

lature, and terminating in his death at his home near Louisa, in 1884. He left a large family.

The youngest son, John McConnell Rice, if not more brilliant than his gifted brother Jake, has proven himself to be a man of intellect, and a leader among men. Like his father and brother, he, too, is a lawyer. On being admitted to the bar in 1853, he removed to Pikeville, where he practiced until 1860, when he went back to Louisa, taking at the bar there the place of his father, who, the same year, moved to Catlettsburg. While at Pikeville he was elected once to the Legislature, and once from Lawrence and Boyd. In 1868 he was elected to Congress from the Ninth District, and re-elected in 1872, carrying on all the time a large law practice. In 1884 he was appointed judge of the Big Sandy Criminal Court, and was elected without opposition for a full term in 1885, which he is now filling.

He received the plaudits of his party in every official position he has occupied by their suffrage; but as criminal judge the entire body politic rise up and applaud him as a just and upright judge. No honor of an official nature has ever been sought by him without obtaining what he asked for.

The judge married Miss Poage, a daughter of William Poage, a prominent citizen of Greenup County. They have two sons and three daughters. One of the daughters married James H. McConnell, the postmaster at Catlettsburg. One married James

Q. Lackey, of Louisa ; and another married Benjamin Thomas, a noted engineer, now in charge of the Big Sandy River public improvements. One of the sons married Miss Abbott, a worthy young lady of his native town ; and the remaining son holds an important office in the revenue department of the Government.

Hon. James M. Rice, during the session of the Legislature in 1860, went to Frankfort, and labored with so much candor and ability as to impress upon the members the advisability of cutting off portions of Greenup, Lawrence, and Carter, and forming the county of Boyd. Many others did much to achieve the same end, but none did so much as Judge James M. Rice. The same year he moved to Catlettsburg, where he lived till his death. During his residence here he gave most of his time to the practice of his profession. Always taking a deep interest in the political affairs of his country, his devotion to his party was great, and it is likely that he sometimes felt that he should have received more benefits from it than fell to his lot. A man may be talented, no matter where he may live, but oftentimes his greatness "is wasted on the desert air." A Democrat, be he ever so brilliant, can make no headway in a Republican State ; and *vice versa*. During Judge Rice's prime, the State of Kentucky was overwhelmingly Whig. Almost any Whig could have beaten the Democratic party. Had Kentucky been Democratic at that period, Judge Rice would, no doubt,

have risen to the highest places of official honor known to the Commonwealth.

Less than a year after his removal to Catlettsburg, the great Civil War commenced. Judge Rice was strongly Southern in his feelings, but at the same time declared secession to be a heresy, contending that the Southern leaders were making a great mistake in breaking up the Government to obtain the rights they could only hope to get within the Union. While his sympathies were with the Southern people, he conducted himself during the entire conflict with that dignity and discretion so becoming in one of his exalted position. Only once during the war was any indignity cast upon the great man, and that, of no great moment, was caused by a green subaltern in the Union army, over-zealous in the discharge of duty.

The sons of Judge James M. Rice we have fully noticed. His three daughters must now receive our attention. Amanda is married to a worthy gentleman named Culter, and lives in Florida. Another daughter married Samuel Short, a prominent citizen of Lawrence. They are both dead, leaving no children save an adopted daughter, the wife of F. F. Freese, Esq., of Louisa. The other daughter married John Jones, a son of Daniel Jones, at one time a prominent citizen of Prestonburg. Mrs. Jones died many years ago, leaving several children.

Judge Rice was one of the most considerate of

parents, ever laboring for the advancement of his children. He provided not only his two sons, but the daughters as well, with the best education the schools and colleges could afford. While he was always a friend of morals and Christianity, and his house during his entire married life was the home of the preacher, he never publicly professed faith in Christ until two or three years previous to his death, when he united with the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. He was a man of strictly temperate habits, never indulging in the use of stimulants, and even gave up the use of tobacco many years before he died. His mind and all of his faculties were undimmed to the last, and his sudden death was a fitting termination of the life of one so majestic. On the 24th day of October, 1870, his heart ceased to beat, and the great man was gathered to his fathers. He left a widow, in addition to the sons and daughters named. The second wife never bore him any children, but she lives to-day, keeping green the memory of her departed husband, and taking the most lively interest in the welfare of his children and grandchildren.

We omitted to state under the proper head that Mr. Rice at one time filled the office of circuit judge by appointment with great ability.

Before finishing our paper on the Rice family, we must refer again to Judge James M. Rice's great friend, John M. McConnell. That the former never ceased to remember his preceptor with

gratitude, is evinced by the fact that he named one of his two sons after him. The present judge of the Big Sandy Criminal Court, Hon. John M. Rice, bears the honored given name of his father's first great friend, McConnell. The naming of a child is only a sentiment, and while Judge Rice did not ignore a sentiment, he was ever on the alert to discover a young man answering the description pointed out by McConnell, whom he could take to his home and office, and do for him as Mr. McConnell had, unsolicited, done for himself. At last the opportunity came. John McDyer, a bright, talented young man, without means to defray his expenses, presented himself to Mr. Rice, and informed him that he wanted to enter his office as a law student, but he did not then have the means at command to pay for such a course. Mr. Rice bade the young man welcome, and told him that his board and tuition should be free. Mr. McDyer pursued his studies with alacrity and was soon admitted to the bar; and, had not his life been cut short by fatal disease almost at its threshold, it is believed that he would have made a great name as a lawyer. He married a daughter of George Hutchinson, of Lawrence, and sister of I. B. Hutchinson. He left a widow and a daughter and son. The widow soon followed her young husband to the grave; the daughter is married, and lives in Lawrence; and the son, John McDyer, is one of Boyd County's most prominent citizens.

But the sublime friendship formed between the houses of McConnell and Rice does not cease when James M. Rice, the real founder of the Rice dynasty, on Sandy, pays back in kind the benefits he had in early manhood received from John M. McConnell, the founder of the McConnell family in Kentucky. Near fifty years had come and gone since McConnell's dust had returned to earth, and Judge Rice had also been laid in his grave, when James H. McConnell, son of Charles L. McConnell, and grandson of John M. McConnell, wooed and won the heart and hand of Ida, daughter of Hon. John M. Rice, and granddaughter of Judge James M. Rice, thus cementing in love the friendship formed by their ancestors half a century before.

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#### THE RICE FAMILY, OF JOHNSON,

SETTLED in the county in 1815. They came from Virginia. They are mostly farmers, and some of them wealthy ones. Martin Rice, of Jennie's Creek, is one of the richest men in Johnson. Two of his sons are leading merchants of Paintsville. One of them is clerk of the Circuit Court. Other members of the Rice family are professional men. The Rices of Johnson are mostly adherents of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and are Republicans in politics.

Another large branch of the family is found in Floyd, Pike, and Martin. They, too, are mostly tillers

of the soil, and, as a family, maintain the reputation of good citizenship. The latter branch are mostly Baptists, though some Methodists are found in the family. In politics they are divided.

