

THE ANNALS OF A FAMILY

By

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“GREAT LIVES DO NOT GO OUT—THEY GO ON”

DEDICATED

To the Descendants of

HENRY PRESLEY THORNTON

In memory of the departed—in honor of the present
and of all future generations.

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Frontispiece—Elmwood in 1895.

Henry Presley Thornton and wife in later years.

Martha Ward Thornton—about 1830

The residence of Thomas V. Thornton (I) in Paoli, Indiana, where George A. and Mary A. Thornton were married.

Monument on the site of the Battle of the Thames, Canada.

A page from George A. Thornton's school book in algebra.

George A. Thornton, from a daguerreotype made about the time of his marriage.

Mary A. Thornton, from a daguerreotype made about the time of her marriage.

A sketch, made from memory, of the first home owned by George A. Thornton in Bedford, where four of the children were born.

A late portrait of George A. Thornton.

A late portrait of Mary A. Thornton.

INTRODUCTORY

This sketch of family history will, of course, primarily be of interest to members of the family who desire to know something of their ancestors. It may be of some interest to others in the light it throws upon the manners and customs of early days which their ancestors also practiced.

The sources of information upon which this sketch is largely based have been various and numerous. The first to arouse the interest of the writer was a statement of family data given from memory by Caroline T. Woolfolk to Thomas Volney Thornton (brother of the writer) in August 1877, and supplemented by him, typed and brought down to January 31, 1896. Then followed the speeches of Henry Presley Thornton in the Indiana Constitutional Convention of 1850 as printed in the two volume official report of "Debates and Speeches" of that convention. This information led to correspondence with an official of the "Historical Society" of Paris, Kentucky, who investigated public records in Bourbon County, Ky., and reported to the writer. The latter afterwards made trips to Paris to verify this data and to seek for himself further facts in the Bourbon County court house and in the public library of Paris, and also to visit the region where the first settlement in Kentucky was made by Thomas Thornton, the founder of the family in the United States. Two trips also were made to Frankfort, Ky., to make researches in the archives in the old capitol building and in the state library in the new capitol. Further researches in both of these places would be desirable if time and expense allowed.

Trips were made, also, to investigate public records in Indiana, in the court houses at Madison, Jefferson County; Scottsburg, Scott County; Salem, Washington County; Paoli, Orange County; and Bedford, Lawrence County. The City Library in New Albany was also visited and much research was done in the State and City Libraries in Indianapolis. Visits were also made to the site of the Battle of the Thames in Canada, and to Fort Meigs in Ohio. To secure exact data, visits were made to cemeteries in Bourbon County, Ky., New Albany, Paoli and Bedford, Ind.

The most direct and intimate source of information about George A. Thornton, was found in his diary. The letters of Mary A. Thornton recalled many facts almost forgotten by the writer. The latter, of course, has drawn upon his own knowledge of those facts coming within his own time. Much available data which was especially hard to secure came through long and persistent search by Martha Pearson Kendall (daughter of Elizabeth Thornton Pearson).

Information and assistance were given also by George D., George A., James C., Henry C. Thornton, Louise Thornton MacDougal, Eddie Thornton Baylis, Paul, Henry, Frederic, and Stanley Shaw, and Nina Davis Heck. Indebtedness is acknowledged to Helen and Esther Thornton for reviewing the manuscript, and to Maurice E. Thornton for sketching the cottage home. Thanks are due for aid in finding and copying data on research trips to Lillian Voris Thornton, and to Richard Joseph Thornton, and to the former for valuable and important aid in reading the proof. Acknowledgement is also made for courteous aid extended by the librarians in the State Libraries of both Indiana and Kentucky. Most valuable aid was given also by Mr. Young, Supt. of the City Cemetery in Paris, Ky., in the endeavor to locate the grave of Thomas Thornton, and for accompanying the writer to the farm land on Boone's Lick.

