anticipate this move. He held his troops between Murfreesboro and Nashville, expecting an attack in central Tennessee. During the last week in August, General E. Kirby Smith, with about one third of this Confederate army, entered Kentucky at Big Creek Gap and moved on towards Richmond, where the only organized force of the State was stationed, — two brigades of seven or eight thousand, mainly undisciplined troops from Ohio and Indiana, under the command of General William Nelson.

Skirmishing began on the 29th between the advance of both armies. General Nelson was absent from headquarters. General Manson of Indiana (the officer next in command), believing he should

Battle of Richmond

encounter only one of the raiding parties then numerous in the State, pushed on the next morning with his one brigade and gave attack to the whole of General Smith's army. The Federals held their own for several hours, but were finally overcome and driven back in wild confusion towards Richmond.

After a furious ride, General Nelson reached the scene of disorder. Raging and desperate, he vainly tried to rally his forces. **One of his own officers called to his men to scatter and run, and the infuriated Nelson drew his sword and cut him to the ground.** But he had arrived too late. The victorious Confederates moved on to Lexington, where several days later they were joined by Morgan's Confederate cavalry.

On Sunday night the legislature met and adjourned to Louisville (according to a provision which had been passed for such an emergency), carrying the archives of the State thither for protection.

While Kirby Smith impatiently awaited the orders of General Bragg, that officer, with the main army, was making his slow march into Kentucky. By way of misleading Buell, Bragg first moved westward to Nashville, and when he reached Glasgow, in Barren County, he had lost at least ten days. Sixteen more days were consumed in a march to Lexington. **Meanwhile Buell had out-**

Bragg and Buell's contest for Kentucky



Braxton Bragg

reached him, and with an army now numbering one hundred thousand men, had entered Louisville on September 25. The conditions of the two armies were reversed. The Federals had a most decided advantage. Western troops had hastened to the defense of Cincinnati. The Federal General Lew Wallace was in command. All chance of the Confederates capturing that city and Louisville was lost.

On October 1, Buell moved out of Louisville to give attack to the Confederates. A detachment was sent toward Frankfort, while the main army followed a southeastward course. Instead of vigorously grasping the situation, Bragg tarried at the capital, where the Confederates went through the vain ceremony of inaugurating Richard Hawes provisional

governor of Kentucky, in place of George W. Johnson, who had fallen at Shiloh. The act was hardly completed when the advance guard of Buell's army reached the town. Governor Hawes hastened to Lexington, and the provisional government of Kentucky vanished, never to reappear.

The two armies came together near Perryville, in Boyle County, on October 8. There was fought one of the severest contests of the war: a battle terrible in loss of valuable lives on both sides, and yet undecisive in result. **Of the twenty-five thousand Federals and fifteen thousand Confederates engaged in it, at least seven thousand fell in the few hours the fighting continued between noon and twilight.**

Battle of Perryville

The immediate commander of the Federal force was Major General Alexander McCook; of the Confederate, Major General William J. Hardee. Nearly half of the Confederate army was at Frankfort, while the Federals had heavy reinforcements (Major General Thomas L. Crittenden's corps) within summoning distance. The battle was brought on through a misunderstanding on the part of the Confederates, who believed they were attacking only a detachment of the Federal force. General Buell, who expected an engagement the next day, was some distance away and was not informed of what was taking place before the battle was half over. And then, through a misunderstanding on his part of the true situation, — supposing Bragg's entire army was engaged, — he determined not to press the action further until the morning.

But on the morrow Bragg had withdrawn his forces and begun his retreat from Kentucky. At Harrodsburg he was joined by General Smith's corps. With wise caution, Buell refrained from bringing on an engagement with the Confederates. Only skirmishes took place. No other definite battle occurred; and Bragg escaped from the State, having made a failure of his whole campaign. After this, fighting on a large scale was practically ended in Kentucky. Again and again Morgan's "wild riders" spread terror throughout the State, and repeated skirmishes oc-

Failure of Confederates to secure Kentucky

curred in various localities; but no other Confederate effort was made to secure Kentucky.



Morgan's Wild Riders

The soldiers of Kentucky were now engaged in many of the great battles of the South. They took part at Murfreesboro, Chickamauga, Missionary

Ridge, Lookout Mountain, Kenesaw Mountain, Vicksburg, etc.; and everywhere, on both sides, they were conspicuous for their courage and power of endurance. They were all volunteers, and belonged to the best families of the Commonwealth, — strong, tall men, unequalled in size by any other troops of the United States, with the exception of those of Tennessee.

**The soldiers of
Kentucky**

The Confederate army continued to receive recruits from Kentucky until the end of the war. Though it is impossible to state precisely the number given to that service, it has been fairly estimated as over forty thousand. It is possible to be more exact in regard to the Federal numbers. According to the estimates of the adjutant generals, before the close of the war the State had given to the Federal service upwards of one hundred thousand white men, — nearly one tenth of the entire population. Besides this, eleven thousand Negroes were enlisted for the United States Army.

RECAPITULATION

- Love of Kentucky Conservatives for the Union.
- Their trust that the constitution would be restored after the war.
- Belief that the government did not intend to destroy the institutions of the South.
- The first step in the revolution taken.
- Slavery abolished in the District of Columbia by Congress.
- Kentucky statesmen vainly try to defeat the measure.
- The State excited against the Federal government.
- Martial law enforced, June, 1862.
- General J. T. Boyle military commandant.
- Provost marshals appointed in every county.
- Terrible raids of outlaws called guerillas.
- Severe measures enforced to suppress guerrillas.
- Morgan's first Kentucky raid.
- His quick wits and bold methods.
- His victory in the battle of Cynthiana.
- His effective service to the Confederacy.
- The State administration mainly Conservative Union.
- Governor Magoffin, a Southern Rights man, resigns.
- His successor chosen in a unique manner.
- James Robinson, Conservative, becomes governor.
- Over 40,000 Confederates organized at Chattanooga.
- General Braxton Bragg in chief command.
- The invasion of Kentucky proposed.
- The State invaded by E. Kirby Smith with one third of this army.
- The only organized force of the State at Richmond.
- General William Nelson, Federal, in command.
- Confederate victory in the battle of Richmond.

