

of married life. He, with his young wife, after a few years in business in the country, settled in Paintsville, the capital of Johnson County. Having in his boyhood days but few opportunities to procure an education, he used these the best he could, and supplemented the lack of high-schools and academies by reading and studying the best books obtainable by loan or purchase. By systematic study, consecutively pursued, he was at thirty superior in knowledge and mental culture to almost any of his age in his native county. His religious independence in his early youth was so marked as to cause him to pass by the door of the church of his own people to enter the communion of one more liberal and broad in doctrine and discipline. He at once entered upon a career which, under the circumstances, is almost marvelous.

In early life he taught school, like most men who have come to prominence. Then he acted as county and Circuit Court clerk, and for some years mercantile pursuits engaged his time, all the while adding to his fund of knowledge by every means within his grasp.

On coming to manhood he was licensed to preach as a local or lay preacher in the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, the only organization of Methodism above Louisa, from the separation in 1844 to the time of the war in 1864. He was regarded as a strong man in his Church, as well as an enterprising citizen in his community.

Soon after the close of the war in 1865, having made considerable money in oil speculations, he moved to Catlettsburg, and made investments there. In the Spring of 1867 he started the *Christian Observer*, now called *Central Methodist*, as an organ of his Church, employing Rev. Shadrach Hargiss, a man of culture and ability, but broken in health and destitute of means, to assist him in its management. It soon took high rank, and every week showed improvements on the paper. At first the printing was done by contract at the *Herald* office; but the young editor chafed under the restraints and drawbacks incident to that mode of getting out the paper, and at once settled the question by purchasing an interest in the *Herald* office, adding a power-press and many other needed appendages. This was in 1868. The name of the paper was changed to that of *Central Methodist*, and it was made a sixteen-page paper, rivaling in workmanship, artistic beauty, and general appearance any Church paper of the denomination in whose interest it is published, and superior to the majority, not only in mechanical make-up, but in the ability of its editorials and correspondence.

By the editor's wise management, the paper has attained an unprecedentedly large circulation, which is constantly increasing. He displays as much ability in selecting matter for the columns of the paper; and by culling over the correspondence, as he does in the vigor of his prolific editorials. The

Central Methodist has been a power in lengthening the cords and strengthening the stakes of Southern Methodism in more conferences than one where it circulates. While the editor has his whole mind on the welfare of his paper, and, of course, has chosen the high and exalted plane of theology in which to display his talents, it is well known by many persons conversant with the fact, that it is not only in the field of religious journalism that he excels, but he is equally at home when his trenchant pen is inditing matter for a political paper. It has been an open secret for more than a decade of years that he was the author of the vigorous and scathing articles which appeared in the *Herald*, a Democratic weekly, in 1874, which attracted such wide attention at the time, but were attributed to another.

Mr. Meek has given to all of his numerous children, who have arrived at suitable age, a classical education, and to one a university course; while another son and all his daughters were trained in the halls of a college. The Rev. Lafayette Meek, his first-born, after being trained in the East Kentucky Normal School, spent a year in Millersburg College, but transferred to Vanderbilt University, taking a varied course, and finishing up in the School of Theology. Leaving there, he went out into the itinerant field in the Tennessee Conference, but, almost at the threshold of what seemed to be the commencement of a successful ministry, was stricken down with that fell disease, typhoid fever.

He was brought from the malaria-smitten region of West Tennessee, his young wife with her infant accompanying him, to his father's house, where he was nursed with loving care, and attended by the most scientific physicians, hoping also that a change from the polluted air that smote him down, to the uncontaminated breath of his native mountains, would restore him to health and usefulness. But God ruled otherwise. He died on the 2d day of October, 1885, in the thirty-first year of his age, mourned by all his relatives, and lamented by all others who had formed his acquaintance.

Mr. Meek has two other grown sons, both well trained in the "art preservative of all arts," upon whom chiefly falls the duty of performing the mechanical work of printing and mailing the paper, while a bright daughter, Miss Hessie, greatly aids her overworked father in performing the literary and clerical labor in the office.

Technically, Mr. Meek is a traveling elder in his conference, but only takes such pastoral charges as are within his reach, selecting entirely new territory in which to perform his ministerial work, his ardent labors on his paper being too pressing to allow of constant labor in the pastorate. He received the degree of D. D. from the Kentucky Military Institute, Farmdale, Kentucky, in 1885, which high honor he wears with becoming dignity. He was elected the leading delegate to the General Conference by the Western Virginia Conference, in

1885. This was the more remarkable because at the time of the election he was barely eligible to that distinguished position. The General Conference met in Richmond, Virginia, May, 1886.

THE BURNS FAMILY.

THE Burnses, of Sandy, are of Scotch origin, and came along the same line of descent as Robert Burns, the illustrious poet. On the maternal side, Elizabeth Roland, of a family made famous in French Huguenot history, is their ancestor. Jerry Burns, who was the father of Roland T. Burns, was in the Revolutionary War. His father and uncle came from Scotland and settled in Maryland. Jerry married, and from his first union had two sons. They went South-west and became noted people.

After the death of his first wife, Mr. Burns, who was a noted Methodist preacher of his day, at one of his great preaching-places first saw Miss Elizabeth Roland, who was a devout worshiper at his meeting. In song she was wonderfully gifted. She was a brunette of a most perfect type; hair as black as a raven, heavy eye-brows, a curved lip, and a faultless figure. The preacher fell in love with her. She accepted his hand and heart, and they became one flesh. Some of their children were born in the valley of Virginia; others were born in Monroe County, Va., where they had

moved about the commencement of the present century. The younger ones were born near the Mouth of the Sandy.

We have only space to note the more striking historical events in the career of the descendants of Jerry Burns and Elizabeth Roland, who were the founders of the Burns house in the Sandy Valley. No pair in the State has been so highly honored by the great number of descendants rising to distinction in law, theology, and official stations as Jerry Burns and wife. A son went to Missouri, where his descendants are in high official place. One was a representative in Congress. Another went to Oregon, and his descendants rose to distinction. California was invaded by another son. He, too, left a name above the common walks of life. A daughter married James M. Rice, who was not only a great lawyer, but a circuit judge and a senator besides. Judge Rice's youngest son, John M., is now the criminal judge of his district, after twice being congressman and State legislator; and the elder brother, Jake, was lawyer and legislator.

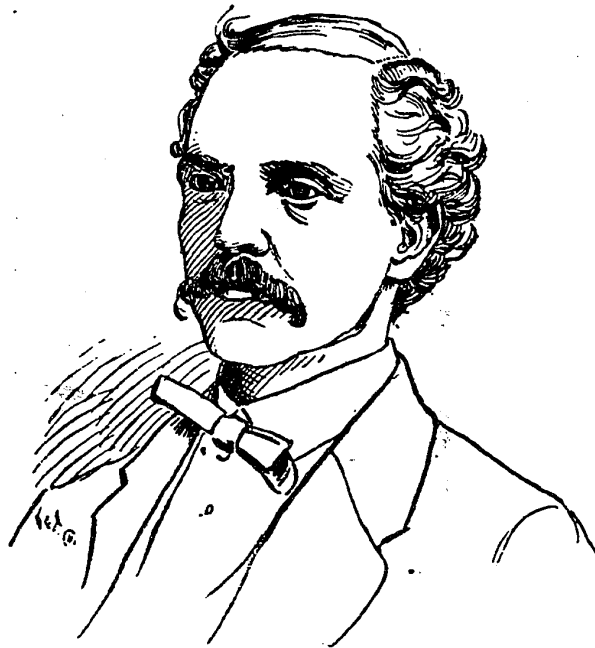
Roland T. Burns, the father of W. H. Burns, John M. Burns, La Fayette Burns, Roland T. Burns, and Elizabeth Handley, was a farmer, a preacher, lawyer and legislator. He owned and lived on the farm that is now the homestead of John Powers, on Bear Creek, Boyd County. He practiced his legal profession in a large district, and represented Lawrence and Morgan Counties for two

terms in the Legislature. He preached often, and worked with his own hands on his farm. His wife, Miss Margaret Keyser, was a noble Christian wife and mother. Mr. Burns died at forty-three years of age, in 1834.