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## JOHN N. RICHARDSON

WAS raised in Philadelphia. He was educated in the academy owned and conducted by Thomas Smiley, the author of Smiley's Arithmetic. He came west in 1833, when quite a young man, and stopped at the Mouth of Sandy. "Dad" Owens fell in with him there, and insisted on the young Philadelphian's going home with him to Pike, to take charge of his mercantile books, as he discovered the young man to be an expert in book-keeping. Mr. Richardson yielded, and for near twenty years made Pikeville his home. He married a daughter of Thos. Ratliff, the sister of General Ratliff, of that place. He became a merchant, and did a great trade in ginseng, furs, etc. He became a very religious man while there, and did much to promote the cause of religion and sound morality. He moved, about 1852, to Greenup County, and took charge of the office of the Pennsylvania Furnace, then owned by W. M. Patton and others. Joseph Patton was assistant manager.

Quitting there in about 1854, he moved to Catlettsburg, and formed a partnership with his old partner, R. D. Callihan, and opened a store in Ash-

land, continuing to live in Catlettsburg. The firm built a flour-mill in Ashland, the nucleus of the large mill now owned by the Poages. In 1861 he opened a store in Catlettsburg, and by his trained business foresight made a good thing during the war. He for some time was cashier of the Bank of Ashland, and was regarded as a capital officer. But his health failing, he was compelled to withdraw from business in 1866, and died in 1867, lamented not only by his immediate family, but by the entire community. The business houses were all closed in respect to his memory, on the day of his funeral.

His son William is now, and has been for years, the cashier of the Ashland National Bank. Another son has filled for two terms the office of sheriff of Boyd County. Another son is a prominent business man in Ashland, and of literary ability. His eldest daughter, Meriba, was a lady of rare Christian graces and mental accomplishments. She was educated at the Female College, Wilmington, Delaware. She died ten years ago, greatly lamented by all who knew her. Another daughter is the wife of a prominent preacher in the West Virginia Conference, Methodist Episcopal Church. Another daughter is the wife of a prominent Ohio River steamboat man.

The widow still survives, blessed by her dutiful children, who often call at the old homestead where the mother resides, surrounded by the comforts and luxuries which follow a well-spent life.



We failed to say another son occupies a high business position in a commercial town in Ohio.

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JOHN M. McCONNELL

WAS of Scotch-Irish descent, and born in Western Pennsylvania, about 1790. He received a good education before he was sixteen, at which time he was apprenticed to the tailor and draper business. While working faithfully at his trade, he by no means failed to snatch every moment of time not due his employer, to carry on a course of study previously laid out in his mind on quitting school; and living in Cannonsburg, then containing a college of learning, his opportunities were increased by the friendships he made with not only many of the students, but the professors as well. They assisted the bright apprentice in carrying on a collegiate course, by going to his room of evenings, and giving him the benefit of studying the text-books with them. While he did not have the opportunity of reciting to the professors in the hall, he mastered the lessons, and had them well grounded in his mind, so that when his apprenticeship expired, at twenty-one years of age, his education was as complete as many of the students who had given their days as well as their nights to study.

In 1813, when twenty-one, his employer gave him twenty-five dollars in money, a horse, saddle, and bridle, a large pair of saddle-bags, and a new

suit of broadcloth; and he left his native State and struck out for Kentucky, which he reached opposite Portsmouth; he rode on to Greenup Courthouse, and made a halt. After tarrying a short time here, he went to Woodford County, but soon came back to Eastern Kentucky, and went to Prestonburg, where he taught school, and read law with Robert Walker, one of the early lawyers of that town, famous for great lawyers. About this time he married Lucy Lewis, a daughter of Charles Lewis, of what is now Carter County, and settled in Greenup, where he lived the remainder of his days.

From his entrance on the practice of his profession until the day of his death, Mr. McConnell stood at the front rank of the profession, and as one of the most eloquent men on the stump of his day found in the State. As money flowed into his hands from his great and extending practice, he made investments in the infant industries of his county, which yielded him large returns. Being a gentleman of taste and culture, he went to work to set up an establishment equal to almost any one found in the older settlements of that day. He purchased a large boundary of land fronting on the Ohio River, four miles above Greenupsburg, where he laid out a four-acre plat fronting on the bank of the beautiful river, and in the center erected a splendid two-story brick mansion, setting out shade-trees in regular order, with vegetable garden and

negro-houses in the rear, shrubbery and flowers of the most delicious odors, arranged in plats, and lining the pebbled walks in front. After finishing the house in the best style known to mechanical art, and furnishing it with the most skillfully wrought furniture, and when ready to move in and occupy the splendid home, without any apparent sickness, in the year 1834, at forty-three years of age, he departed this life. He had burnt the candle of life at both ends, but accomplished as much as ordinary mortals achieve in double the time. Commencing life with comparatively nothing, he died leaving over fifty thousand dollars in money, lands, and negroes, to his widow and children.

His only son, Judge Charles Lewis McConnell, lives in Catlettsburg, and is highly respected. The daughters all married men who occupy prominent places in business and society. The widow followed her husband to the grave about twenty years after his departure.

Mr. McConnell was a State senator four years, and was regarded as one of the most eloquent of that then august body. He was not only an orator, but excelled as a conversationalist. We give an instance of his rare elocutionary power in common conversation, which was related to us by the author's father-in-law, Robert Walter, of Blaine. Mr. McConnell made many journeys from Greenup to Prestonburg, and back; and on these trips he invariably stopped with Neri Sweatnam, a fine liver,

and a jolly good man to stay with all night. On all such occasions Mr. Sweatnam would send his colored servant "Bill" to tell Master Robert that the great man (meaning McConnell) had arrived, and to come over and hear him talk. He must have been a charming talker, as Mr. Walter often said that he surpassed all of the great men he ever heard speak or talk. He named Menifee, Cox, French, Rice, Moore, Andrews, as his models of greatness, but said that McConnell surpassed them all as a charming talker.

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#### THE PRESTON FAMILY.

THE early ancestor of this family in the Sandy Valley was Moses Preston, born and raised in Bedford County, Virginia, who, on coming to man's estate, found his country in the throes of the approaching Revolutionary struggle, and patriotically enlisted on the side of freedom. He fought through the war, and at its close returned to Bedford, and married a Miss Arthur, from which name are perpetuated many of the given names worn by the Prestons.

In 1800 Moses Preston moved into the valley, and settled on what is known as the Morgan farm in Floyd, thence to the forks of Beaver. He came down to near George's Creek, and settled on the farm, where he lived and died, which latter event occurred in the seventy-sixth year of his age. He

was all his life a sterling Jeffersonian Democrat. He was the father of six sons and five daughters.

Isaac, the oldest son, married Polly Sloan, of Pike County, of an old-time house up there. They lived all their life on a farm in the vicinity of Peach Orchard. He, like his father Moses, died in the seventy-sixth year of his age, his wife Polly reaching the grand age of eighty-five before she was called to shuffle of the mortal coil. They left a large number of descendants, who are among the best citizens of the Sandy Valley. Milton T. Preston, the enterprising merchant of near Peach Orchard, is a grandson of theirs.