THE SECOND INVASION OF KENTUCKY

- They triumphantly enter Lexington.
- Are joined by Morgan's Confederate cavalry.
- The legislature adjourns to Louisville.
- Bragg's dilatory march to Kentucky.
- Buell reaches the State first.
- Takes possession of Louisville.
- Federals also in possession of Cincinnati.
- Buell has the advantage of Bragg.
- Bragg's army inaugurates a governor at Frankfort.
- The two armies meet at Perryville.
- A terrible engagement.
- An indecisive result.
- Fighting ends at twilight.
- Buell proposes to continue the action on the morrow.
- Bragg withdraws his forces the next day.
- Buell refrains from bringing on another encounter.
- Bragg, joined by General Smith, escapes from the State.
- War practically at an end in Kentucky.
- Kentucky soldiers in the great battles of the South.
- Their courage and conspicuous size.
- Numbers furnished by the State to each side.

CHAPTER XVIII

CIVIL CONFLICTS, 1863-1865

The opposition in Kentucky to the Lincoln administration rose to a high tide when on January 1, 1863, the President issued his Emancipation Proclamation, liberating the slaves in the seceding States. Kentucky, being loyal, was not immediately concerned; but the proclamation was deemed a violation of the constitution of the United States.

Kentucky opposed to Lincoln's policy

President Lincoln had been elected under a policy which declared that all the people in the seceded States had to do was to lay down their arms and return to their allegiance to the Union, and that then they would be protected in all their rights by the constitution. As the war progressed, it seemed necessary to the President to depart from this policy. But the People of Kentucky, at that exciting time, could not perceive as we do today the destiny which urged Lincoln on to mighty deeds.

The Radical or Unconditional Union element in the State alone upheld the administration; but the controlling power was still the Conservative Union, or Union Democratic party, as it was now called. Their ticket was victorious at the August election. Thomas Elliot Bramlette and Richard T. Jacob, both Federal officers, were chosen respectively governor and lieutenant governor. Although there was hardly a possibility of the Union ticket being defeated, the most arbitrary means were enforced to secure it success. The military officers of the State were controlled by orders from the War Department in Washington. Prior to the election,

martial law was declared. The polls were guarded by soldiers, and no disloyal person was allowed to vote. The Kentuckians very generally resented this interference of the military rulers with their civil government.

In the autumn of 1863, President Lincoln called for three hundred thousand more men to prosecute the war. Kentucky's quota was twelve thousand seven hundred and one. Early in January, 1864, the Federal government began

Negro soldiers enrolled

recruiting in the State negro regiments for the United States army. Now the people of Kentucky had ever been true to the Union. No call for men and money had been made upon them that was not promptly met. They were gallant soldiers, proud of their military record. The negroes were their slaves. To arm these slaves and place them by their side in battle seemed to them at that time a degradation to themselves and to that high calling for which they had volunteered their lives. What we name race prejudice today was, at that time, an almost unconquerable feeling.



Drilling Negro Recruits

Opposition to this measure and to the men who controlled the Federal government burst forth in denunciatory speeches within the State and in Congress. At Lexington, the daring Federal cavalry raider, Colonel Frank L. Wolford, with his picturesque, untutored eloquence, roused the people to revolt from the idea of "keeping step to the music of the Union alongside of negro

Indignation of Kentucky

soldiers"; and for his defiance was arrested and imprisoned. Lieutenant Governor Jacob also denounced the methods of the administration, and likewise suffered arrest. In Congress, Aaron Harding spoke ably on the same subject, and William Henry Wadsworth made a speech which increased Kentucky's claim to orators.

Early in January, 1864, General Boyle resigned the position of military commandant of Kentucky. He had striven to fulfill his trying duties as a Christian gentleman; and his resignation was a misfortune to the Kentuckians. For the next two years the people were harassed by a series of military rulers who were regarded at the time as nothing less than tyrannical. In February, Major General Steven G. Burbridge was appointed commander of the department of Kentucky. He belonged to the extreme Radical wing of the Union party in his State, and he met the situation in Kentucky in what seemed a harsh and unrelenting manner.

The terrible guerilla raids, alike condemned by honorable Confederates and Federals, became exasperatingly frequent during the last years of the war. Scarcely a county in the State escaped their depredations, and their leaders usually succeeded in evading the officers of the law. It was only after long months, when unnumbered crimes had been committed, that three of the most notorious leaders were captured; and then by accident. Captain Billy Magruder, of a powerful gang, had been dangerously wounded. Two of his comrades, Henry Metcalf and "Sue Munday," — showing that spark of goodness which exists in all human beings, — had tarried by to nurse him. They were captured, and Munday, the most conspicuous of the three, was taken to Louisville and hung, although to the last he maintained his innocence of the crimes with which he was charged.

Meanwhile terror filled the hearts of the aged, and the women and children; for none were exempt from the guerilla cruelties. The civil authorities of the Commonwealth made an earnest effort to suppress this evil, but they did not have the power which belonged to their offices. From now until the estab-

lishment of peace they were disturbed and enfeebled by unavoidable conflicts with the military rulers which the secretary of war placed over the State.

The new commanding officer, General Burbridge, assumed control of the State. The measures which he adopted to suppress the guerillas were thought very generally to be as brutal as the acts of those outlaws themselves. He issued an order to the effect that whenever a citizen was killed by the guerrillas, four military prisoners should be taken to the spot where the murder was committed, and hung in retaliation. These prisoners were supposed to be guerrillas, yet as has been stated, guerillas were seldom captured. The victims were usually simply Confederate prisoners of war. Strong opposition to such measures was expressed throughout the State, but to no effect. In the western district, where Brigadier General E. A. Paine was in command, the military acts grew so oppressive — extending even to bold murder and robbery — that many peaceable citizens were obliged to abandon their homes to escape a horrible fate. In several cases, even loyal men who had fought for the Union, were arrested by order of General Burbridge and sent outside of Kentucky, because they had expressed their opposition to the men in control of national affairs. But these were not all the grievances which the people of that day had to deplore. The Federal officers further encroached upon the civil powers by attempting to control the elections of the State.