The youngest sister of Roland T. Burns was the wife of O. W. Martin, a lawyer from Virginia.

Of the children of Roland T. Burns and Margaret Keyser, his wife, Wm. Harvey was a fine lawyer, and lived in West Liberty, Ky., until the commencement of the Civil War, when he moved to Lebanon, Va., where he had great success in accumulating a vast fortune. He was serving as circuit judge in his district when he left the State, preferring the Southern cause. He had great ability as a lawyer, and was an able, upright judge. His brother, John M. Burns, is now serving on the bench as circuit judge of the same district, in his election carrying every county but one. Judge John M. Burns has a son, Roland C., who is at the front as a criminal lawyer in the valley. Another son is a physician, who, in addition, is possessed of literary gifts, showing the fire of his illustrious ancestor in Scotland. La Fayette Burns is a practical farmer, living near the old homestead of his father, greatly respected by his neighbors. Roland T. Burns, of Louisa, is an able lawyer, and is also engaged in merchandising. He is a man of great ability, and could reach almost any official position to which he might aspire; but, being a

devout Christian, he ignores the shameful methods used by many seekers of place to gain office; and, furthermore, being a man of wealth and careful in business, he thinks "a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush." All the Burnses are Democrats, excepting Hon. John M. Burns and his sons; and most of them are Southern Methodists, John M.



JUDGE JOHN M. BURNS.

again proving the exception, he being a Regular Baptist. The only living sister of the illustrious Burns brothers is Mrs. Elizabeth Handley, wife of Alexander Handley, of Wayne County, West Virginia. She, like her father

and brothers, is talented, and one of the most devoted wives and mothers.

The Burnses, until the alliance with Elizabeth Roland, a French beauty of the perfect brunette caste, were all blondes, but the blood of the Huguenots has changed the type of the family to a full brunette.

We could name several more official places filled by this gifted family, but space forbids.

JUDGE ARCHIBALD BORDERS.

ARCHIBALD, son of John Borders, was born in Giles County, Virginia, in 1798, and came, with his father's family, to the Sandy Valley in 1802. His father intended going on to the Scioto country, but falling sick, stopped near the mouth of Tom's Creek, in what is now Johnson County, where he died, leaving a widow and eight children—four sons and four daughters. The oldest son settled on George's Creek, where he died in 1882, at the age of eighty-two. John, the second son, also settled on George's Creek. He died in 1879 or '80. He was a highly respected Baptist



JUDGE ARCHIBALD BORDERS.

preacher. He, too, lived to a great age. Hezekiah settled on the Sandy River at what is known, and has been for sixty years, as Borders Chapel. He and his wife were great Methodists, and no Methodist preacher ever passed by the chapel during their lives who did not call to see these pious people. They passed to their reward many long

years ago; but a son of theirs, the now aged Joseph Borders—the father of Joe H. Borders, once a journalist of the Sandy Valley, but now a banker in Kansas—owns and lives at the old homestead, to represent his honored ancestors. The chapel has been rebuilt, and is the best-looking log church in the valley. Polly, the oldest daughter, married Isom Daniels. They settled on the farm two miles below Tom's Creek, now the home of Peter Daniels, one of their sons. She died during the Civil War. The father and mother left a large number of sons and daughters, who have come to honor. More than one of the sons is a Baptist minister. Betty married Joseph Davis. They settled on the banks of the Sandy, at a place well known as Davis Bend.

This branch of the family also rose to honor. The wife of Rev. Z. Meek, D. D., is a daughter of this honored pair. John Davis, formerly a leading business man of Paintsville, was their son. William Davis, the large land-owner in Lawrence and Johnson Counties, is another son. Daniel, the wealthy business man and prominent Republican politician of Johnson County, is a grandson. Jemima married Felty Van Hoose. Katie, the youngest, married John Brown, who became a wealthy farmer and a noted old-time hotel-keeper on George's Creek. She is the only one still alive of all the John Borders family, and, although over eighty, is a well-preserved old lady. Her husband died in 1875.

It will be seen that the entire household of the first Borders who came to Sandy have occupied the highest positions known to ordinary life; and without detracting from them any meed of praise, it is true to say that the brother who was the youngest outranked them all, if not in moral worth, in great business plans.

ARCHIBALD BORDERS,

WHEN a little past twenty-one, married Jane Preston, a daughter of Moses Preston the first, and a sister of "Coby" Preston. They settled near Whitehouse Shoals, and lived there until two of their children were born, when they moved down to the farm which he possessed when he died. He opened up a large and productive farm, ran a large store, a tannery, shoe-factory, and saddlery. Those branches of trade and industries, it would seem, were enough to occupy the full time of any one man; but he also was one of the largest tan-bark and timber traders then on the Sandy. Nor did he fail in either. In 1860 he built the steamer *Sandy Valley*, a boat equal to any of the Sandy steamers of to-day. He was not only a man of great industry and business capacity, but was a gentleman of the most refined tastes. He established a large park on his plantation, stocked with a herd of the native deer of the mountains, which not only supplied his table with venison, but the gambols of the beautiful creatures added pleasure to himself, his

family, and others. He continued to attend to business up to within a year or so of his death, which occurred November 12, 1886.

He accumulated a vast amount of land and other property, leaving his children well off. During his busy life he was a friend of Churches and schools, and gave much to support them, yet never made a public profession of Christianity until within a month of his death. His conversion was miraculous. He prayed the Father to send him the witness of his Spirit, and make it so plain that he could have no doubt, as he was too weak to prove his conversion by an examination of the Word of God. He was satisfied, and then asked the great Jehovah to reveal to him how he should receive the ordinance of baptism, whether by immersion or sprinkling. He was told to be sprinkled. He immediately sent for his kinsman, Rev. Z. Meek, D. D., who baptized him and admitted him into the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

Archibald Borders was more than an ordinary man, or he could not have borne so many burdens, and live up to the age of eighty-eight years. He was foreman of the grand jury that indicted one Walker, who forfeited his life on the gallows at Louisa for murder. He filled the office of justice of the peace in Lawrence County from 1834 to 1850, when it expired by the death of the old Constitution. The same year he was elected the first county judge of Lawrence, and was re-elected in 1854, serving

for eight years. During the great Civil War the Borders family were Union people, but always conservative. Since the war the judge and his son David, a wealthy citizen of Lawrence, have voted oftener for men and measures than at the suggestions of party managers.

Judge Borders and his wife, Jane Preston, had five children—four sons and one daughter. Of the sons, John and Arthur have long been dead. David, to whom we have already referred, is a widower, living on a farm near his father's old home, and takes the world easy. Allen P. has one of the finest brick residences on the Sandy River. His wife is a daughter of the late Lewis Mayo, so well remembered for his noble traits of character. Julia, the only daughter, is the wife of J. W. Dillon, a leading man in the business circles of Catlettsburg. After the death of her father, Mrs. Dillon had her invalid mother brought down to her home, where she might better attend to her many wants until the candle of her life, which for twenty years has been flickering down low in the socket, became extinguished.