Stephen, the second son, married a Miss Miller, and, like his brothers, settled on a farm near where he lived in his boyhood. Here he lived, and here he died, at the age of seventy-four. Although he had traveled through Indiana in early manhood, he returned to his native soil, happy to keep his place among brothers and sisters. His wife, Pricie, was a devoted Methodist. She still lives, at the age of eighty-one, active in body and mind. They have many descendants to honor their name. Among them is Robert M. Preston, a bright, intelligent gentleman of Peach Orchard.

Moses was the third son, whose life we will pass over at present, as he was not only like his brothers and sisters, a good citizen, but was destined to become a historic figure in Big Sandy annals.

John, the fourth son, married Kizzie Fitzpatrick. She still survives. They raised a large family of sons, and one daughter. Henry, the fifth son, married Betty Kaney, and settled on a farm on Nat's Creek, where he resided until his death, which occurred at seventy-two years of age. His wife lived at the homestead the rest of her life. She died in the eighty-sixth year of her age. Both husband and wife were staunch Methodists. They left fifteen children, many grandchildren and great-grandchildren behind them. Among the former is McDonald Preston, the merchant and hotel-keeper at Richardson, Kentucky. Arthur Preston, a well-off merchant and timber-dealer of Graves' Shoal, who is a rising man in his section, is a member of this branch of the Preston family.

Arthur, the sixth son, married Nancy Miller, and first settled on Rock Castle, but soon after moved to the Tygart Valley, in Greenup County. After remaining a few years in Greenup County, he came back to the Sandy River, and settled on the farm, where he died, at the Graves' Shoal. He was known as a model farmer and stock-raiser, and prospered in business. His first wife died in 1852. He afterwards married Sarah Peery, daughter of David Peery, of Virginia. She lived until 1881, and then passed to the better land. He died in 1884, leaving a host of descendants, who are not unworthy of their ancestry. Susan, the eldest daughter, married Abraham Mead, and lived on a

farm on Mead Branch. She died in 1847, and left numerous sons and daughters. She was a very pious lady, a member of the Methodist Church. Linda, the second daughter, married Jesse Price. They first lived near Graves' Shoal, but subsequently moved to near the mouth of Buffalo, and after a few years, about 1873, they settled in Paintsville, where they both died, at a good old age. They were Baptist people, and pious. Among their sons we mention Washington Price, an able Baptist preacher, and, although bowed down with the weight of years upon him, he is able to bear the burden of seven Churches upon his shoulders, as the pastor of each. A. J. Price, another son, was a prominent merchant and Baptist preacher in his life. A grandson is a prominent educator, now living in Ohio.

Polly, the third daughter of Moses Preston the first, married John Hawes, a Methodist preacher. They settled on George's Creek. From there they went to Indiana, but only to return to Flat Woods, Lawrence County, where they settled for life. Their farm was about a mile above Louisa. Wesley Hawes, a former prominent citizen of Lawrence County, holding the office of sheriff and other official honors, was their son. Judge Asbury Hawes, a merchant and farmer of Prosperity, is another son of theirs, and, like his ancestors is a Methodist. Allen P., another son, served as captain in the Union army. Jane married Archibald Borders;

Betty married Abraham Childers. They lived mostly on a farm on the bank of the Sandy, although they spent some time in the Rock Castle region, the husband dying many years ago, and she growing old (now seventy-eight years), lives with her children, near Richardson, and seems happy and contented.

The Prestons, from the beginning on Sandy, have, as a family, sustained an unblemished reputation for truth and honesty, and most of them are well-to-do people. In politics they are Democrats, with rare exceptions, inclining to the Methodists in religion, though some are Baptists. As a representative member of the Preston family, we give, in another place, the portrait of young Arthur Preston, the progressive merchant and trader of Graves' Shoal, a young man of mental vigor and a leader of the younger generation of the Prestons.

#### MOSES, OR "COBY" PRESTON,

THE third son of Moses Preston and his wife, *née*. Miss Arthur, was one of the remarkable men whom the Sandy Valley has developed. He was born near the birth of the present century, and on coming to manhood married Elizabeth Haney, a woman of worth and great energy. She bore him a large family of children, who, following in the footsteps of their honored parents, are the foremost citizens in the Sandy Valley and in the homes they have hewn out in the far South-west.



Soon after Mr. Preston's marriage with Miss Haney, being of a restless disposition, he, with his young wife, moved to the Scioto Valley country; but, finding chills and fever as abundant as good land, they shook the dust, or mud, from the soles of their feet and hastened back to the Great Sandy country. While the move down to Scioto was attended with expense, the plain, economical ways of life which Mr. Preston adopted in early life, and kept up until the hour of his death, enabled him to return to the Sandy Valley with more material wealth than he had at starting. On his return he settled on the place known at the time as the Spencer farm, now



MOSES PRESTON, SR.

the Kise farm, some miles below George's Creek. Here he lived many years, and prospered greatly.

Alone, and afterward with his brother-in-law, Archibald Borders, he was among the first to engage in peeling and running tan-bark to Cincinnati, floating it down in barges, constructed, often, out of lumber sawed by hand, called whip-sawing. He and his brother-in-law, Judge Borders, were as

well and favorably known to the old-time tanners and other business men of the Queen City as are the great timber-dealers of the present time known to the mill-men and builders of Cincinnati. He established a reputation for honesty and fair-dealing unsurpassed by no one in the business; in some instances the bark went off without being subject to measurement, so much confidence had the buyers in Mr. Preston's honesty. While tan-bark was a specialty with him, he was almost as well known as a large timber-dealer. He also sent barge-loads of hoop-poles and staves to the Cincinnati market. Dealing in bark, cooper-stuff, and saw-logs combined seems to us to be sufficient for one man's busy attention; but to one with the business foresight of "Coby" Preston this alone was insignificant, and at the same time he carried on a large general store, and cultivated many farms. By applying business rules to every department of his extended pursuits, he made money at all, and was never accused of overreaching the hireling that wrought for him.

About the time Johnson County was formed into a separate jurisdiction, which was in 1843, Mr. Preston moved up to the mouth of Paint Creek, and ever after, as long as he lived, made that place the center of his business enterprises, although he alternated his residence between the mouth of Paint and Paintsville, one-half a mile above, having good residences at both places.

Like all dwellers on the highway with a good house, he entertained the wayfaring man in a sumptuous style at his home on the river.

The wife of his youth, after sharing with him his sorrows and joys, and assisting her husband by her good counsels and domestic skill, sickened and died, leaving behind a number of sons, who, by following the good and wholesome advice given them by their mother, and walking in the footsteps of their father, have, nearly all of them, come to the front as business men and upright citizens in the vicinity where they were brought up.