In August, 1864, the election for judge of the court of appeals in the second district was to take place, as well as for some minor county and precinct officers. Judge Alvin Duvall, a Southern Rights man, was the Democratic candidate for reelection. The division in the Union party of the state, which has already been noted, was steadily becoming more pronounced. Mortimer M. Benton, an eminent lawyer of Covington, was the nominee of the Radical wing of that party.

Several days before the election, General Burbridge ordered that the name of Alvin Duvall should not be allowed to appear on the poll books

Military oppression

Civil and military conflicts

Notorious guerrillas

Victory of Conservative Union party

as a candidate. This interference of the military authorities with the civil government was not only insufferable, but altogether unnecessary. Kentucky was still a zealous Union State. There was no chance just



George Robertson

yet of any Southern rights candidate being elected. The coast now seemed cleared for the election of the Radical candidate, Benton; but the Conservative Union men, in righteous resentment of General Burbridge's order, on the very morning of the election, telegraphed over the district the name of a new candidate, George Robertson, formerly chief justice, and he was elected.

George Robertson, who was one of the most competent judges in Kentucky, had always been on the Conservative side in politics. He had taken part in the interesting conflict between the Old Court and

George Robertson

New Court parties, upholding the former faction. He had been a staunch Whig, and now he was a Conservative supporter of the Union. He stood prominent in the midst of such able lawyers as Madison C. Johnson, George Blackburn Kinkead, Thomas A. Marshall, and Aaron K. Woolly, of the Lexington bar, and Samuel Smith Nicholas, James Guthrie, and James Speed, of the Louisville bar.

The political state of Kentucky was most interesting at this time. The year 1864 was the year of

Action of the three parties

the presidential election. Kentucky held three conventions to select delegates to the national conventions. The Unconditional Union, or Radical convention, was presided over by Robert J. Breckinridge, a Presbyterian divine and political speaker, — a strong controlling spirit in his party. This convention indorsed the administration and voted for President Lincoln's reelection. The

Conservative Union, or Union Democratic, convention, of which James Guthrie was the leading spirit, boldly announced its opposition to Lincoln and declared for General George B. McClellan. The Democratic, or Southern Rights, convention was harmonious with the Conservative, and in favor of McClellan.



George B. McClellan

President Lincoln received the nomination on the basis of reestablishment of the Union without slavery; General McClellan, of reestablishment with slavery. Lincoln was elected November, 1864, by an overwhelming majority; but Kentucky gave a majority of over thirty-six thousand to McClellan. Peace was at hand. The State was becoming relieved of her military oppressors. Toward the end of the

End of the tragedy



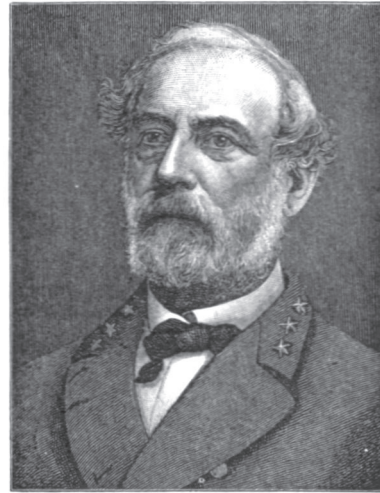
Ulysses S. Grant

year, Paine was deprived of his office in the western district, and the following February General

Burbridge was replaced by General Palmer, to the great satisfaction of the Kentuckians.

On April 9, 1865, the Confederate General Robert E. Lee surrendered the Army of Northern Virginia to General U. S. Grant, at Appomattox courthouse, Virginia.

Five days later, Abraham Lincoln was assassinated at Ford's theater, in Washington. But he had finished his work. The cause for which he lost his life was established. In December, 1865, the Thirteenth Amendment to the Federal constitution — which declared that neither slavery nor involuntary servitude should any longer exist in the United States — was ratified by three fourths of the States and became a part of the constitution. Kentucky opposed the amendment.



Robert E. Lee

RECAPITULATION

- Lincoln departs from the policy he was elected under.
- Issues the Emancipation Proclamation, January 1, 1863.
- Radical Union party of Kentucky approves his course.
- Conservative Union party denounces it.
- Conservative Union party the controlling power.
- Colonels T. E. Bramlette and R. T. Jacob, Conservatives, elected governor and lieutenant governor, August, 1863.
- Martial law enforced during the election.
- Negro soldiers first recruited in the State, January, 1864.
- Jacob and Wolford denounce the administration on this account.
- They are arrested and banished.
- General Boyle resigns his office.
- S.C. Burbridge, a Radical Union man, appointed commander of Kentucky military department.
- The beginning of harassing situations.
- The State's civil rulers are Conservative.
- The military rulers are Radical.
- They are in conflict until peace is established.
- Munday, Magruder, and Metcalf, notorious guerillas.
- Confederate prisoners of war hung in retaliation.
- General E. A. Paine's course in the western district.
- The military attempt to control elections.
- Judge Alvin Duvall, a Southern Rights man, candidate for reelection to court of appeals.
- Military forbid his name to appear on the poll books.
- Efforts of the military to elect the Radical candidate.
- Defeated by the prompt action of the Conservatives.
- George Robertson, Conservative, elected.
- Conservative Union, Radical Union, and Democratic conventions held.
- The Radical Union convention for Lincoln.
- Conservatives and Democrats support McClellan for President.
- President Lincoln reelected.
- Kentucky's large vote for McClellan.
- General Burbridge replaced by General Palmer.
- Kentucky rejoices over Palmer's appointment.

CIVIL CONFLICTS

- Paine removed in the western district.
- Peace at hand.
- Lee surrenders at Appomattox courthouse.
- Abraham Lincoln assassinated.
- The Thirteenth Amendment passed.
- Slavery abolished in the United States, December, 1865.