Among the most prominent contemporaries of Judge Borders in Lawrence, not yet named, the author may mention John D. Ross, Major Bolt, Neri Sweatnam, Walter Osburn, and Greenville Goble, the father of M. B. Goble, of Catlettsburg. All these, save Mr. Sweatnam, were called upon to fill official stations, and Mr. Sweatnam was as useful in private as he could have been in a public station.

Walter Osburn and John D. Ross are all that linger on the shore of time. These were, and are, honorable names.

THE LACKEY FAMILY.

OF the many noted families coming to the Sandy Valley in its early settlement, none were more conspicuous than the house of Lackey. Alexander Lackey, the founder of the house west of the mountains, came from Southern Virginia in 1804, and settled at the Forks of Beaver, in Floyd County. He married the daughter of David Morgan, a relative of General Daniel Morgan, of Battle of the Cowpens fame.

Mr. Lackey brought slaves and considerable property with him from his home in Virginia. Commencing the world under favorable auspices, with property, selecting one of the richest tracts of land in the valley, and backed by his clear judgment and iron will, he soon rose to distinction, both as a successful business man and as a public personage. He filled many offices of trust and honor, both county and State; was a representative in the Legislature, judge and sheriff, and rose to be a general in the militia of his district. He reared and educated, in the best schools obtainable, a family of sons and daughters who have added luster to the name they bore.

MORGAN LACKEY,

OF Prestonburg, son of Alexander, was a delegate in the convention of 1849, that framed the present Constitution of Kentucky, and filled other offices, civil and military, with honesty and fidelity. Most of his life he has been a successful merchant at Prestonburg, where he is regarded as a citizen of the highest attainments in every thing that constitutes true manhood. Like all of his family, Morgan Lackey has been not only a Democrat of Democrats, but has ever been regarded as a sagacious politician. But with all this urging him forward as a worker within the lines of his party, when he witnessed men of the brightest intellect and social standing in his town, county, and section falling into drunkards' graves, snapping asunder the heart-strings of mothers, wives, and sisters, he called a halt, and demanded of his fellow-citizens that party lines should be loosened until intemperance, the fountain of all wrong, was driven from the Sandy Valley forever. By marshaling the forces of temperance, law, and order, through his potent influence every grog-shop was driven from his town, where the poisonous fluid had for sixty-five years held one continuous carnival of death. Not satisfied with driving the monster from the town, the war was carried into every precinct in the county, and to-day (1887) not a drop of liquor is sold according to law in the county.

Morgan Lackey is unmarried, and lives with his sister, the widow of Hon. J. P. Martin. Being wealthy, he, as he grows in years, spends much of his time in leisure, cultivating those virtues which lead to a happy old age and a peaceful death.

GREENVILLE M. LACKEY,

ANOTHER son of General Alexander Lackey, has made a history as bright as that of his younger brother, Morgan. He has filled a seat in both Houses of the Kentucky Legislature, and has borne other official honors with credit to himself and profit to his constituents. For more than thirty years he has resided at Louisa, during all of which time he has been a prominent merchant there. He is, unlike his brother, a married man, and has two sons and one daughter. One son, Alexander, named after his grandfather, is a lawyer, rising to fame, while the other has been engaged in merchandising and official business. The daughter is the wife of Thomas R. Brown, a son of Hon. George N. Brown, a young lawyer of much promise. A daughter of General Lackey married

HON. JOHN P. MARTIN,

WHO came from Virginia about 1828, and commenced the practice of law in Prestonburg, where he soon rose to distinction as an able lawyer and eloquent speaker. He occupied a seat in both Houses of the State Legislature, and was twice

elected to the Congress of the United States. Mr. Martin was one of the most brilliant men of his time, and his suavity of manners made him popular with his fellow-citizens of all parties. He died at Prestonburg in 1863. Mr. Martin left a son,

ALEXANDER L. MARTIN,

WHO, like his father, was an able man and a prominent lawyer of his native town. He filled the office of State senator, and received the honor of having the county of Martin named for him, and the county seat of Elliott to perpetuate his name. He married a daughter of Judge George N. Brown—a lady of rare grace and loveliness.

Mr. Martin had apparently started out on a long and brilliant life, when death, which loves a shining mark, claimed him as a victim, and in 1877 he ceased to live. His wife survived him a short time, when she, too, suddenly gave up the struggle for life, and joined the great throng on the shining shore. They left a bright little boy, whose sparkling eyes and manly form show signs of future promise; and a little daughter, of bright and winsome mien.

The eldest daughter of Hon. John P. Martin married a Mr. Trimble, a scion of the house of that name—a prominent family both in Kentucky and Virginia. Mr. Trimble died during the Civil War, leaving a widow and two sons, Malcolm and James. Both received the best of moral and intellectual

training, and on arriving to young manhood engaged in merchandising in their native town, Prestonburg. But when the Catlettsburg National Bank was opened, the moral, social, and financial standing of the Trimble brothers was so fully known that James, the younger, was given a prominent position in the official directory of the bank, where he still is, respected and trusted by all.

Malcolm continued his mercantile course until disease preyed upon his constitution, and he was borne to the city of the dead, loved, by all who ever knew him, for his many Christian virtues and his manly bearing. He died in 1885.

The mother of James and Malcolm, several years after the war, married a gentleman from Virginia, named Armstrong, a lawyer. They soon after moved to Missouri, where, a few years ago, she died. The younger daughter, Miss Mousie, married Captain John C. Hopkins, who came of a prominent family of Tazewell County, Virginia. He is a lawyer by profession, but is engaged largely in the steamboat interest on Sandy. The family lives in Catlettsburg. Mrs. Hopkins, like all of her father's children, received a classical education at college.

SAMUEL DAVIDSON

MARRIED another daughter of General Lackey. Mr. Davidson was a bright man from Virginia. He reared a large family of sons and daughters, who married into prominent families of the valley,

strengthening the house not only in numbers, but in influence. One son, especially, rose to be one of the most popular and influential men ever living at Prestonburg.

JOSEPH M. DAVIDSON

WAS a man of a high order of talent. He had received a fine scholastic training; after which, by study and travel, he so polished his nature and enriched his mind that few men in Eastern Kentucky were more finished than he. He had been in the Legislature of the State, and was one of its shrewd, bright politicians. He was a merchant and trader of great prominence, and for some time a banker in connection with his cousin, Green M. Witten, at Catlettsburg. He was a large land-owner in his county, and took a deep interest in his county's welfare. He was a very handsome man, and as manly as he was handsome. He died in the vigor of his manhood in 1883, leaving a widow and several grown-up daughters. The oldest married Mr. Fitzpatrick, the clerk of the Floyd courts. Walter S. Harkins, a brilliant attorney of the same place, married another daughter. Frank Hopkins married one of the daughters, and Mr. Schmucker still another. No man ever died in Floyd whose death created such a void as Joseph M. Davidson's.

THOMAS WITTEN,

FROM Tazewell County, Virginia, married another daughter of Alexander Lackey. They lived principally in Tazewell County, although Mr. Witten, for many years, was a business man on Sandy. They had two sons, who were well educated in Tazewell, and trained in mercantile affairs. The youngest son died fighting on the Southern side, believing it was his sacred duty. The other son, Green M. Witten, spent most of his youth and younger manhood in merchandising at Prestonburg, Ky.; and for many years he was a noted banker of Catlettsburg, where he now lives. He is one of the best informed men on most topics to be found in the valley. The father has long been dead, and the mother more recently quit the shores of time, dying on her way to her home in Tazewell County, Va., from a visit to friends in the Sandy Valley.