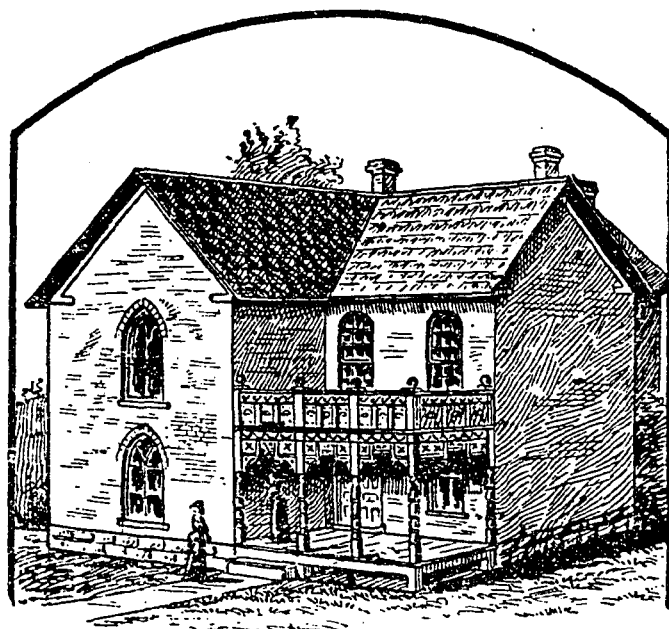
After the death of his first wife, Mr. Preston married Nancy, a daughter of David Peery, of Tazewell County, Virginia. They lived in great peace until his sudden death, in 1870. He and his wife being on a visit to his brother Arthur, at Graves' Shoal, after dinner he went to the barn to saddle the horses, to return with his wife to their home at Paintsville, when one of the animals kicked him so severely that he died almost instantly. His death was not only a sad blow to his family, but was profoundly regretted by the entire people of the valley; for in more respects than one a prince among the people had fallen when the life went out of the body of Moses, or Coby, Preston. While his death was sudden and unexpected to him and others, he had had the sagacity to make ample provision for his wife, and had, as his sons started out in business, aided them with a liberal hand; so

## BIG SANDY VALLEY.

that no family jar rent the bonds that bound the family together, after he had left the busy haunts of men. Mr. Preston was an honest man, the noblest work of God.

Coby, or Moses, Preston took a deep interest in political affairs, although he was never an office-seeker. He ignored, to some extent, Church formularies, but squared his life by the Golden Rule. His portrait will be recognized by the old-time

Sandians as one of peculiar correctness.



Residence of Frank Preston, Paintsville, Ky.

The modern-built brick mansion, the Paintsville residence of his son, Captain Frank Preston, bears testimony to the progress of architecture in the Sandy

Valley. He is, in some respects, the representative of the family. He is a man of wealth, character, and enterprise, and has the confidence of the entire community in which he lives, as a merchant, a timber-dealer, a steamboatman, and general business man. He married into one of the most prominent families of the Sandy Valley, a daughter of General Daniel Hager. He sends his sons and

daughters to the best colleges and schools, to receive their mental training. Himself and family are members and liberal supporters of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. He, like his father, is a strong Democrat, but not an office-seeker.

James, another son, died many years ago. Greenville lives in Texas. Martin is, and has always been, a prominent business man of Paintsville, and has a son engaged in literary pursuits, besides being a lawyer and preacher. Moses rose to eminence as a merchant, but died many years ago. His wife, another daughter of General Hager, after her first husband's death, married Dr. Turner, a prominent citizen of Paintsville. William and Montraville are both prosperous farmers and saving business men, living near Paintsville.

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#### THE MARR FAMILY,

OF the Sandy Valley, is one of French origin, descendants of the Huguenots. The family settled in Maryland before the American Revolution. They served the cause of freedom, and were good patriots.

The Marr family spread over the land, from the ancient seat in Maryland, to South Carolina, and numbers among its members many whose deeds have made them noted in business and literature. The grandfather of Thomas Marr, of Catlettsburg, came to Sandy before the commencement of the present century, and settled in the John's Creek

country. One of his sons married a Miss May, a daughter of Thomas May, of Shelby, Pike County. Thomas Marr and his brothers are descended from that union, on their maternal side.

The Marrs have ever been held in esteem for their integrity and fair dealing, and by intermarriage are allied to many of the old houses of the valley. Hon. James Marr, a brother of Thomas, is the efficient prosecuting attorney of Letcher County. Another brother is a prominent business man of Pike.

The Marrs have ever been noted for the firmness with which they stood by that which they thought to be right. They favor all measures calculated to make men better citizens. They are patrons of religion, and in politics are firm Democrats.

Captain Thomas married the second daughter of Benjamin Williamson. He and his family are among Catlettsburg's most prominent people.

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#### THE MAY FAMILY,

OF the Sandy Valley, were here by its representatives as early as 1796. The author has failed to gather any material on which to base a consecutive history of the doings of the May family.

Thomas May was the first, or, at least, amongst the first, of the family coming from Virginia and settling on Shelby Creek. He was a very jovial man, fond of fiddling and dancing, and popular

with his neighbors. He owned more slaves than any man on Sandy, either in his day or since, footing up in number seventy-one.

Other branches of the family settled further down the river, more largely at Prestonburg. They have spread over a half-dozen counties in the Sandy Valley and adjacent section. The Mays have from the beginning been at the front in public life, one of them representing his district in Congress. Colonel A. J. May developed into greater renown as an officer in the Confederate army than any other native of Sandy. He is a middle-aged man, now living in Tazewell County, Virginia, where he has practiced law ever since the close of the Civil War.

Many of the Mays filled county and legislative offices. David, of Pike County, especially, has been foremost as a public man. Several of the Mays are local preachers in the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. The Mays of the immediate Sandy Valley are Democrats, but some of them in other and distant counties are Republicans.

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#### THE MAYO FAMILY

Is ONE of the oldest, as well as one of great respectability, in the valley. Jacob came from Fluvanna County Virginia, and was appointed clerk of the Floyd Circuit Court in 1800. Harry B. and Wilson came later.

Lewis Mayo came to the valley in 1837. He

was a finely educated man, and devoted his life to teaching. He raised a family of sons and daughters, who well kept up the reputation of the Mayo house.

L. D. Walton married one of Lewis Mayo's daughters. The wife of Harry Davis, at the mouth of John's Creek, is another. William Borders, of Paintsville, married a third. Mrs. Allen P. Borders is a daughter of the same; and the wife of Hon. James E. Stewart is the youngest one of these fair daughters. A son, who bears his father's given name, is a merchant on Sandy.

The various branches of the Mayo tree have spread to all parts of the valley, carrying with them industry, morality, and intelligence.

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#### NERI SWEATNUM

AND family came from near Washington City in Virginia, in 1818, and bought an immense boundary of land on Blaine, which is known to this day as the Sweatnum neighborhood. He was a man of wealth and fine manners, as was also his wife, who was a Cross. Their home was the resting-place of the Methodist preachers, for they were ardent Methodists. It was the stopping-place for most of the great lawyers and statesmen who so frequently, in an early day, passed by the Sweatnum neighborhood on the road from Louisa to West Liberty, and from the interior of the State to the Sandy country.