V – THE NEW KENTUCKY, SINCE 1865

CHAPTER XIX

THE RESTORATION OF PEACE, 1865-1875

On December 18, 1865, the Conservative majority in the legislature passed resolutions of general pardon to all citizens who had fought for the Confederacy. As the Confederate

Return of the Confederates

soldiers returned to their old places, the Conservative men, who still had control of the State, stretched forth their hands in welcome, with a promise to forget the differences which had separated them in past issues, in the hope that the good men of all parties would unite with them for the restoration of peace.

But in this they were disappointed. The Confederate soldiers

Powerful Democratic organization

had just suffered defeat. They believed that the support which the Conservative men caused the State to give to the Union was an important factor in that defeat. Therefore, they had little desire for party harmony with those men. Also, the people in general, who had stayed at home and taken no active part in the war, had suffered so much from the military rulers which the Republican party had placed over the State, that they felt a temporary hostility towards Union principles. Even a portion of the old Conservative element went over into the more extreme position of the Democrats. Thus, when the Democratic State convention met at Frankfort, February 22, 1867, to select nominees for the pending August elections, it showed a large and powerful body. At the other extreme stood the Radical, or Republican, party, which had steadily, though slowly, in-

creased in the State, and at this time received also a portion of the Conservative force. This party put forth a ticket headed by S. M. Barnes and R. T. Baker.

The men who still adhered to the Conservative doctrine organized in Louisville in the spring of 1867

Downfall of the Conservative party

and nominated W. B. Kinkead for governor, Harrison Tay-

lor for lieutenant governor, John M.

Harlan for attorney-general, J. S. Hurt for

auditor, Alfred Allen for treasurer, J. J.

Craddock for register, and B. M. Harney

for superintendent of public instruction.

They had no hope of carrying the elec-

tion. Their purpose in presenting a ticket

was the opportunity thereby gained of

making known their principles. Their

work was finished. They soon dissolved

as an organization and passed mainly into the Demo-

cratic party. A few,

however, went with the

Republicans. Disting-

guished among these

were C. F. Burnam,

John M. Harlan,

James Speed, and

William Henry

Wadsworth, who re-

ceived high national

appointments.

The Demo-

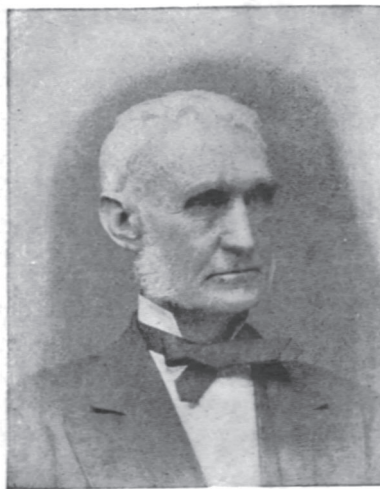
cratic ticket was com-

posed of John L.

Helm for governor,

John W. Stevenson for lieutenant governor, John

Rodman for attorney-general, D. Howard Smith for



William B. Kinkead



William H. Wadsworth

auditor, J. W. Tate for treasurer, J. A. Dawson for register, and Z. F. Smith for superintendent of public instruction. The Democratic candidates were elected by an enormous majority, and the politics of

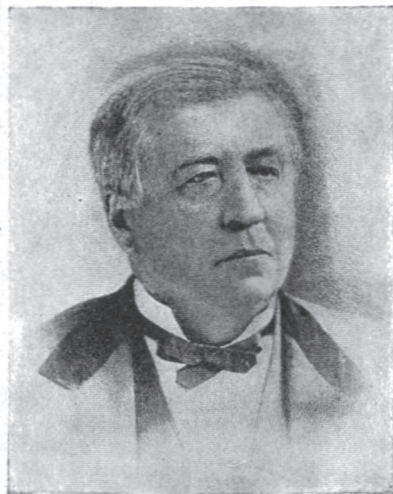
Democratic triumph

the State was settled for many years to come. Until the present day this party has had almost undisputed power. Only Democrats of Southern sympathies were elected to Congress, with one exception. Major George M. Adams, a Federal soldier, who had now joined the Democratic party, received the election in the 8th district; and for some time he alone was allowed to take his seat in Congress.

On September 3, 1867, John L. Helm received the oath of inauguration as governor, while lying dangerously ill at his home in Elizabethtown. Five days later he died, and John W. Stevenson, the

John W. Stevenson

lieutenant governor, became acting governor until the following August, when he was elected governor. Governor Stevenson was a man eminently fitted for the position to which he was called. He was a lawyer, and at the Covington bar had gained the reputation of exceptional ability. By this time Kentucky was in a state of financial prosperity and comparative peace, though law and order were not yet firmly established.



John W. Stevenson

One of the causes of the disturbance of the peace was the establishment in the State, in the year 1865, of agencies of the Freedmen's Bureau. In March, 1865, Congress had passed an act setting

Freedmen's Bureau

free the wives and children of negro soldiers. This was prior to the adoption of the Thirteenth Amendment to the Federal constitution, which declared that

slavery should no longer exist in the United States. We have seen that the emancipation act of 1863 did not practically affect Kentucky, which was a loyal State; but the agents of the Freedmen's Bureau attempted to enforce this law in Kentucky. They demanded money for the services of the wives and children of negroes who had been enlisted in the United States army. The proceeding was deemed unconstitutional, and was deeply resented by the Commonwealth.

A number of suits were brought for this cause by the Freedmen's Bureau; but they were all lost, as the court of appeals sustained the lower courts. The first was against Garrett Davis, then ably representing Kentucky in the United States Senate, — a staunch Union man and a large owner of slaves. The effect of the Freedmen's Bureau was: (1) to irritate the people against the Republican party, the party in power in the nation; (2) to strengthen the Democratic party; (3) to retard the advancement of the negro.

The organization assumed the guardianship of the race. It awoke an opposition on the part of the slave to his former owner, and thereby prevented the friendly relations which today exist between the two races. By 1870, the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments to the United States constitution were ratified and the rights of citizenship and suffrage were conferred upon the negroes of the nation.