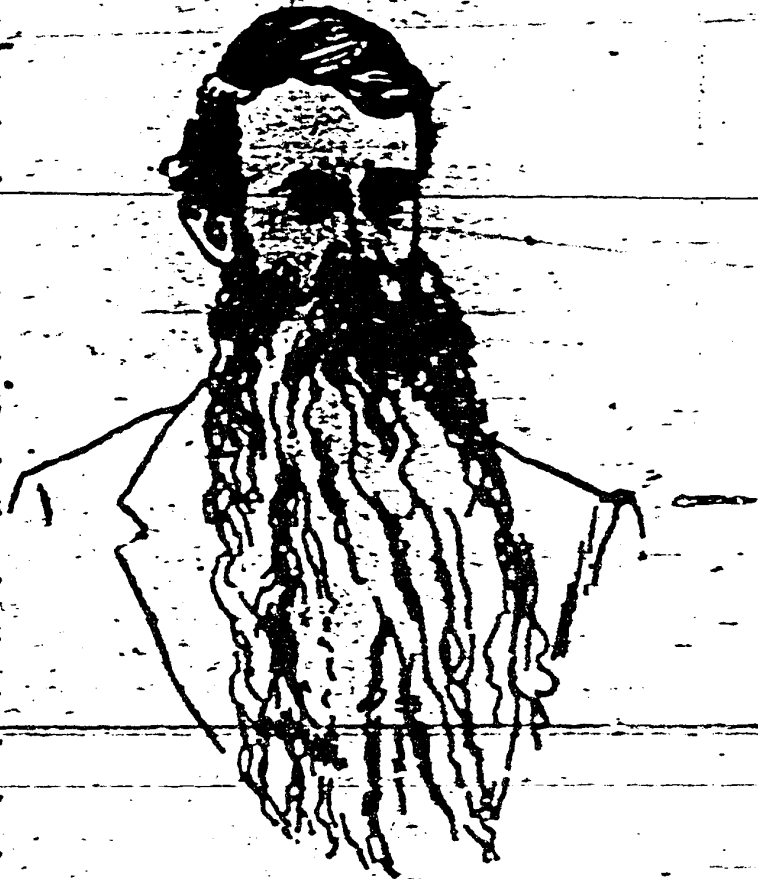
General Alexander Lackey, the founder of his house in the Valley of the Sandy, was a Baptist, but was liberal to all Churches. He often spoke at religious meetings, although but a layman. The greater part of his descendants are adherents of the Southern Methodist Church. Mrs. Captain Hopkins and Mrs. Thomas R. Brown, granddaughters, are Presbyterians. The general and every one connected with the family, to the fifth generation, have been Democrats; and Mrs. Mousie Hopkins informs us that, in time of the war, she was a rebel. Most of the men are Masons.

HON. M. J. FERGUSON.

THE Fergusons of the Lower Sandy Valley are of Scotch-Irish descent. More than two hundred years ago a Ferguson went over to the North of Ireland from his Scottish home and married a Miss Jemison, an Irish lady. From this pair have descended the Ferguson family to whom we now refer. The given name of so many of the Ferguson family is derived from their Irish maternal ancestor. The Fergusons are a plucky, progressive people, and have held a conspicuous place in the public affairs of their country and a prominence in business pursuits.

Joseph Ferguson, of Ashland, is a prominent man. He

served as captain in the Confederate army with distinction; but, like his great brother, when the war was over he accepted the results with grace, and settled down to business, doing all he could to



JUDGE MILTON J. FERGUSON.

make up for the waste the war had brought upon the land. Charles, too, is a true man. He is a merchant and farmer at Wayne Court-house, West Virginia.

Colonel M. J. Ferguson was the great representative of his house. He was born in 1833, in Wayne County, Virginia, a few miles from Cassville, and when but twenty-six years old was looked upon as the foremost man of his county. He was county attorney; but, in addition to the duties of his office, he had an immense business in settling up estates, and other delicate and responsible trusts of great magnitude were committed to him, which he managed with such consummate ability as to receive the plaudits of the wisest financiers. He married a daughter of Samuel Wellman, a wealthy citizen of Wayne.

When the call sounded to arms in 1861, Jemison Ferguson, as every one called him, being a man of ardent temperament, rushed into the thickest of the fight. His education and feelings leading him to take sides with the South, he raised a regiment and was mustered into the Confederate service, and served with bravery and honor during the great struggle. When the war was over he held no spite against those who had been successful in ending the conflict in favor of the old Government, but went heroically to work to smooth over the places made crooked by the war, and it was hard to decide who admired his political liberality most,

those who fought with him or those who were arrayed against him. He soon settled in Louisa, and in 1868 ran for circuit judge of the Big Sandy Judicial District. He was overwhelmingly elected, and served with great distinction and ability the term of six years. He then retired, to look after his great material interests and to practice his chosen profession. Few men did more to encourage the building of the Chatterawha Railroad than he. He favored every enterprise which was calculated to add to the material, educational, and moral wealth of the valley. He was cut off in the midst of his usefulness and busy labors, dying on the 22d of April, 1881. Few deaths could have produced a greater sorrow than did that of Judge Ferguson. He was a Free Mason of high standing, and was an adherent of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. His motto, all along life's journey, was to do justice to all the world, never to forsake his friends, and fear no man.

He left a wife and two sons. The eldest, Henry Ferguson, is a lawyer at Louisa, having been educated at the University of Virginia. He is a talented young man. He married an educated and lovely lady of his town—Miss Burns, a daughter of R. T. Burns, Esq. The youngest son, Lynn Boyd Ferguson, is the editor and publisher of the *Louisa News*, a sprightly Democratic paper. He has for a partner a young Mr. Conly, son of Asa Conly, a scion, on his mother's side, of the house of Leslie.

The artist has brought out every lineament in the features of Judge Ferguson.

THE GARRED FAMILY.

DAVID GARRED and Jennie Graham, his wife, moved from Monroe County, Virginia, stopping awhile in Kanawha, and settled at the Falls of Tug, about 1820. James, their oldest son, married Polly Wilson. Ulysses married Lydia Stafford, daughter of John Stafford, the wealthy farmer and noted Methodist of Whitehouse Shoals.

Hon. Ulysses Garred has, since coming to manhood, been ranked as one of the foremost citizens of his section. He is a model farmer and trader, and as a hotel-keeper "Garred's Stone House" has for a quarter of a century maintained a reputation second to no other hostelry in the valley. He has been a member of the Legislature, and has filled many other offices of note in his county, always with satisfaction to the people. His wife died a few years ago, greatly regretted by all who knew her; and to her family the loss was irreparable. He has but one son, who married a daughter of Captain A. P. Borders. The son is a farmer, merchant, postmaster, and hotel-keeper at Richardson.