Mr. Sweatnum and wife, in their day, often entertained Judge French, Leander Cox, Richard Menifee, John M. McConnell, Watt Andrews, Judge James M. Rice, and other noted men. Although Mr. Sweatnum was a strong Henry Clay Whig, he always said that he liked Judge Rice, of his own county, better than any of the great men who stopped with him. Rice was much younger than he, and his jolly, ardent nature, as well as the great talents of the judge, won the love of his heart.

Mr. Sweatnum had a servant named "Bill," who used to attend the elections with gingerbread, to sell for his own profit, and was sharp enough to cry it off as *Rice-cakes*, if Rice was a candidate, knowing that *Master* Rice was very liberal to the blacks, if he was a slave-owner; and that while his own master was a Whig, and Rice a Democrat, his personal liking for the judge would cause him to wink at his selfish zeal in promoting the election of a Democrat.

Mr. Sweatnum died in 1861, his wife preceding him two years. He had six sons and two daughters. Dr. Sweatnum, of Louisa, is the youngest son. John Sweatnum, of Bath, another. Claiborne Sweatnum, Neri, and Elza Sweatnum, the three latter of Blaine, are the living sons, Zephaniah having long since died in Iowa. Mrs. Judge Dean is a granddaughter of Neri Sweatnum, Sen., and so is the wife of the author of this book. He has three or four grandsons, who are noted physicians, among

them Dr. J. M. Sweatnum, of Omaha, Nebraska. Many of his descendants are in California; and his youngest daughter, with her husband, John Osburn, lives in Arizona. The oldest daughter was the wife of Robert Walter, both of whom have been dead for many years.

The great landed estate of Mr. Sweatnum is every foot held sacred by his descendants, who still keep alive the family traditions. Mr. Sweatnum was a good man and true, and his family came to honor.

“Bill,” the old slave spoken of, lives in Catlettsburg, coming slyly from Ironton, at which place he had taken shelter from the Knights of Birchbark, a very brave band that, ten years ago, terrorized many poor people, both white and black, for having but one shirt to wear, and whose wives went barefooted. “Poor Old Bill” scampered away from Kentucky soil simply because the old man believed in witches. He is near ninety years old, yet does as good, honest work as men of fifty; and had he now the value for all the hard work he has done, he could pay for the Alger House, the Opera-house, and Carpenter’s mammoth house thrown in.

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#### JOHN FREW STEWART

WAS born in December, 1833, in Western Pennsylvania, and was educated at Westminster College, New Wilmington, Pennsylvania, continuing there

for three years. He then followed teaching for six or seven years, when, in 1859, he began the study of law in the office of Moore & Gallup, at Louisa, procuring his license in 1860. In August, 1862, he was elected county attorney of Lawrence County, Ky. He entered the army as a private in September, 1862. At the organization of his company, in November of the same year, he was commissioned second lieutenant of the same, and at the organization of the regiment (Thirty-ninth Kentucky volunteers) February 16, 1863, he was promoted to first lieutenant and adjutant of the regiment, in which capacity he served to November, 1864, when he was promoted to major of his regiment.



J. FREW STEWART.

His first appearance in Kentucky was as principal of Big Sandy Academy, at Catlettsburg, in October, 1857. Many of the prominent young men of the Sandy Valley were students under him, notably the Moore boys, the Richardsons, Prichards,

Burgesses, Pattons; also, S. G. Kinner, our Commonwealth's attorney, and many others. In Johnson County, where he lives, he has been deputy collector internal revenue, United States commissioner, county school commissioner, and county judge. Judge Stewart is married, but has no children. He owns and occupies a beautiful homestead in Paintsville. In politics he is a Republican. In religion he is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

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ALBIN STEIN.

THE picture of Mr. Stein is produced to represent the German element of the Sandy Valley, and also to represent the manufacturing industries, and, furthermore, to represent an old-time house, some of the members of which came to the valley in an early day. The Steins have the blood of the Sovains, an old honored family of Alsace-Lorraine, coursing through their veins. The Sovains had representatives in America at Philadelphia in 1755. Their descendants came early to the Sandy Valley, and by marriage have become allied to some of the most prominent people in East Kentucky.

Charles Stein, the father of Albin, came to the Sandy Valley from Germany, and set up a tannery near Catlettsburg in 1852. After several years he returned to the father-land, and finally married there. But, once breathing the free air of America, he was not satisfied in a country overrun with

kings, dukes, and petty princes, and resolved to make his permanent home in the land of the free. Having a son born to him, he was anxious to have him educated in the universities of Germany, and it was arranged that the mother should remain in Germany with the son until his education was completed. The father, returning to Catlettsburg, commenced at once to prepare the way for mother and son to join him so soon as the boy's education was finished. After many trips, on the part of the father, over the sea, young Albin's mental training was completed, and in 1877 the family were all together in Catlettsburg.



ALBIN STEIN.

Albin is the junior member of the firm of Charles Stein & Son, tanners, Catlettsburg, now the most important industry in the place. The Steins are an educated people. Albin speaks several languages with fluency. He is an official member in the Presbyterian Church, is an ardent Odd Fellow and Mason, and a young man of society.

## BENJAMIN SPRADLING,

OF Paintsville, who is near ninety years old, came to the neighborhood, where he still lives, from Lee County, Virginia, in 1796. Wild beasts and Indians roamed the valleys and hills when he first came to the country. But his good genius and strong constitution have been sufficient to successfully withstand these, for he is as hale and hearty as some men are at sixty. His descendants are numerous, and include many of the best people in Johnson and adjacent counties. He is Paintsville's oldest citizen.

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## THE CASTLE FAMILY

Is a remarkable family in numbers. They are to be found in every county in the valley. They are mostly farmers, though a number are engaged in the trades, while some are merchants, and some are professional men. James Castle, a former citizen of Johnson County, moved to Missouri several years ago, where one of his daughters developed into great prominence as a vocalist. His son, George W. Castle, is a prominent citizen and lawyer of Louisa. John W. Castle, another son, is postmaster at Paintsville, and is an extensive manufacturer of burial-cases. He is a local preacher in the Methodist Church, South. The James Castle family are Democrats, while many other members of the Castle family in Johnson County are Republicans.

## THE STEPPS, OF MARTIN,

CAME to the valley among the first settlers, and were brave pioneers. The older ones were noted hunters. The grandfather of Judge Stepp undertook to construct a plow by making the shovel out of a sugar-kettle. After breaking up the old boiler until he had gotten it in the shape of a shovel for a plow, he was perplexed how to make the hole in which to put the wooden bolt to fasten the iron to the upright. But an idea struck him, and he at once carried out the thought, by which the difficulty was overcome. He cut out a patch from his linen shirt, and stuck it on the old kettle where he wanted the hole made, and ordered his son to place a good load in the trusty rifle, and let her rip. The hole was made and the plow was soon finished, and plowing set in on the Stepp estate. What hardships did our ancestors have to endure in opening up the Sandy Valley to civilization! Old Grandfather Stepp should have had a patent issued to him for his invention.