Another cause of the disturbance of the peace was the terror created in various counties of the State — especially Marion, Boyle, Lincoln, and Mercer — by bands of men at first called Regulators and afterward Kuklux. These men

Kuklux

took it upon themselves to punish the offenders against the laws of the State. When a crime was committed, a large number of them would go out together in the dead of night, thoroughly armed, and disguised by masks, proceed to the home of the culprit, drag him out of bed, take him to the woods, and whip him or inflict some other torture upon him. The members of the Kuklux pretended that such acts were done by them in order to intimidate evildoers, and thereby improve the moral condition of the State; but in reality these men made themselves criminals of the most dangerous order. Their conduct was wrong enough when their cruel-

ties fell upon the guilty; it was horrible when the innocent became their victims. The Kuklux were suppressed by 1873, but the lawless spirit which animated them has not yet wholly died out in Kentucky. Sometimes, particularly in the hill country, lynchings still occur — the speedy executions of mob law.

Governor Stevenson, having been elected to the United States Senate in February, 1871, resigned the position of governor, and Preston H. Leslie, acting lieutenant governor, assumed the duties of the office. The following August he was elected governor. His opponent was the eminent Republican, John M. Harlan. John G. Carlisle was elected lieutenant governor. The Democratic majority was greatly reduced, because of the addition to the Republican numbers for the first time of the negro vote. Whereas, in the presidential vote of 1868 the Democratic majority in the State had been seventy-six thousand, at this time it was scarcely more than thirty-seven thousand.

At the close of the war was begun a much-needed reform in the public school system of the State. We have noticed that Kentuckians had never been indifferent to education; nevertheless, the facilities for public education had never been of the very highest. Old Transylvania University had now passed

Negroes vote for the first time

Educational affairs

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State. We have noticed that Kentuckians had never been indifferent to education; nevertheless, the facilities for public education had never been of the very highest. Old Transylvania University had now passed

away. Center College, chartered by the Presbyterians in 1819, still existed, and retained somewhat of that picturesque interest which had formerly belonged to it. Its distinguished presidents were from some of the most prominent families of the State, — Reverends Jeremiah Chamberlin, Gideon Blackburn, John C. Young, Lewis W. Green, and William L. Breckinridge. Other denominational colleges existed in various parts of the State, but Kentucky was beginning to realize that it is upon the public schools that the educational life of a State depends.

The financial condition of the Commonwealth at the close of the war was good. In 1873, there occurred a financial panic which was the greatest ever known in the history of this nation. Though much individual loss was endured in Kentucky, as a Commonwealth she suffered less than many of the other States of the Union.

A bill having passed the legislature to establish a geological survey in Kentucky, in 1873, Governor Leslie appointed Nathaniel Southgate Shaler, then filling the chair of Geology in Harvard University, as chief of the corps of survey. Professor Shaler, a Kentuckian, brought into the work an earnest enthusiasm, as well as exceptional scholarship. Vast sums of money were expended, and the wealth which lies hidden in the depths of Kentucky was discovered and made known.

Period of quietude

RECAPITULATION

- Conservatives still in power.
- Pardon and return of the Confederate soldiers.
- Large growth of the Democratic party in 1867.
- Lesser growth of the Republican party.
- Conservatives offer a ticket with no hope of election.
- They pass mainly into the Democratic party, but some become distinguished among the Republicans.
- Democrats carry the State.
- Governor John L. Helm dies a few days after his inauguration.
- He is succeeded by John W. Stevenson, lieutenant governor, who is elected governor the following year.
- The Freedmen's Bureau causes annoyance and retards the advancement of the negro.
- The Kuklux, a low order of secret outlaws, disturb the peace.
- Governor Stevenson elected United States senator.
- Preston H. Leslie becomes acting governor, and then governor (1871).
- John G. Carlisle, lieutenant governor.

THE NEW KENTUCKY

- Negroes vote for the first time.
- A public school reform begun.
- Financial panic of 1873.
- Professor Shaler, State geologist.
- Kentucky's resources pointed out.

CHAPTER XX

THE ERA OF TRANSITION, 1875-

The future greatness of Kentucky must depend largely upon education. The reform in the public instruction of the State, begun after the Civil War, has been progressing toward a more elevated standard. For the training of school teachers, the State established (1906) two well-equipped Normal Schools for white persons, one at Richmond and one at Bowling Green; and (1886) one for colored persons, at Frankfort. The State has also a continually enlarging institution for higher education.

Public education in the State

The State College of Kentucky (Agricultural and Mechanical College) owed its origin to the act of Congress of 1862 donating public lands for its endowment. From 1865 to 1878 it was attached to the old Kentucky University. In 1880 it was placed upon an independent basis, under the management of a Board appointed by the State. In 1908 it was reorganized as the State University (the older Kentucky University being renamed Transylvania University). It now owns grounds, buildings, and other property valued at about \$1,000,000. To James K. Patterson, its learned and efficient president from 1869 to 1909, and to the late Judge W. B. Kinkead, long the chairman of the Executive Board, is due the provision which opens all its classes to young women, placing them on an equal basis with the male students. Each county is entitled to send a certain number of white students who may attend the University for a full four years' course, free of tuition, matriculation, and dormitory fees. All appointments are made by the county superintendent of schools, upon competitive exami-

nation of applicants between the ages of fourteen and twenty-four years; but preference is given to those who have passed through the public schools. The University is thus the head of the common school system of Kentucky.

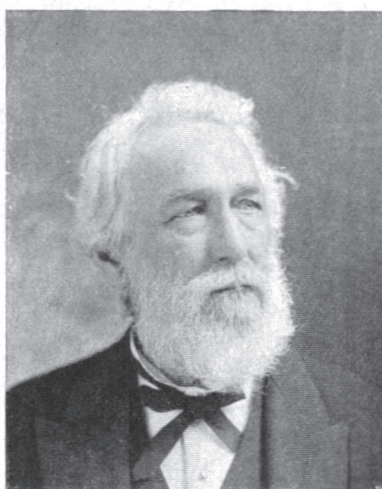
The three State administrations from 1875 to 1887 were concerned with few matters of definite importance for this history.