David, the youngest son, married Nancy, daughter of Owen Dyer. This pair have reared a large family. One son is a prominent physician in West Virginia. One is the clerk of the Circuit Court of

Lawrence County. Another is the owner and landlord of the Chatterawha Hotel at Louisa. David has a fine farm on the Sandy, adjoining his brother Ulysses, nine miles above Louisa. Flora married Garred See, a cousin, before the family moved to the Sandy Valley, and moved to Indiana, but soon came to Kentucky. Polly married Richard Chambers. He was a man of good reading and sprightly mind. William Vinson married a daughter of his, and it has been said that, while the Vinsons are a smart people, much of the dash of William Vinson's children came from the Chambers side. Mr. Chambers was a noted Whig politician. Elizabeth married Ira W. Goff, who became the father of Felix and Captain John B. Goff, of Big Creek, Pike County, Kentucky. Felix Goff lives in quiet at Louisa, having a farm in Mississippi, where he once resided. He is a very intelligent man, and a great student. He is an ardent Democrat, and takes great interest in State affairs.

JOHN B. GOFF.

JOHN B. GOFF lived a few years in Mississippi, but returned to Sandy in 1858, and has been ever since a citizen of Big Creek. We give his picture, first alone, and then in connection with his two handsome daughters. When the Civil War broke out, he, being an ardent Southern man in feeling, raised a company of men for the Southern army. The company was known as the "Pine-knot"

company, from the fact that the captain proposed to arm his men with pine-knots to drive back the Northern soldiery who might come down to invade Southern soil. This step was taken before the captain had obtained a census of the Northern men; but when the "Yanks" began pouring in like Egyptian locusts, Captain Goff, who never was a



JOHN B. GOFF.

one-idea man, placed the best of arms in the hands of his brave mountaineers, and used the "knots" for kindling campfires. No braver man fought on the Southern side than John B. Goff. He was taken prisoner

one year after entering the service, and sent to Camp Chase and to Johnson's Island. He was exchanged, and reached home on the 17th of March, 1865.

The father of the captain and of Felix W. Goff removed to Mississippi before the boys were grown, where he died. The mother died in Louisa, Kentucky.

John B. Goff married Mary E. Small, at Louisa,

in 1858. He has seven children, all daughters but one. The son is at home with the family. Sarah married David Young. Dixie married Floyd W. Murphy, a bright business young man in the neighborhood.

Captain Goff has been, and is still, engaged in merchandising, farming, and general trading. He has a competency, and, like all the Goffs, is liberal in Christian deeds. No one is turned away from his castle who is in need, without being supplied by his liberal hand.



JOHN B. GOFF AND DAUGHTERS.

Jane Garred married Harve Ratliff, and moved to Missouri. Hannah married Charles Wilson. Sarah Ann married Burgess Fitzpatrick, of Patrick's Gap. Minerva married C. C. Kise, who is referred to in another place. Maggie died, on arriving at womanhood, unmarried. Another daughter married William Ratliff, the father of Mrs. William Bartram.

It will be seen that David Garred and Jennie Graham, his wife, raised thirteen children, three sons and ten daughters, all of whom and their descendants, now alive, are living in the valley,

except Harold Ratliff and wife, who went to Missouri, where they did well.

The elder Garreds were ardent Whigs in politics, and during the Civil War took sides with the Union. Since the war, they and most of their descendants have allied themselves with the Democratic party. In religion most of them are Southern Methodists, while some are Baptists and of other faiths. It is estimated that over three hundred voters on Sandy have Garred blood in their veins.

The ancestors of the Garreds were Presbyterians before coming to Sandy. David Garred and wife are buried on the high bluff overlooking the farm of their son, Ulysses.

REV. R. D. CALLIHAN.

By the request of my friend, Dr. Ely, I will make a brief statement relative to my entrance into the Valley of the Big Sandy, in which I spent many happy years. In December, 1827, I visited the home of the Hon. F. Moore, who lived on the Virginia side of the said river, about one mile below its forks, or the town of Louisa, the county seat of Lawrence County, Ky. The object of my visit was in search of remunerative labor. I found employment in this family, and during my stay there I found a pleasant home. Mrs. Moore proved to me next to my own dear mother, kind, amiable, pious, and devoted. Perhaps I ought, in vindica-

tion of my history in after life, to say that the employment in which I engaged at Mr. Moore's was the distillation of whisky, a business not then regarded as disreputable. For this I was paid so much per gallon. In this labor I remained for about three months, and this closed not only my labor as a distiller, but my employer also abandoned the business.

I refer to this period of my life because it has been circulated by some of the citizens of this date that by selling whisky and other intoxicants I made large amounts of money. This report is untrue. I never drank nor sold any vinous or malt liquor, but for at least sixty-five years have been opposed to the use of every thing that would cause intoxication.

My fidelity to the interest of my employer proved to be a prelude to my future avocation in life. I had acquired his confidence to that extent that he introduced me to the only commercial house of any note in the town of Louisa, or, indeed, in the valley. This I regarded as an advance into a higher state, not only of social, but business life, and with it greater obligations were placed in my hands. The business of this house was conducted under the style of A. Beirne & Co. Mr. Beirne, who lived in the county of Monroe, and State of Virginia, furnished the capital, and three young men of Louisa were regarded as the active business partners, one of whom moved to Pikeville, the

county seat of Pike County, Ky., with an assortment of mixed merchandise; and it would have been a valuable branch to the main store at Louisa if it had been conducted prudently. These men, unfortunately, soon formed habits of dissipation and kindred vices, rendering it necessary to close up the business of the firm; and, in doing this, new and greater responsibilities were acquired by me, in becoming the agent, by the mutual consent of the partners, to close up the business; and consequently the firm placed notes and accounts in my hands for collection, amounting to about \$17,000. To do this work required at least two years, as I had to travel on horseback over parts of six counties in Kentucky and three in Virginia. After having accomplished this, there being a vacancy of a clerkship in the Pike County Circuit Court, caused by the death of Mr. Honaker, my friends, uniting with the gentlemen of the bar, recommended me to the Hon. Silas W. Robbins, the presiding judge, who, under the old Constitution, appointed his own clerk, and he had the kindness to appoint me as the successor of Mr. Honaker to the office of Circuit Court clerk of said county of Pike. This office I held for twelve years. I then resigned, and the Hon. Kenas Farrow, who succeeded Robbins, appointed Martin Mims as my successor.

My desire then was to engage in merchandising and settle in Pikeville, which I did in April, 1832. But my means were scanty. I had formed the

acquaintance of Harry B. Mayo, who lived in Prestonburg, Floyd County, Ky., a gentleman of high and influential standing, with money. Hearing of my wish, he solicited a partnership, which I gladly accepted, and this connection was both harmonious and profitable. Our first purchase was made in Maysville, Ky., April, 1832. We got all safely to our home, and opened our goods. We had a trade beyond our expectation. Our collection of produce, etc., was very satisfactory, so much so that we were induced to seek a different city to make our purchase for the Spring of 1834. My benefactor, Colonel Beirne, visited Pikeville and Louisa, and to him we made known our desire. He approved of it, and kindly and generously gave us an open letter of introduction to the merchants of the city of Philadelphia, on which I could have purchased an unlimited amount of merchandise. But a prominent trait of my life has been that of cautiousness, and hence the purchase was circumscribed to about \$3,000.

The business of this year was more gratifying than the preceding; and I must say that our customers showed to us a noble trait of character, which, in all my business life, I have not known excelled—a native promptness in the payment of debts.

I remained in the business of selling goods in that place until the Spring of 1844. During these years I was the humble instrument of redeeming

two young men from lives of dissipation, and I had the pleasure of seeing them become sober, discreet business men—men of wealth, ornaments in society, and useful members of the Church of God. In the Spring of 1844 I returned with my family to Louisa, the starting-place of my business life.