Judge Stepp, one of his many descendants, was one of the best county judges Martin County has ever had.

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THE SCOTT FAMILY,

OF Pike, while not among the oldest of the early-time families, is quite noted for its standing and respectability. William Scott was the oldest ances-

tor of the family. He came from Virginia, and settled on John's Creek, in Pike County. The Scotts have ranked as good farmers, traders, and merchants. John and Henderson Scott are among the best merchants of the John's Creek Valley. William Scott, their cousin, first husband of Mrs. Ferrell, of Pike, was a very successful merchant at that place, but died many years ago, greatly respected.

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#### THE STAFFORDS,

CONSTITUTING the large and influential house of that name living principally in Johnson, came from Giles County, Va., in 1808, and settled in what is now Johnson County. They have ever been noted for their industry and thrift. Many of the Staffords are wealthy farmers and traders, and stand well in their community. They are Democrats, as a rule; are Methodists and Christians. John Stafford, of White House Shoals, was a man of wealth and great prominence in his day. He raised a large family of sprightly daughters, who became wives of a number of the first young men of the valley. He was a distinguished old-time Methodist, the Stafford mansion being a great stand for the early itinerant preachers, who preached in the house.



## JOHN SMITH,

THE father of Lindsay Smith, of Round Bottom, West Virginia, and Edmund M. Smith, of Catalpa, Kentucky, Mrs. Powell, Mrs. Hatton, and Mrs. William Pollard (formerly Mrs. Maupin)—all three living on the waters of the Sandy, near their place of birth—came, when a boy, from North Carolina, about 1809, and took up his abode with his kinsmen, the father and uncles of Abraham and Ross Cyrus. From earliest boyhood he gave signs of the thrift and economy that marked his days of manhood; for John Smith, or Uncle Jack, as he was called by the younger people around him, while he was comparatively young himself (he died before he reached sixty years), was looked upon as the most intensely hard-working man on Sandy, and at the same time one of the best financial managers in his community. Of course, he succeeded in accumulating an ample fortune, owning that splendid farm now owned and occupied by his son, Lindsay Smith, known as the Round Bottom, in West Virginia, on Sandy River, besides much other property. He did a good part for his children, leaving them a handsome competency; and as those traits so essential to success in economic life were transmitted to each of them, even to the third generation, no family on Sandy holds a higher average in material prosperity than the John Smith family, of Round Bottom. Many of his descendants are occupying places of

trust and honor in the communities where they live, and no family, taken as a whole, stands better and higher in the social and Church circles than does this noted family. The members of the entire family are either members of, or lean toward, the Methodist Church, South. In politics they are Democrats.

Mr. Smith died about 1856. His consort lingered on the shore of time till 1885, having passed nearly ninety yearly mile-stones before she was followed to the silent city of the dead, loved and honored by her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, and esteemed by her neighbors for her many virtues and Christian graces. Her daughter, Mrs. Hatton, fell a victim to poison, administered by some fiend, who attempted to destroy her entire household, in December, 1886.

Rev. Joe H. Wright, of Wright's Station, married a granddaughter of John Smith and wife. Bascom Butler, the prominent railroad official of the Chatterawha, married another; Hon. Albert Fulkerson, of Kansas, still another; and the accomplished wife of John F. Hager, the noted attorney of Ashland, is also a granddaughter; besides other alliances equally notable. Charles H. Warren, the noted merchant of Rockville, married a great-granddaughter of this honored pair.

## THE STEWART FAMILY.

THE Stewart family, of Boyd—or at least the family of which the Hon. James E. Stewart is the representative (for several families bearing the same name are unrelated to each other)—are of Irish descent. James Stewart, grandfather of James E. Stewart, and father of Colonel Ralph Stewart, came from Giles County, Virginia, in 1813, and settled on the Sandy in what was afterwards Lawrence County. Some years after James Stewart came with his family from Giles County, Virginia, his aged father came out to see him. He was born and raised in Ireland, and was the earliest ancestor of this branch of the Stewart family in America, although other branches of the prolific tree had gone from Ireland to Connecticut, from whence they spread west into Pennsylvania and Ohio. Colonel Ralph Stewart, the son of James Stewart, was a young man when he came with his father to the Sandy Valley, for he was born in 1792. In 1829 he married America, daughter of Reuben Canterbury, of Canterbury. His wife was many years younger than he.

Colonel Stewart owned and cultivated a large farm on Durbin Creek, near the Sandy River, where he resided until his death in 1876. He was a man of strict integrity, and was always regarded as one of the prominent men of his county. While not a seeker after place, he filled many positions of trust

and honor. He raised a large family of children, who have reflected credit on their good training by him and their mother. Their eldest son,

**HON. JAMES E. STEWART,**

ON coming to age, studied law, and opened an office at Paintsville in 1855. He soon after married Miss Cynthia, daughter of Lewis Mayo, one of the leading men of the Middle Sandy Valley. The war coming on, 1861, found Mr. Stewart a sympathizer with the Southern side, and for words spoken in its favor he was sent to Camp Chase, where he remained a prisoner for a year or more. On being released by exchange, he returned home. Soon after this the oil fever struck the Sandy Valley, and Mr. Stewart's knowledge of law, and also of business, enabled him to make quite a snug thing out of the venture. After the war he bought a handsome property in Louisa, to which place he moved, and where he still resides. He filled the office of district prosecutor for six years, and also for the same length of time he was judge of the Criminal Court of his district. He filled both offices with great satisfaction to the people. He is now engaged in his law practice, and also in other business. One of his bright sons was called away by death when just entering on what seemed to be a career of usefulness. The Stewarts have ever been Democrats of the most pronounced type, and James E. Stewart is no exception to the rule. They are also Methodists

in religion, Mr. Stewart being a prominent layman in the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, at Louisa. Colonel Ralph Stewart's widow died December 27, 1886, aged seventy-four years.

John Stewart, a brother of Colonel Ralph Stewart, married a Miss Burgess, a daughter of an old settler of that name, and one of the ancestors of the house of Burgess, of Boyd and Lawrence.

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### THE RATLIFF FAMILY

ARE among the oldest settlers on Sandy. James Ratliff was the founder of the house, coming to Pike near the commencement of the present century. He was a man of strong convictions, and always sided with the cause of virtue and morality. His son, General Ratliff, was also a man of great mental vigor and of strong will. For twenty years he was sheriff of his county, and filled other places of trust and honor. A daughter of his is the honored wife of Cob Cecil, Sen., of Catlettsburg, and a sister is the widow of the late John N. Richardson, of Catlettsburg. Mrs. Colonel John Dills, Jr., is a daughter of General Ratliff. W. O. B. Ratliff, a descendant of the general (a grandson), is a man of mark in the valley and a large timber-dealer.