In 1875, James B. McCreary, the Democratic candidate, was elected governor. During his term of office, two United States senators were chosen, — James B. Beck, for six years from the 4th of March, 1877; and General John S. Williams, from 1879. Dr. Luke Pryor Blackburn, Democrat, was elected governor in 1879; his term was notable for his humane effort to relieve the suffering in the State penitentiary, due to the overcrowded condition of the institution. J. Proctor Knott, Democrat, was elected governor in 1883, by a majority of nearly forty-five thousand votes. James B. Beck was returned to the United States Senate, and J. C. S. Blackburn succeeded John S. Williams.

State politics

In the year 1884 was started in the city of Louisville an organization that has had the greatest influence in discovering and preserving the interesting facts in the State's history. The Filson Club owes its origin mainly to the inspiration of its first president, the late Colonel Reuben T. Durrett, whose knowledge and enthusiasm in regard to

Kentucky subjects were unsurpassed. The members of the club reside in the various counties of the State. By them old garrets have been searched for forgotten manuscripts, old letters have been brought to light,



Reuben T. Durrett, First President
of the Filson Club

The Filson club

and new and important information has been gathered concerning the character and life of the early settlers. The publications of the Filson Club are invaluable to students of Kentucky history.

In the State elections of 1887, the Democratic party continued in

State elections of 1887

power. General Simon B. Buckner was elected governor. Three other tickets were run, — a Prohibition, a Union Labor ticket, which received an insignificant vote, and a Republican ticket, headed by W. O. Bradley. A considerable increase in the Republican vote was discovered. At this time, also, the voters decided to revise the State Constitution.

On the 3rd day of May, 1890, an act to call a constitutional convention passed the legislature, and the second Monday (the 8th day) of September following was appointed for its assembling. Important

The new constitution

changes were made in the three departments of State government, — the executive, legislative and judicial. Under the first head, a conspicuous alteration is that all officers are debarred from holding the same office two consecutive terms. Under the second head, special legislation was abolished and necessary provisions in regard to corporations were made. Under the third head, the superior court and all statutory courts were abolished. An increase was made in the number of judges of the appellate court, — not less than five nor more than seven being required, and in the number of circuit courts, one being allowed for every forty thousand inhabitants.

On the 1st of June, 1892, one hundred years had passed since the admission of Kentucky into the

The centenary of Kentucky

Union; and the people again assembled at Lexington to do honor to the State's nativity. Here, in the midst of almost unbroken forests, had been organized the first government of the new Commonwealth. All was changed since

then: much was lost; much was gained. There were present this day the old grandchildren of those who had taken part in the first celebration, by the side of the young great-grandchildren. The former looked back with wistful pride into the past, with which they were more nearly connected; while the latter looked eagerly forward to a future brightened by reflections from the heroic background. Philadelphia sent three paintings as an offering to the State. Speeches were made in thanks for these and also to extol, in true Kentucky fashion, the glories of the past and present. At Woodland Park a barbecue was prepared; and under the shade of ancient oaks and elms, burgoo — that mysterious concoction which Kentuckians know how to brew — was served



Simon B. Buckner

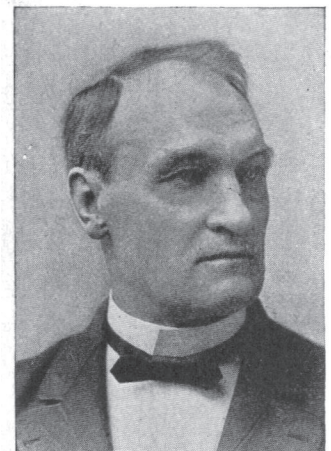
with the finest of beef and ham and Southdown mutton which the country could offer. And thus another century of promise was ushered in.

In 1891, John Young Brown, Democrat, was elected governor; but four years later the Democrats were divided. On June 25, 1895, the Democratic State convention met in Louisville, for the purpose of nominating the various

The currency question

State officers for the election which was to be held the following November. At this time a desolating panic was sweeping the country. Consequently, the thoughts of the people

were much occupied with consideration of financial matters. P. W. Hardin, one of the aspirants for the governorship, advocated the free coinage of silver. Cassius M. Clay, Jr., his opponent, maintained that the money question was not a pertinent issue in a State election. The national administration,

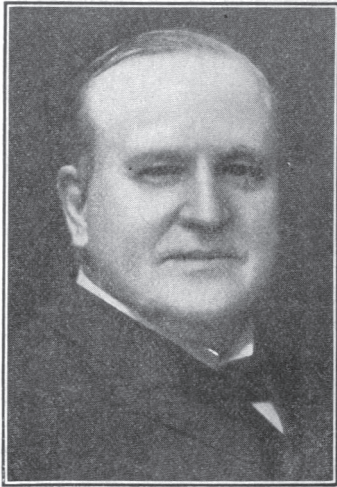


John G. Carlisle

under Cleveland, strongly opposed the principle of the free coinage of silver, and the secretary of the

treasury, John G. Carlisle, of Kentucky, made three speeches in the State, upholding the gold standard. Hardin, however, received the nomination.

The Republican party nominated for governor William O. Bradley, an advocate of the single gold standard. Populist and Prohibition part tickets were also named. Because the difference in the Democratic party over the currency question, the Republicans elected their entire ticket, and Kentucky had her first Republican governor.



William O. Bradley

During Governor Bradley's term as governor much disturbance was caused by tollgate raiders. Many tollgates were destroyed, and the collection of tolls prevented by violence. The property of many turnpike companies was bought by the counties, and order was restored.

The turbulent legislature of 1896 was composed of an even number of Republicans and Democrats, with two Populist members. For United States senator, J. C. S. Blackburn, a free silver advocate, was selected as the Democrat caucus nominee for reelection. Eleven gold standard Democrats, however, refused to go into the caucus. W. Godfrey Hunter, a representative in Congress, was the Republican nominee. A few Republicans refused to vote for him. Intense excitement prevailed, and the legislature adjourned without having effected an election.

