



*A History of Kentucky
and Kentuckians*

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A HISTORY

OF

KENTUCKY AND KENTUCKIANS = 3 =

The Leaders and Representative Men in Commerce,
Industry and Modern Activities



BY

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county which is now Robertson county, July 26, 1829, the son of Aaron and Polly (Lewis) Owens. The former, a native of Maryland, came here as a young man and chose as his wife one of the state's fair daughters, Polly Lewis, a native of Bracken county. Aaron was one of a family of nine children, whom to enumerate in order of birth were: Mason, Marion, Ennis, Aaron, Andrew, Arthur, Serepta, Sallie and Nancy, Aaron being the only one who survives at the present day. He was reared and has always resided at or near his present home. As his father, like most of the citizens of his day, was a man of moderate means, and as the family was large, it was only logical that he should make his own way, and he has been most successful despite the fact that he had practically no start, and he has reared to useful maturity a large family of children. He has followed farming and has been a considerable land owner, having at one time three hundred acres. Although of advanced years, he enjoys very good health. He has always been partial to the principles and policies for which the Republican party stands sponsor and he is a member of the Mt. Olivet Baptist church, as was also his wife. He has been in the advance guard of many progressive movements and as previously mentioned, was one of those who helped to lay out Robertson county. He and his wife were married about the year 1849, and they gave to the state a family of thirteen children, whose heritage it was to have antecedents of fine ideals and strong character: Amanda, the eldest child, married James Mullikin, and resides near Georgetown, Kentucky; Emily is the wife of Dora Mitchell, of Bracken county; Margaret is now Mrs. Benjamin Galbraith, and is also of Bracken county; Thomas is a citizen of Bridgeville, Robertson county, his wife having been a Miss Galbraith; Mary E. married Henry H. Pribble and is now a widow, residing in Paris, Kentucky; Hiram lives in May's Lick, Kentucky, his wife having been Miss Minnie Bratten; Nannie, who died some twenty-five years ago, married Alfred Jones, who survives her and lives in Clarke county, this state; the subject is the eighth in order of birth; Paris died in January, 1907, his widow, whose maiden name was Maggie Thompson, residing in Robertson county; Orrie is the wife of Lewis Jett of Robertson county; Ella is the wife of Henry Hughes, of Bracken county; Dallas died in February, 1907, her husband, George Hughes, having preceded her to the Great Beyond by three weeks; Maria, the youngest child, is the wife of Edward Barnett, of Robertson county.

To the public schools of the locality is Mr.

Owen indebted for the greater part of the education which he enjoys. At the age of twenty-two he concluded to establish a home of his own and married, his chosen lady being Miss Appie Woodward, the solemnization of the rites which made these two prominent young people one, occurring October 11, 1888. She was born April 1, 1871, and is the daughter of Thomas W. and Jennie (Osborn) Woodward, who reside at Jintown, Mason county, aged seventy-four and sixty-eight years respectively. Mrs. Owens is one of seven children, the family being as follows: George N., deceased; Alfred R., residing at Pendleton, Kentucky, an agriculturist, his wife having been Mollie Gillam; John O., a farmer living near Lowell, Mason county, married Pearl Linn; William T., who died in September, 1888; the fifth in order is Mrs. Owens; Minnie is the wife of Alva Orme and resides at Parsons, Kansas; the youngest child, Gustavus, died September 30, 1898. The birthplace of Mrs. Owens was in Robertson county.

Mr. Owens has been engaged in agricultural and stock-growing pursuits from his earliest manhood and he has achieved that success which is ever the sequel to thriftiness, industry and progressive methods. He has made many improvements on his property, which is adorned with a modern and attractive home and fine barns and outbuildings. In politics he gives his allegiance to the men and measures of the Republican party, his suffrage being ever given to their support. Mr. and Mrs. Owens are Baptists, their membership being in the Two Lick church. Their postoffice is Germantown, R. F. D. No. 1.

Rev. Mr. Mason Owens, an uncle of him whose name initiates this review, was one of the early Baptist ministers of Northern Kentucky, where he is still well and kindly remembered for his good deeds, fine Christian living and genial personality.

WALTER SCOTT OSBORNE.—Probably no section of the United States is richer in interesting family history than Mason county, and few of its citizens have furnished a more distinguished share of it than Walter Scott Osborne, a prominent farmer and stockman. Mr. Osborne's finely improved farm of five hundred and fifty acres is situated in Dover precinct and is part of a grant of three thousand acres made to **Captain Thomas Collier, a Revolutionary soldier**, by Governor Patrick Henry of Virginia. This famous tract has been divided and is now in the possession of several influential families of the section.