The family has spread over the entire valley, and embraces a host of people, many occupying prominent places in the affairs of life. Firmness and decision of character, with great individuality, are character-

istics of the family, which has done much to shape the destiny of the valley. The prominence of this family deserves more than this passing notice; but the author was unable to procure any of the family annals to draw from.

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### THE RUNYONS,

OF Pond, were North Carolinians. Aaron, the ancestor, came with his wife to what is now Pike County, in 1795. His son John, a little boy, came with them. John was the father of Mitchell, who died near Catlettsburg in 1880, aged fifty-six; his father dying in 1840. In addition to Mitchell were Asa H., who owns a nice farm on the Sandy River, three miles from the mouth, in Boyd County (he moved from Tug Valley in 1884), John C., Thomas, Wm. A., Aaron, and Moses, the youngest. Sarah married William McCoy, and Matilda, another daughter, died young.

The Runyons have ever been noted for industry, economy, and good morals. They are all good livers, and some of them might be called wealthy. They are a strict Baptist family, and keep the faith of their fathers. They are moderate Democrats in politics. They have always taken a decided interest in the cause of education.

## RULE FAMILY.

ANDREW RULE, the ancestor of the Rules, was born March 16th, 1787, and died in 1883, aged ninety-six years. He came to Sandy in 1808, and settled on Paint Creek, two miles from Paintsville, in 1813, where he lived all of his life. He was a good farmer and good business man, whose family has ever been noted for thrift and energy. His descendants are numbered among the best in the valley.

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## JAMES RICHMOND,

IN about 1840, came to the Sandy Valley as an itinerant dry-goods merchant. By close attention to business he became a very successful merchant at the mouth of John's Creek, accumulating considerable wealth. He died suddenly in the early part of the Civil War, leaving a son and a daughter. The son, John Richmond, married a daughter of Samuel Auxier. He is a farmer and store-keeper near the mouth of John's Creek. The daughter is the wife of Elijah Auxier.

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## JOHN D. MIMS

CAME to the Sandy Valley about 1833, with a stock of goods, and opened a store in Pikeville, Ky. He prospered, and accumulated considerable wealth,

having the great ginseng and fur trade as a foundation on which his business rested. In 1854 he moved to Catlettsburg, and continued in business as a merchant there until he was permanently disabled by a paralytic stroke in 1883. He died in 1886. Mr. Mims carried on a large tannery at Catlettsburg for fifteen years. It is now the property of C. Stein & Son. He was a native of Lynchburg, Virginia, and was a young man when he settled in Pikeville. He first married a Miss Atkins, who, dying, left two children—Colonel David A. Mims and Mrs. Martin Fulkerson. He then married a Miss Friend, of Prestonburg, a sister of Mrs. John Henry Ford and of Mrs. Captain A. C. Hailey. A number of sons and two daughters were born of the latter marriage. One of the daughters (the eldest) married a Mr. Kilgore, and lives in Minnesota. The youngest daughter married W. T. Young, and lives in Catlettsburg. Three of the sons—Robert, Theodore, and John—live in Minnesota. Colonel David A. Mims is a real-estate dealer in Garden City, Kansas. Lon Mims, another son, is a prosperous wholesale hardware merchant at Catlettsburg. Few men for fifty years filled a more prominent position in Sandy commerce than did John D. Mims.



## CAPTAIN THOMAS D. MARCUM.

JOSIAH MARCUM, the great-grandfather of Captain T. D. Marcum, settled in the Lower Sandy Valley almost as early as any other settler on the Sandy. His seat was near where Cassville, Virginia, now stands. He was a typical hunter, and encountered the roving Indians. Like most hunters, Josiah was an expert gunsmith, which art has descended to many of his offspring. The subject of this sketch when a small boy worked at the business with his father,



CAPTAIN T. D. MARCUM.

who was, in addition, a blacksmith as well. The opportunities of Captain Marcum to obtain an education were few indeed. Being the oldest of a large family, he was kept busy in the shop and on the farm, assisting in making a support for his little brothers and sisters. But having a bright, active

mind, and an inherent determination to rise in the world, he applied himself to the study of every book on education which fell in his way, and obtained all the advantages possible while attending the few and imperfect schools possible for him to attend. With these disadvantages to contend against, it is greatly to his credit that, on reaching eighteen years of age, he was found teaching school at the Falls of Tug, and was held to be the best teacher in the country.

When the war against the Government at Washington came upon the country, young Marcum, at an early period, declared for the Union, and enlisted as a private in the 14th Kentucky Volunteer Infantry. He was made lieutenant, and at the battle of Middle Creek, in 1862, acted with great gallantry as aid to the commander on that occasion. He went with the regiment in its marches through Georgia, and by his dash and courage was often on the staff of his superior officer. In 1864 he was made captain of his company. After serving with bravery and courage for some time, he resigned, and came home, and immediately commenced the study of the law. He was admitted to the bar at Louisa, Ky., where he practiced until he was elected register of the land-office in 1875, running ahead of his ticket. It is conceded by his political friends and opponents that he made the best register ever filling the office.

In 1878 he came with his family to Catlettsburg, and started the *Kentucky Democrat*, which he still edits and publishes. Quotations from the columns

of the *Democrat* are more numerous than from most papers of the State. The circulation is greater than any country political paper in the State.

Captain Marcum aided his five younger brothers in obtaining an education, and helped them to a better way in life. Of the six brothers, four are lawyers—one the attorney of Lawrence County; one the county attorney of Wayne County, W. Va.; and another a bright lawyer at Cassville; while another brother holds an important office in the legislative department of West Virginia. Still another is a prominent business man and marshal of the town of Catlettsburg.

Captain Marcum has a wife and two grown daughters, and a son. The family are refined, and grace the best circles of social life. The entire household are working members of the Baptist Church.

As an editor Captain Marcum uses a free lance, and cuts keen; but after an affray he is as calm as any knight of the quill dare be, and holds himself ready for the next fray.

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#### THE AUXIERS.

THE following family annals of the Auxiers were furnished the author by Major John B. Auxier, of John's Creek. The major is now seventy years old, and has a vivid recollection of many things that occurred sixty years ago; but most of the informa-

tion he gives was obtained from his father and his father's three oldest brothers, from his great uncle, Simon Auxier, and from old Mother Hager, the mother of General Daniel Hager, who is himself now an octogenarian.

The great-great-grandfather of Major Auxier, brothers and sister, came to Pennsylvania from the Rhine, in Germany, in 1755. His wife was a Hollander. They lived in Pennsylvania until after the Revolutionary War. They had five sons. Simon, the oldest, served seven years, or during the Revolutionary War. He was under Washington at the battle of Trenton; was with the troops sent from Virginia to aid General Greene in the South; was at the battle of Guilford Court-house, and was at Yorktown when Cornwallis surrendered. Samuel, the grandfather of Major John B., volunteered when fifteen years old, and served the last three years of the war; the other boys were too young to make soldiers.