Legislature of 1896

The silver question in 1896 caused a split in the Democratic party. The regular organization favored the free coinage of silver, and supported William J. Bryan for the presidency. Some of the Democrats opposed to free silver voted for the candidates for President and Vice President of the "National Demo-

Election of 1896

cratic" ticket — Palmer and Buckner. The latter had been governor of Kentucky in 1887. The result in the State and in the nation was a victory for McKinley, the Republican candidate.

At a special session of the legislature in 1897, the contest over the vacant seat in the United States Senate was resumed. The caucus nominees were again J. C. S. Blackburn, Democrat, and W. Godfrey Hunter, Republican. Intense excitement and bitterness were aroused. Finally W. J. Deboe, Republican, was elected. In 1900, Blackburn was elected senator to succeed William J. Lindsay. Six years later he was succeeded by Ex-Governor James B. McCreary (elected in 1902).

The legislature of 1898 enacted an election bill introduced by William Goebel, State senator, and passed it over Governor Bradley's veto. This placed the appointment of election officers and the canvassing of returns in the hands of a State board of three commissioners to be elected by the legislature, and of county boards to be appointed by the State board. In 1899, the Democrats, after a prolonged struggle in their convention, nominated William Goebel for governor, and J. C. W. Beckham for lieutenant governor. Democrats opposed to Goebel and to the new election law named an opposition ticket headed by Ex-Governor John Young Brown. The Republican candidates were William S. Taylor for governor and John Marshall for lieutenant governor. Populist, Prohibition, and Socialist-Labor tickets were also in the field, as they have been in many elections since. The majority of the election commissioners declared Taylor and Marshall elected and they were sworn in. The Democrats contested the election. Hundreds of armed men came to Frankfort and petitioned the legislature not to depose Taylor and Marshall; for it was believed that the legislature was about to decide the contest in favor of Goebel and

Senatorial elections

On the verge of civil war



William Goebel

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Beckham. On January 20, 1900, Goebel was shot by an assassin concealed in one of the rooms of the executive building. Governor Taylor declared it unsafe for the legislature to continue its meeting in Frankfort, and by proclamation adjourned it to meet at London, February 6. The Democratic majority of the legislature ignored his act, but were shut out of the State House by militia. Nevertheless they awarded certificates of election Goebel and Beckham. Goebel was sworn in as governor, January 31, and on his death was succeeded by Beckham, February 3. Taylor and Marshall refused to give up their offices, until after the case was decided against them by the State Court of Appeals (March 10), and the Supreme Court of the United States declined to interfere (May 21). For three weeks there was to be seen daily the strange spectacle of two different organizations of the State senate both meeting in the same room at the same hour, but ignoring the presence of the other. Marshall presided over the Republican senators, who after their roll call would adjourn for lack of a quorum. The Democratic majority were presided over by a president pro tem., and carried on business.

Thus from January till May a condition existed which in other lands would have promptly caused a civil war. It is greatly to the credit of Kentucky that nearly all our citizens refrained from violence, and quietly waited for the decision of the courts.

Many men were accused of complicity in the murder of Goebel. Of the few brought to trial, some were convicted and some acquitted. Taylor was one of the men indicted, but he fled to Indiana, and the governor of that State refused to honor Governor Beckham's requisition for him, claiming that men accused of Goebel's murder could not obtain a fair trial.

Governor Beckham called a special session of the legislature to modify the election law. It was provided that the State board should

consist of two commissioners appointed by the governor, one from each party, together with the clerk of the Court of Appeals; and that each county board, likewise, should consist of one com-

Election law

It was provided that the State board should



J. C. W. Beckham

missioner from each of the two chief parties, together with the sheriff.

In the presidential elections of 1900, 1904, 1908, and 1912 Kentucky voted for the Democratic candidates. In 1900 Acting Governor Beckham was elected governor for the unexpired term, by a close vote. He was again elected governor in 1903, for the next full term, by 27,000 plurality. In 1907 the Republicans

elected their State ticket, headed by Augustus E. Willson for governor, and W. H. Cox for lieutenant governor, by 18,000 plurality. The legislature of 1908 had a Democratic majority of 8 votes. Ex-Governor Beckham was the Democratic nominee for United States senator to succeed Senator McCreary, but a few Democrats refused to vote for him. The contest was prolonged till February 28, when four Democrats voted with the Republicans for Ex-Governor Bradley, and elected him.



Augustus E. Willson

Much disturbance was created in the State, especially during the years 1905 to 1908, as an outgrowth of the complicated situation

The "Tobacco War"

that existed in relation to the tobacco industry. Companies of men called "night riders" resorted to various acts of violence. By them growing tobacco was destroyed, tobacco barns were burned, and men were assaulted and whipped. In all, many hundred thousand dollars' worth of property was destroyed by "night riders."

The legislature of 1904 appropriated \$1,000,000 for a new capitol building, and two years later added \$250,000. A new site in South Frankfort

was chosen, and there a beautiful capitol, in keeping with the growth and dignity of the State, was erected in 1905-1909.

In 1911, former United States Senator James B. McCreary, Democrat, who had been governor in 1875-79, was again elected governor by a plurality of 34,000 votes over the Republican nominee, Judge E. C. O'Rear; and Edward J. McDermott, Democratic nominee for lieutenant governor, defeated L. L. Bristow, Republican. Ollie M. James, Democrat, representative in Congress, was elected United States senator, to succeed Thomas H. Paynter. His opponent was Edwin P. Morrow, United States district attorney for the eastern district. The legislature was largely Democratic.

Many acts of importance were passed by the legislature of 1912. Chief among these are the two following, of a social nature: (1) The County Unit Extension Bill is an act to amend the Kentucky statute pertaining to the local option law passed many years ago, under which each county could decide for itself whether or not to prohibit the sale of intoxicating liquors within its borders. Under the new act the exception made in the old law as to cities of the first four classes was stricken out. A law was also passed in 1912 prohibiting the taking or shipping of intoxicating liquors into such territory, unless upon the prescription of a licensed physician. (2) Another act qualifies and entitles all women able to read and write, and possessing the legal qualifications required of male voters in any common school election, to vote at all elections of school trustees and other school officers required to be elected by the people, and to hold any school office, or office pertaining to the management of schools.