The subject is not only a native son of the county, but he has the somewhat unique distinction of having been born in the home which

is still his, its walls being, indeed, well worthy to him of the sacred name it bears. He is a son of Charles and Melvina A. (Walton) Osborne. His father was a Virginian, born in Charlotte county, in 1808. When a youth he came with his father and the rest of the family to Kentucky, and as a result of this step, the rest of his life was passed in the Blue Grass country. He became a farmer and stockman and resided upon Tuckahoe Ridge until his demise, which occurred April 8, 1883. It was on Tuckahoe Ridge that his wife was born in 1810, her death occurring in 1895, when she had attained to the ripe old age of eighty-five. Mr. Osborne's grandparents were Daniel and Martha Frances (Collier) Osborne. The former was born in Charlotte county, Virginia. The family exodus to **Mason county, Kentucky, was made about the year 1828**, the caravan including many servants, and the ultimate location was made on a part of the above mentioned three thousand acre tract, which had been inherited by his wife from Capt. Thomas Collier. The Osborne genealogy has not been traced further.

In glancing at the maternal line, it is found that Martha Frances Collier, or Patsy, as she was called, was born in Charlotte county, and was the **daughter of Captain Thomas and Martha (Dabney) Collier, who owned and occupied the Collier plantation, including the "Horse-pen" creek.** It is now a part of the Sylvan Hill plantation. **Captain Collier did not live upon his famous Kentucky lands**, but lived out the remainder of his life in the Old Dominion, where both he and his wife passed to the Great Beyond. He turned his land over to his three sons, Benjamin, Dabney and Thomas. Thomas died unmarried; Benjamin married and his descendants, the living members of the Holton and Bacon families, occupy his share of the grant; Dabney married twice, became the father of several sons and a daughter, and spent his later years at Nashville, Tennessee. He sold his share of the Captain Collier grant. It is a remarkable fact that all but ninety acres of the three thousand is still in the hands of descendants of the original owner.

Captain Thomas Collier was a son of John Collier, Jr., and Sarah Collier, his cousin and wife. John, Jr., was the son of John Collier, Sr., and a Miss Gaines, his second wife. John Collier, Sr., was the son of Charles and Mary Collier, and Charles Collier was born in England about 1660, and resided in King and Queen county, Virginia. In Bishop Meade's "Old Families and Old Churches of Virginia," we learn that "he was prominent in all civil

and ecclesiastical matters in King and Queen county."

The worthy descendant of this noted line and the immediate subject of this review, W. Scott Osborne, was married November 3, 1869, in Mason county, his chosen lady being Miss Sarah Ann (affectionately known as Sally) Bouldin, born in Charlotte county, Virginia, May 27, 1844, the daughter of William Watkins and Angelina (Morgan) Bouldin. W. W. Bouldin was born at Bouldinton, Charlotte county, Virginia, in 1811, and died July 25, 1862, in that county and state, his remains being interred in the family cemetery at Bouldinton, near the village of Drake's Branch. He was well-known and prosperous, being the owner of a plantation and a heavy tobacco raiser. Ephraim and Jane Flippen (Bedford) Bouldin, also Charlotte county people, were his parents. Ephraim was a son of James Bouldin and his wife, Sallie Ann Watkins, the Watkins family being of Charlotte county. James was a son of Colonel Thomas and Nancy (Clarke) Bouldin, the former having been captain under Colonel Bird in French and Indian wars and being subsequently promoted to a colonelcy. With his father, also Thomas Bouldin, the line touches England, the last named gentleman having immigrated from Great Britain and settled in Pennsylvania, where it is more than probable that Colonel Thomas Bouldin was born. From the Keystone state he moved to Maryland and later, about 1744, went on to what was then known as Lunenburg county, now Charlotte county, Virginia. He became a force in the life of the community in which his interests were centered, being at different times sheriff, magistrate and colonel of the militia, and he built the second frame house in the county limits. Before leaving Pennsylvania he had taken as his wife Ann Nancy Clarke, niece of Captain Richard Wood of the English navy. He was one of the leading figures at the time of the French and Indian war. He was ordered into service April 18, 1758, under Colonel Abram Maury of Virginia and was ordered to purchase arms for the poor according to act of the assembly, November, 1758, the document bearing the signature of Francis Fauquier, his Majesty's lieutenant, governor of the colony of Virginia, who also appointed him sheriff of Lunenburg on July 7, 1759. There was also issued a commission from Dunmore, lieutenant and governor general for His Majesty of the colony and dominion of Virginia, appointing Thomas Bouldin lieutenant of militia of Charlotte county, such document being dated April 10,

1773. He was an active and zealous member of the established church and was a vestryman in Charlotte county in the year 1746. It was he who built the first church where the present Rough Creek church of Charlotte county now stands, the date of its erection being 1769.