I could extend this sketch of my humble life; but I forbear. The more interesting part would be that of my conversion to the religion of our Lord Jesus Christ, which occurred on the 29th of August, 1829, at a camp-meeting, held on what was then called Farmer's Camp-ground, about eight miles south of Ashland, now Boyd County, Ky. But I decline this at present, with this significant truth, that I owe all I am worth to the effects of our holy Christianity, and the fostering care of the Methodist Episcopal Church, with my united industry, economy, and cautiousness in life.

THE HAGER FAMILY,

OF the Sandy Valley, like the Auxier and Moore families, is of the German race. John Hager and Mary Schaefer, his wife, spoke the German language, and used the German Bible to find out God's ways to man. We first hear of them in Amherst County, Va., where their sons, Daniel, George, and John were born, as well as their daughter, who became the wife of James Layne, the father of Judge

Lindsay Layne. They moved to Floyd County and settled on the Sandy, near the mouth of John's Creek, when their son Daniel was but a few years old. Their other sons grew up to be useful citizens.

George, the eldest, living to a great age, died several years ago in West Virginia. He was the father of Mrs. Van Horn, recently deceased. He was a very religious man, and a great Methodist. Another son was also numbered among the leading people of the valley. But Daniel, by his energy and superior mental endowments always ranked as the leader of the house of Hager.



GEN'L DANIEL HAGER.
(Taken in 1846.)

When he came to manhood, in 1820 or 1821, he married Miss Violet Ventrees Porter, daughter of John Porter, of Russell County, Virginia. His wife was a lady of great kindness of heart, and strength of character.

Six sons and six daughters were born to them, all of whom are still living but John J., Henry G., and Ventrees. The sons and daughters, without an exception, married into families of the highest respectability; and the descendants of Daniel Hager,

to the third generation, maintain the reputation of their ancestors for intellectual vigor and great energy.

Captain Elijah Patrick, of Magoffin, Captain Frank Preston, Dr. Turner, William Stafford, of Johnson, and Dr. Martin, of Ashland, are all sons-in-law of General Daniel Hager and wife—all foremost men in their communities.

Ventrees was the wife of E. W. Brown, of Morgan. She died some years ago. The sons all grew to manhood, and entered the busy race of life; and each one of them, to this day, has never, by any wrong act, stained the fair escutcheon of the house of Hager. They all developed into wise business men and sterling citizens. John J. went South with the Confederate army, and lost his life. Captain Henry G. was merchant and steamboat-owner, and died in the prime of his busy life. He left three sons and a daughter, who reflect the image of his person and strength of his mind. The daughter is the wife of Captain D. M. Atkinson, a prominent citizen of Salyersville. The second son, John F. Hager, is one of the most prominent lawyers of East Kentucky. He lives in Ashland, and is recognized as one of the leading men there. Milton, the younger brother, is a fine business man at Salyersville, and is a man of intellectual force.

General Hager became comparatively wealthy, and did nobly by his children, not so much in a pecuniary sense as in raising them to think and act

for themselves, and to depend on their own efforts to succeed in life. He was for many years a brigadier-general in the militia, was the first sheriff of Johnson County, and served in the Legislature of the State, and in many other places of trust and honor, with great intelligence and integrity.

When the war came upon the country in 1861, General Hager, having all his life been a Jefferson Democrat, logically took sides with the States in rebellion against the General Government, and expressed his sympathies that way. But when his own State refused to go with the South, he quietly settled down in charity to all, and awaited the result. His sons, save the oldest, were either Union men or had the good sense to follow the example first set by their State, and remained neutral.

Daniel, the youngest son, served a term in the Union army. Dr. Martin acted as surgeon in the same cause. Captain Reuben Patrick, another son-in-law, was active as an officer in the war. Captain Henry G. did service, also, as a carrier of supplies during the great struggle.

General Hager has always been a decided Democrat, and most of his sons follow in his footsteps, though Daniel, the youngest, is a Republican. Four of his sons-in-law are Republicans—Captain Patrick, Dr. Martin, Dr. Turner, and E. W. Brown. William Stafford and Captain Preston are Democrats; but the family never let politics destroy personal friendships.

The Hagers are Methodists in religion, and favor all reforms calculated to raise the race to a higher plane of happiness. They are all sober, temperate people. The general and his male descendants are great Masons.

When General Hager was in middle life he was fond of fine horses, as were also two friends of his, Dr. Hereford and Samuel Porter; and the trio often engaged in testing the bottom of their fast horses. Sometimes hundreds of people would be in attendance at these places of amusement; and those three determined men kept down every thing like disorder, which speaks well for them and for the people who attended the early-time races.

General Hager grows quite feeble, being now (1887) in the eighty-sixth year of his age; but he is happy in the consciousness of having faithfully discharged his duty through his long life. Death has no terrors for him. His noble wife died in 1876.

His portrait will call to mind for many years one of the noble characters, who, with other pioneers, has done so much to develop the Sandy Valley, and make it the abode of wealth and culture.

L. D. WALTON

CAME to Catlettsburg about the time of the arrival of E. C. Thornton; but, unlike the latter, who was popular with every body, Walton was so churlish that he was almost hated by every body. And yet

he was a useful man. In buying lots and placing cheap houses on them, he did much to increase the material wealth of the town. He, like Thornton, came from New York State, first going to the upper part of the Sandy Valley to erect a mill for a New York company.

His wife dying, he married for his second wife a lady of great respectability, a daughter of one of the most prominent families of that entire section. They moved to Catlettsburg soon after it was made a town. Mr. Walton owned or leased the saw-mill which stood below the entrance to the wood on the bank of the Ohio, on the road to Ceredo. He floated the lumber down with which he built so many houses, and sold enough to maintain his family, besides paying for the hardware which was used in putting up the buildings. He rented out the buildings as he finished them, until he found a cash purchaser, when he let them go, even sometimes at a low price. For two years or more before he left the town he was engaged in store-keeping in the house on South Front Street, which afterwards became the beginning of the Sherman House, established by Captain Job Looman, who married the widow of John Layne.

In 1860 Walton gathered up his personal effects, having already disposed of all of his real estate, and moved to Arkansas or St. Louis. No one regretted his departure; but every one was sorry to see his amiable wife leave the town. She was a noble

Christian lady, connected with many of the best people of the valley, and admired for her many amiable qualities of mind and heart. The two little boys, the children of Walton's first wife, left a good name behind. The second Mrs. Walton had no children.

Not long after the family arrived at their Western home news came back that Mrs. Walton was dead; and, after the sad intelligence was corroborated, no one since has cared enough of Walton to inquire after his whereabouts. It was thought by many at the time that he took away with him a large sum of money, as he worked hard, traded close, and hoarded what money he took in. He was a singular man.