Two other highly important acts that may be defined as laws of more distinctly political nature were passed in 1912: (1) A compulsory Primary Law, whereby all nominations are placed under state control, Republicans and Democrats being required to select their nominees for all elective offices on the same day, with the same machinery, and at the expense of the State; (2) A Congressional Redistricting

Act, creating eleven congressional districts, of which nine are normally Democratic, and two Republican.

On May 23, 1914, Senator William O. Bradley died. Governor McCreary appointed Johnson N. Camden, Democrat, for the few remaining weeks of Bradley's term prior to the November election. Camden offered himself, and won, for the short term which ended March, 1915. Ex-Governor Beckham was the Democratic aspirant for the long term. It was a hotly contested campaign, as Beckham strongly advocated state prohibition. He won over his Republican opponent, Ex-Governor Willson, by a plurality of more than thirty thousand votes. Only two Republicans won in the congressional elections: John W. Langley of the Tenth district, and Caleb W. Powers of the Eleventh.

The prohibition movement has advanced steadily in the State for twenty years, since the law requiring scientific temperance instruction in the public schools was secured through the efforts of the Kentucky Woman's Christian Temperance Union. In 1915 all but fourteen counties of the State had voted in favor of the abolition of the liquor traffic. There were only twenty-three places in Kentucky where licenses were issued, and all of the rural territory was under local prohibition. A bill offered before the legislature of 1914 by W. M. Webb, representative from the counties of Johnson and Martin, submitting the question of state-wide prohibition, passed the lower house by more than the required vote. It was defeated in the senate by a parliamentary technicality.

Kentucky has made recent marvelous advancement in industrial affairs. Improved methods of farming are now being generally adopted. Since 1880, the annual product of her farms has more than doubled in value, as has also that of her manufactures. But the greatest development has occurred in her coal industry. In 1915 it was estimated that the State had in her two coal fields, the Eastern and the Western, at least one hundred and twenty billion tons of available coal, and that Kentucky was fifth among coal-producing states. Her mining industry has ad-

Democrats again in power

Recent legislation

Prohibition movement

Industrial progress

vanced rapidly since 1900, when her coal output was only five million tons. During 1914 it was more than twenty million tons. The special development has been on the upper waters of the Big Sandy River and its tributaries. There have also been developments, though as yet less extensive, on the upper waters of the North Fork of the Kentucky River, and on the Cumberland River, as well as in the western part of the State.

In recent years the two Normal Schools for white persons have been placed under a bipartisan board. Likewise the board of control for charitable institutions, previously partisan, was, in 1908, made bipartisan. The legislature of 1912 abolished the old Prison Commission, and created a board of control to consist of three member appointed by the governor. The legislature of 1914 passed an act providing for the election of six additional members of the Board of Trustees of the State University, to be elected from the alumni, by ballot of the graduates and of those who have received degrees of the institution, one fifth of the governor's appointees being also of the alumni.

The important movement pertaining to good roads in Kentucky, which began about ten years ago, received special impetus during the year 1915 through the project to intersect the State by three great highways, the Dixie, the Jackson, and the Boone Highway. Road Building in Kentucky began in 1829, and the State now has a national reputation in this relation. She stands fourth among the commonwealths and territories in point of improved roads, having in constant use nearly 9500 miles of turnpike, most of which is surfaced with stone, her roads being valued at nearly \$1,150,000.

At the November election of 1915 the Democratic candidates for governor and lieutenant governor, A. O. Stanley and James D. Black, defeated by a small plurality the Republican nominees, Edwin P. Morrow and Lewis L. Walker.

Several acts of general interest were passed by the Democratic legislature of 1916, among which may be mentioned a bill appropriating \$5,000 yearly for two years to the Illiteracy Commission, a bill pro-

viding for Sunday closing of saloons, a bill prohibiting fraudulent advertisement, and a Pure Food bill that places Kentucky in the lead of all states in this matter. Also a bill was passed making Lincoln's birthday a legal holiday.

In June, 1916, the National Guard was called out, to serve on the Mexican border. A portion of the Kentucky brigade (the old First Kentucky Infantry) was not mustered out before the United States entered the world war (April 6, 1917), and was then, with the other parts of the state troops, taken into the Federal service. The Kentucky Guard was trained for overseas service at Camp Shelby, Mississippi. A cantonment for the training of National Army soldiers was Camp Zachary Taylor, situated at Louisville, Kentucky.

For the first time in twelve years a special session of the General Assembly was called by Governor Stanley, to convene February 14, 1917. A permanent Tax Commission, to succeed the temporary one appointed in 1916, was created, and a number of bills designed to increase the State's revenues, and to distribute the burden of taxation more equitably, were passed. But the most important session of the legislature for twenty years was that of 1918. The National Prohibition amendment was ratified by a vote of 93 to 15, and a bill to submit to the voters at the next general election (November, 1919) the State-wide Prohibition amendment was likewise passed. Also additional reforms in the ancient financial methods of the State were effected, the most important being a bill providing for the Budget System of state appropriations. Appropriations aggregating \$1,150,000 were made.

Ollie M. James, United States senator, the nominee of the Democratic party to succeed himself, died August 28, 1918. Governor Stanley appointed George B. Martin, of Catlettsburg, for the short term, ending March, 1919. Stanley was chosen the nominee of the Democrats by the State Central and Executive Committees, September 5, 1918, and at the November election he defeated his Republican opponent, Dr. Ben L. Bruner.

THE ERA OF TRANSITION

From the foregoing there may be gained some idea of the events occurring in the State at the present time. But an account of the new Kentucky must be mainly a matter of prophecy. The old order of things

has passed away; the new order has not yet been fully developed. Kentucky's past usefulness has been clearly demonstrated, but her possibilities for future greatness can only be pointed out and anticipated.

- Elizabeth Shelby Kinkead