After that war the major's great-grandfather, whose given name was Michael, settled in Russell County, Virginia. His son Samuel, the grandfather of the major, came with his wife, Sally Brown, to the Block-house Bottom in 1791. The Hammons and some other families came with them, and built two block-houses one-half a mile below the mouth of John's Creek. On the 7th of August, in the same year, Samuel Auxier, father of the major, was born.

In 1795 the grandfather of the major moved down into the Bottom.

In 1798 or '99 the few men in the neighborhood agreed to meet at the mouth of Middle Creek and go on a buffalo-hunt. When the horn sounded to move, the grandfather of the major, then in his prime, fell back from the main body of huntsmen, and to overtake them spurred on his horse, which shied against a tree, and so wounded him that he died in eight or nine days. He was buried in the Block-house Bottom. His death was felt to be a great loss to the early settlers.

In 1813 the major's father, the late Samuel Auxier, married Rebecca Phillips, by whom he had eleven children, seven sons and four daughters. Nat., the father of A. J. Auxier, of Pike, whose picture adorns this book, was the oldest. The wife of Samuel Auxier died in 1835, after which he married Agnes Wells. By her he had five children, three sons and two daughters. Margaret was the oldest and Ann the youngest. Sixteen children in all composed the Samuel Auxier family. This numerous host of children grew to honorable manhood and womanhood, and, without an exception, formed matrimonial alliances with families of high social and moral standing in the valley. The Auxiers are related to most of the better people of the valley.

The grandmother of Major Auxier, wife of the Auxier who was killed while on the buffalo-hunt,

and great-grand-aunt of W. W. Brown, of Paintsville, died in about 1862, aged ninety-nine years. Simon Auxier, the grand-uncle of the major, died near the Mouth in 1825. Michael, one of his brothers, died at ninety-nine years of age, in Adams County, Ohio, where he lived with his son-in-law. This was in sight of Vanceburg, Ky.

In 1801 or 1802 Samuel Auxier, the father of the major, had a little son named Elijah. He was some three years old. He followed his brother Daniel into the woods, where he was chopping timber. There was a thick cane-brake from the house to the woods; but a swath had been cut out, leading from the house to the timber. Soon the little fellow grew tired of being away from his mother, and asked permission to go home. Daniel, thinking of no danger to the child, placed him on the track and started him homeward. All the afternoon Daniel thought the boy safe at home with his mother; the mother, meanwhile as confident he was with his brother. When night came on, and Daniel returned to the house, he was horror-stricken not to see the child. The mother, of course, was frantic at the absence of her little pet. Couriers were sent out in great haste to Damron's Fort, near Pike, and the little settlement near Prater, and over to the Station on Licking, notifying the men that little 'Lige Auxier was lost in Block-house Bottom. The men were not invited to go in search of the lost child; but, true to the native instinct of

humanity so conspicuous in the early settlers, they took up their rifles and a wallet of wild meat, and started on the run to the scene of distress. Some of the brave, noble men sprang from their leafy beds, and sallied forth on their mission of mercy. Who does not feel like offering up a petition to the Father of all good to send blessings down on the heads of their descendants? The men divided in sections, and scoured the country for miles around, never giving up the search until a week had passed.

Some wild beast had dragged the little boy to its lonely den, and devoured him.

Daniel Boone was certainly on Sandy. In 1795 or '96 he came to the Block-house, and joined Nat. Auxier, the uncle of the major, in a bear, deer, and wolf hunt on Greesy Creek, in what is now Johnson County. They built a camp on that stream, still known as Boone's Camp. A post-office, bearing the name, is located at the camp; M. L. K. Wells, a brother-in-law of Dr. Z. Meek, is the postmaster. Nat's Creek, below, was named after Nat. Auxier, who killed many bears, deer, and wolves on the serpentine stream.

The author has used the name of Major John B. Auxier to save space, and as the major is now the oldest living representative of the sturdy house of Auxier, so famous in the valley, the other members of the family can not but justify us in this course. The Auxiers were always respected, and were qual-

ified to fill any public trust; but their modesty has always been equal to their bravery, and seldom has any of them stood for office. John B. has been surveyor of his county, and was a major in the Union army. Nathaniel, the father of A. J. Auxier, now of Pike,



NATHANIEL AUXIER.

ier, now of Pike, was by many regarded as the most brainy man of his day. He died in 1867. His son, A. J., is a lawyer and filled for one term the office of District Attorney with great vigor. He has also been United States Marshal for the District of Ken-

tucky. Other members of the house have filled official stations. Of the sixteen children of Samuel Auxier, thirteen still survive. In politics the Auxiers are divided. In religion they are Methodists, and mostly belong to the Southern branch.

When Major Auxier was born, not a church was found in the valley; coffee was unheard of; a calico dress was a curiosity. Mortars to pound the corn into meal, and the slow grinding hand-mill, were



generally in use, with only here and there a horse-mill. Bear's-grease was used for shortening, and deer-skins to make breeches for the men and moccasins for the women. School-houses were mere shanties, and school-teachers generally took their grog to school. Yet faithful preachers went up and down the valley, preaching a better life for the people. Many heard them gladly, and opened their houses for the preaching of the Word. On the Lavisa Fork the people were mostly Methodists; on Tug, they were generally Baptists.

Slaves were numerous, Tom May, of Shelby, owning seventy-one; yet no one was "stuck up" that held them. The people were all on an equality.

The living was just splendid. Plenty of bear-meat, venison, pheasant, and wild turkey, accompanied with maple molasses, wild honey in the comb, and spice-wood or other native teas, formed a home-fare good enough to tempt the appetite of an epicurean, especially when the brown johnnycake was taken into account. Now the people on Sandy have all the luxuries of life. They live in painted houses, and sleep on downy beds; the ladies are clothed in satin, and the men look with contempt on homespun wear. But are they as happy as their noble ancestors? The people of the present generation are more knowing than their fathers, and therefore their responsibilities are greater. Let the descendants of the old-time people do as well in proportion to their opportunities, as did their

fathers, and the valley will blossom as the rose in material, intellectual, social, and religious prosperity.

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REV. Z. MEEK, D. D.

(See frontispiece for portrait.)

THE REV. ZEPHANIAH MEEK, editor and founder of the *Central Methodist*, for a short time called the *Christian Observer*, may be properly styled a man of destiny. He is now (1887) about fifty-four years of age, but when in his usual good health looks much younger. He is a Big Sandian by birth and education; Johnson is his native county. His father was a man of sprightly mind, lacking only aspiration to have brought him to the front as a foremost citizen in any community. His mother was a woman of strong mind and great force of character, rounded up by a sweet Christian spirit. She was a model of industry, economy, and thrift, more than supplementing her husband's efforts in rearing to manhood and womanhood a large family of sons and daughters, many of them now occupying advanced and honorable places in the community where they live.

Zephaniah, the second son, like most Big Sandy boys, as well as girls, married young. He chose for his wife Miss Mary Jane Davis, a member of an honorable, old-time Sandy Valley family. She, by her solid sense, wise counsel, and fervent piety, has proven herself a worthy helpmate all along the road