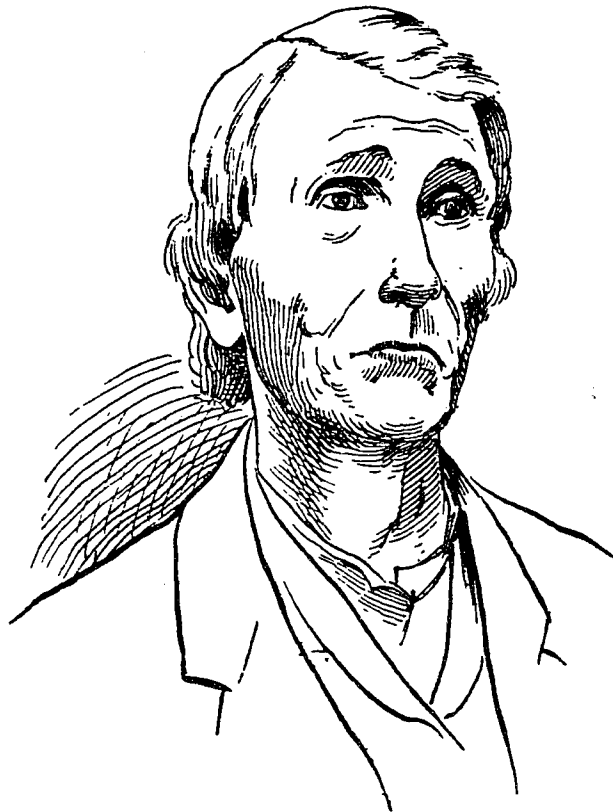
THE WILLIAMSONS,

OF the Sandy Valley, are of Welsh descent. The first ancestors came to America long before the Revolution. They were patriots, and fought for independence. The family, on coming to America, settled in Pennsylvania, but after the Revolutionary War moved South into Maryland and Virginia. The immediate ancestors of the Sandy branch settled in Russell County, Va., from whence Benjamin Williamson, the grandfather of Wallace J. Williamson and Mrs. Marr, *née* Williamson, came in 1795, and settled on the Tug River, near the mouth of Pond. John Williamson, about the same time, settled in the John's Creek country. John was the

ancestor of Hibbard Williamson, so well and favorably known in Pikeville.

Another one of the family pitched his tent on Rock Castle, now in Martin County. The Williamsons, like most of the early settlers, were a brave, determined set of people, impressing their strong individuality upon all with whom they came in contact. They practiced virtue and morality, and were early patrons of religion in their neighborhoods.

While all of the old stock of Williamsons were forceful people, Benjamin, the son of the first Benjamin that came to Tug River, was the leader. He, like his father before him, was a woodsman and hunter, and this circum-



BENJAMIN WILLIAMSON.

stance no doubt caused him to purchase the boundless tract of land which he owned. His portrait accompanies this sketch. He grew rich in lands and herds of cattle, and before he died provided amply for all of his children. Two of these had died before him. He left Floyd, Wallace J., Ben-

jamin, three sons, and one daughter, Mrs. Thomas Marr, of Catlettsburg. His wife was a Deskins, of a prominent Sandy family. He died in about 1880, at an advanced age, loved by his children and grandchildren—for he was extremely fatherly to them all—and respected as an upright man by the entire community in which he had so long been a leader of the people.

His sons are well-to-do in material wealth. W. J. Williamson is one of the great business men of Catlettsburg. Mrs. Marr, the only daughter, is a model wife and mother, and highly respected for her lady-like bearing. The other branches of the house of Williamson have spread, until the family tree is one of the largest in the valley, keeping fair the bright escutcheon as it was handed down to the younger generation by the early ancestors of the house.

SAMUEL T. WALKER

WAS among the early arrivals in the John's Creek Valley in an early day. He was a great hunter, and, like many of the old-time bear-hunters, was a noted gunsmith and blacksmith. He was one of the early Methodists in the valley. His descendants are among the most respectable in the country. A grandson is a merchant of the valley at this time.

HON. ROBERT M. WEDDINGTON.

HENRY and his brother, Jacob Weddington, the founders of the house on Sandy, came from Virginia when mere boys, in 1790. The Weddingtons were original North Carolina people. The two plucky boys went to work with the determination to succeed. They stopped in what is now Pike County. They had but little education; but, what was better, they had good native sense and intellect. Henry, the grandfather of Robert M., soon became a merchant, while Jacob farmed and traded in live stock. They both succeeded well in business.

In 1800 Henry married Elizabeth Garrell. From the union two children were born—James and William. The latter was Judge Weddington, the father of Robert M. Weddington, whose name heads this sketch. Henry died in 1836, and was buried on Shelby, where the Weddingtons first settled. His wife survived until 1860, living with her son, the judge, seven miles below Pikeville, where she was buried. James, Henry's other son, married Katie Mead, who was the daughter of a prominent old settler. They had born to them twelve children, eight boys and four girls.

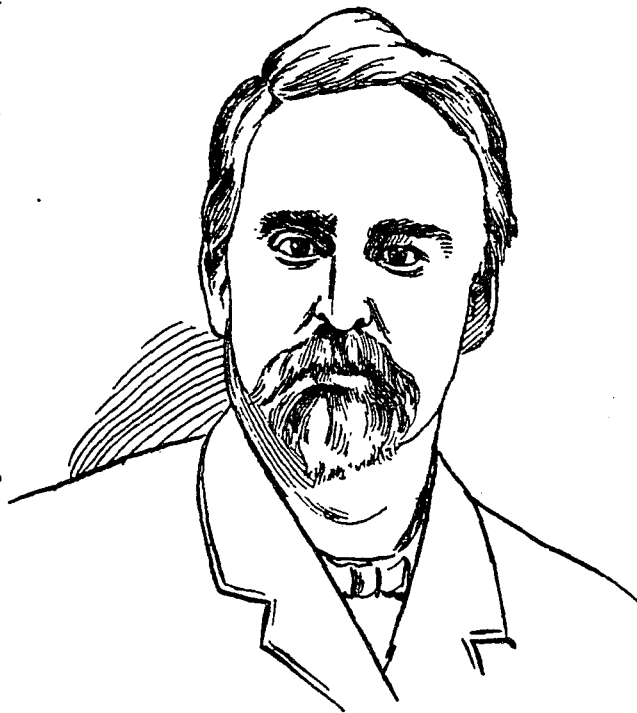
In about 1866 James Weddington, then quite an old man, left his home, and started west. He has never been heard of since. It is supposed that he was killed or met with some mishap. His widow

still lives in Pike County, with her sons, Jack and Marion, with an unmarried daughter in charge.

James's children married and settled mostly in the Sandy Valley, and are doing well. The brilliant South G. Preston, of Paintsville, married a granddaughter of James Weddington. What is remarkable, William Weddington, like his brother James, was also the father of twelve children—five sons and seven daughters. His wife was a daughter of Rhoads Mead. The children all married. The eldest son, Martin, married a Miss Tipton, and lives in Arkansas. Rhoads, another son, lives in Texas. His daughter is the wife of John Owens, great-grandson of "Dad" Owens, who laid off Pikeville in 1821. The son whose name heads this article married a daughter of Hugh Harkins, the grandfather of Walter S. Harkins. Harry, another son, is a business man in Pike County, Ky. Another son, C. C., lives in Arkansas.

The eldest daughter, Lucinda, married Dr. S. M. Ferguson, the large capitalist and land-owner of Pike and Floyd Counties. J. Lee Ferguson, of Pike, is their son. Elizabeth is the wife of John L. Hatcher, of Pike. Catherine married James A. Porter, of Johnson County. Mr. Porter has represented his county in the Legislature. He is a bright man, a son of Samuel Porter, of Miller's Creek. Nannie married A. J. Scott, of Pike County. Amelia is the wife of Washington Cloud, of Pierce City, Mo. He is the editor of the *Pierce City Democrat*.

Judge William Weddington died in 1878. His widow still lives. Jacob Weddington, the grand-uncle of Robert M., was married three times, and left a large family of sons and daughters, who have married into the prominent families of the valley, and are amongst the prominent people. One of Jacob Weddington's daughters married John Hargiss, the grandfather of Thomas Hargiss, the chief justice of the Court of Appeals. Captains William and Harry Ford, and their brother Jackson, were half-brothers of William and James Weddington. After the death of the father, she married a Ford, by whom she had the three bright sons named. Will-



ROBERT M. WEDDINGTON.

iam and Harry were both captains in the 39th Kentucky, Union army.