The above interesting and valuable information is taken from records preserved in an old trunk owned by the Hon. Powhatan Bouldin on Danville, Virginia, this ancient treasure house being preserved by members of the family. A part of the information is also taken from the volume entitled "Old Homes and Churches in Virginia," by Bishop Meade and from Henning's "Statutes," Vol. 7, page 224. It establishes beyond all doubt the eligibility of Mrs. W. Scott Osborne to membership in the Colonial Dames, a much coveted distinction. She became a member of that body on December 27, 1907, her national number being 922. Hon. Powhatan Bouldin, above referred to as the owner of the trunk, was editor of a paper at Danville, Virginia, the journal being *The Danville Times*. The trunk was the repository for old and valuable records of Colonial appointments, etc.

Happily this unusually interesting family history is to be handed down as a heritage, three children having been born to bless the union of Mr. Osborne and his wife, and their children entitle them to the pleasant role of grandfather and grandmother. The eldest daughter, Alma Morgan, was born December 22, 1870, and became the wife of Montgomery Breckenridge Pickett, a resident of Chicago. Mr. Pickett is in the real estate business, his offices being located in the Rookery building. They have two young daughters, Catherine Montgomery and Sarah Elizabeth. The son, Charles Bouldin, born July 23, 1872, is in Chicago, where he is a member of the firm of L. G. Fisher & Company, real estate dealers, whose headquarters are in the Fisher building. His wife's maiden name was Susan Adelia Boyd, daughter of Samuel Boyd of Covington, Kentucky. Angelina Bouldin, born on November 25, 1874, was united in marriage with Professor William Hardin Lucas on November 1, 1900. Professor Lucas is assistant superintendent of the schools of Louisville, Kentucky. Their son, William Scott Osborne Lucas, was born at Seattle, Washington, April 17, 1908, his father having been superintendent of schools in that western city at that time.

Mr. Osborne gives his political allegiance to the policies and principles of the Democratic party, in which from his earliest voting days he has had all confidence. For some

three years he has taken an active part in the Equity Society and organized sixteen unions in Mason county. His operations in tobacco raising have been of an extensive character and prosperity has crowned his activities. His interests are by no means limited to his primary occupation and he is vice-president of the Farmers & Traders Bank of Maysville, of which he was one of the organizers. Also, together with Mr. T. L. Holton, he was a promoter of the Mason County Mutual Telephone Company, of which for years he was a director. He owns some of the state's most desirable land. Inheriting about one hundred and thirty-five acres from his father (including the old home), he has added to it until his holdings aggregate five hundred and fifty acres. Mr. Osborne is one of the valued and active members of the Christian church, in which he has served as elder for the past fifteen years, or since 1895. For fifty years his father was an elder in the Beasley Creek church of this denomination.

The residence in Kentucky of Mrs. Osborne, who is a native of Virginia, dates from January 10, 1868. She taught school for several months prior to her marriage. Mr. and Mrs. Osborne are third cousins, their early ancestors being identical.

REUBEN S. WEAVER.—A cherished memory is an enduring monument, more ineffaceable than polished marble or burnished bronze. "To live in the hearts we leave behind is not to die." On the 18th of September, 1907, was summoned to the life eternal the soul of a man who was long numbered among the prominent and influential citizens of West May's Lick precinct, Mason county, Kentucky. Reuben S. Weaver passed away at his home on Absalom Creek turnpike, in West May's Lick precinct, and it is interesting to note that this splendid rural estate was his home during practically his entire life.

A native of Mason county, Kentucky, Mr. Weaver was born on the 23d of August, 1829, and he was a son of James and Lottie (Smith) Weaver, the former of whom died in 1832 and the latter in 1859, at the age of sixty-three years. To Mr. and Mrs. James Weaver were born six children, all of whom are now deceased and all of whom, with the exception of one, resided in Mason county until their respective deaths. Reuben S. Weaver was a child of but three years of age at the time of his father's death but he grew up on the old homestead farm and he received a liberal education in his youth. As a young man he began to teach school and he devoted the major portion of his time and attention to the pedagogic profession for a period of thirty-one