Captain William Ford died while in service at Lexington, Ky. After serving faithfully for two years, Harry was compelled to resign on account of poor health, returned to Pike, and became a large trader and merchant. He died in 1880,

leaving a widow and several children. Three of his sons, Moses Ford, S. King Ford, and John Ford, are popular traveling salesmen for first-class wholesale houses. A daughter of Captain Ford married J. Crittenden Cecil. After his death she became the wife of Mr. Phergo, a journalist.

The Weddington-Ford family is one of the strong houses of the valley; but want of space forbids much that is historic.

DR. S. M. FERGUSON,

A SON-IN-LAW of Judge Wm. Weddington, and brother-in-law of R. M. Weddington, is one of the prominent physicians in the Sandy Valley. He is a man of wealth, and great energy. He was lieutenant-colonel in the 39th Kentucky Infantry, United States army. He came from Virginia to Sandy in about 1843. He is a strong Republican in politics. Nearly all of the Weddingtons are Democrats, though some are ardent Republicans. In religion they are mostly Methodists. A few of the family, however, are Baptists. R. M. Weddington has been a bright newspaper man, having, with Mr. Leslie, founded the Prestonburg *Banner*, a Democratic paper of ability. He ranks among the ablest lawyers of the valley. The influential family of the Morgan and Elliott County Weddingtons are descendants of the Sandy house of Weddingtons.

THE WARDS.

THIS family came to the valley soon after the first settlement on the Sandy. James Ward was the pioneer of the family. He settled on Rockcastle Creek. The family has increased in numbers until but few families in the valley outrank it in multitude. They have all along been noted for their quiet dispositions, and for their good citizenship. The old stock were noted hunters, having been trained in Indian warfare.

The Ward family has sent out a number of preachers and professional men. The mother of Rev. Z. Meek was a Ward, and a noble woman. Dr. Joseph Ward, of Martin County, is a descendant of Solomon Ward. William Jefferson Ward is one of the solid men of business in Johnson County. In religion they are generally of the Baptist persuasion; in politics, mostly Democratic.

The Ward family are noted for naming their children after their ancestors. Of Jim Wards there have been quite a host; and in order to designate them they were nicknamed. Hence we had Big Foot, Nine Toes, White Head, Bit Nose, Jimper, Little Jim, Jim's Jim, Hawkum, etc. To call a man Jim Ward, no one would know which Jim was meant.

JOHN I. WILLIAMSON

CAME from Maine long before the Civil War. On his way out, on stopping at Pittsburg, his trunks were broken open, and he was robbed of all his money, a considerable sum. He had heard of the great openings in the Sandy Valley, and to Catlettsburg he and his young wife came. Without means, he opened a small merchant tailoring establishment, and went cheerfully to work. In ten years he was one of the principal merchants in the town. His wife died in about 1881, leaving him one son, Adelbert, who is his father's helper in the large business.

Mr. Williamson is a popular man. He is a Mason, an Odd Fellow, and a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He is a man of great benevolence, for his means.

THE VINSON FAMILY.

IN 1800 Benjamin Sperry, Peter Loar, and William Artrip, three brothers-in-law, came from the Shenandoah Valley, Virginia, and settled on the Sandy River, near where Cassville and Louisa are now located. On their way out, James Vinson, a young man of sprightly mien and good address, from South Carolina, joined the party, and proceeded with them to their destination.

It was not long after the families composing

the little colony had settled down in their primitive homes when young Vinson, who had wooed and was promised the hand of a fair daughter of Mr. Sperry, asked permission of the parents of his betrothed to have the rite of matrimony solemnized. The appeal was granted, and the young couple were married. From this alliance has sprung the house of Vinson in the Sandy Valley—a family destined to fill a large scope in the history of this section.

Two daughters and six sons composed the family of the second generation. One of the daughters was the last wife of Hon. William Ratliff, of Wayne County, West Va.

Captain William Vinson, the oldest son, attained to a popularity but seldom found in any man. He was an extensive farmer and saw-log dealer, and filled many positions of trust. When the Civil War came upon the country, he with alacrity flew to the standard of his country, and gave valuable assistance in filling the ranks of the 14th Kentucky Volunteer Infantry, and while not able to do personal service in the field, he was a good loyal Union man until the war closed. He had been an ardent Whig before the war, and afterwards generally voted the Republican ticket. In the latter part of his life he united with the Christian Church, and died within its pale.

William Vinson was brave, noble, and just. He, like the rest of the Vinsons, was quick to resent an insult, but as ready to do a kind act or

charitable deed to any who might stand in need. He died in 1883, at his home in Lawrence County, Kentucky, about sixty-four years of age.

Samuel S. Vinson, another brother, while not the oldest of the living brothers, has, by his great ability and indomitable energy, placed himself at the front of the family. He now resides on his large farm, two miles above Ceredo, Wayne County,



S. S. VINSON.

West Va. He is the senior member of the large timber-trading firm of Vinson, Goble & Prichard, located at Catlettsburg. Mainly through Mr. Vinson the buying, measuring, and transfer of the timber to market was reduced to scien-

tific book-keeping in the carrying on of the business. Mr. Vinson has, besides his farming and timber trade, other financial ventures under his watchful eye. A man of such ability as he possesses will, by force of circumstances, come to the front in public affairs; and while he has never aspired to official position for himself, he has made

his influence felt in placing those in office whom he chose to see there. He has the ability to fill with credit any office in the gift of the people, and his friends expect to place him in some high official trust at no distant day.

The other brothers are all prominent men of business, and occupy a good place in social life. They live on the Tug River, some in West Virginia, and others in Kentucky. They are all Democrats in politics, and adhere to the Christian Church in religious belief.

Among the children of the third generation are to be counted a number of prominent men. Richard F., son of William Vinson, is a prominent business man and lawyer of Louisa, who married the only daughter of Dr. P. S. Randle and Malinda May, his wife. Z. C. Vinson, another son, is a prominent business man of Catlettsburg. The entire family of William Vinson are found among the leading people of the valley. Samuel S. Vinson has a son who graduated at a leading college, and is a practicing lawyer.

The Vinson family represent a large landed estate in the Sandy Valley.

THE ULEN FAMILY

IS ANOTHER of the old houses which was here before the Catletts had gained a foothold at the Mouth. The grandfather of Ulba and Charles S.

was a daring frontiersman, whose fearless deeds, enacted at the mouth of the Kanawha in Indian warfare, are recorded in several books of Western adventure. Dr. Ulen, the father, was among the old settlers of the East Fork region, from whence came his two sons, in the time of the Catletts, to the Mouth.

Elba, the older of the two, was sheriff of Greenup County in an early day, and did the business of that office in the Sandy region of the county more than a generation ago. He has lived continuously in Catlettsburg since it was a town, and has always ranked as one of Catlettsburg's useful and prosperous citizens. He had charge of the England Hill property from the time it was turned over to be managed by a local agent until the English owners sold it in 1870. He owns and runs a nice little farm three miles out on the pike. He has a very comfortable brick dwelling. While Mr. and Mrs. Ulen have no children, they are popular with the young people of the place, and at their home many young folks are made welcome, and enjoy the good cheer of the host and hostess. Mr. and Mrs. Ulen are prominent and useful members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. Mr. Ulen is among Catlettsburg's oldest men, as well as citizens.

Charles S. has lived at Portsmouth, but finally drifted back to the place of his first love. He was a manufacturer, but has been for some time, and is