Important facts were contributed by Allie Braxtan Harris and her daughter, Nellie, and aid was given by her son, Henry Harris, and by Frank and Samuel Braxtan. Many facts were secured and verified by consulting the "Family Tree," prepared by A. R. Orton in 1916.

Collecting and assembling all the facts he could secure has been to the writer a pleasant task. He regrets that his researches have not been more extensive and thorough, but hopes they may serve as a beginning for some future member of the family with more skill and opportunity who will "dig deeper" into the family's history.

—J. F. T.

CHAPTER I.

THE HOMELAND

Throughout its history, Ireland has been a land of tragedy. So far as known its original inhabitants were legendary tribes—semi-civilized nomadic clans who lived in squalor, poverty and depravity. These tribes were continuously warring among themselves, striving for the mastery and to gain for themselves the better sections of the country. Frequently entire tribes were annihilated, their wretched abodes destroyed and their desirable possessions, if any, seized by the stronger chieftains. These, in turn, with their followers were dispossessed, and thus endless warfare was waged throughout centuries of bloodshed. The inhabitants then well deserved the term often applied to them, "Wild Irishmen." Little is known of them till the Romans invaded their territory and conquered a few of the warlike tribes. The Danes followed the Romans and set up a semblance of order here and there. These were succeeded later by the Normans who brought a little further order out of chaos, and established their authority over a wide area of the land.

The early English kings sought to control the Irish, but with poor success. They were opposed both by the previous conquerors and by the "Wild Irishmen" themselves, and were frequently at war over land grants by both the French and by the Spanish. The island was soon considered a "free for all" land by the stronger nations of Europe, who continually sought to gain a foothold there as the basis for attacks upon England. The latter thus feared, for more than a century, that Ireland afforded an opportunity for rear attacks by other nations. Largely for this reason, she asserted her sway over the island and sought its subjugation by every means within her power—even to its depopulation by fire, and sword and starvation.

Under Queen Elizabeth and her successors, a prolonged and vigorous pursuit of this policy ensued. Lands of all classes in Ireland were confiscated and given to English adventurers on condition that they make large and powerful settlements thereon. Naturally the native population, driven from their homes, took up arms and fought valiantly for their liberty and the right to rule themselves. While they met with some success, their efforts only brought more rigorous persecution by the English rulers. Six

counties in the north of Ireland—a district known as Ulster—were the special point of attack. In this section, the lands of all the native chiefs and of the entire population were seized and the inhabitants driven out to burrow in the hills and bogs elsewhere. The lands thus confiscated were given to partisans of the crown—especially to favored English protestants. These organized the Plantation of Ulster. About this time the crown was engaged in a bitter contest with the Scotch protestants, and many of the latter, thinking to escape, at least, direct persecution, established themselves in the lands made vacant in Ulster. These Scots—mostly Presbyterians—were lowland Scots and were not unacceptable to the English protestants already settled in Ulster.

The persecution of the Irish did not cease with the depopulation of Ulster. Largely because the rest of Ireland was almost entirely occupied by Catholics, it was subjected to continuous attacks. The most severe persecution was carried on by Cromwell, who laid waste the countryside by fire and sword, ruthlessly slaying men, women and children, and bringing a famine which destroyed a third of the population. All this was done by the pious Cromwell in the name of the Lord.

Every effort was made to people the confiscated lands with English settlers and many thousands of families established themselves in the more desirable sections. There they prospered for a time.

A thriving woolen industry grew up and the manufacture of linen became important in the more favored regions as well as in Ulster. The resultant competition with English manufacturers in Great Britain became so great that the latter protested to the crown and secured drastic restrictions upon their Irish competitors, including Ulster. Exports of woolens and linen goods were forbidden, new land laws were enacted, dispossessing the people both of their lands and their rentals.

These unjust acts were strongly resisted, but the only result was ruin, starvation and depopulation. The clan system and the pastoral habits of the Irish were destroyed and they were compelled to submit to the English landlords. So hopeless was the situation, that large numbers, especially of the Irish, left the country, joined foreign armies, or retreated to their native bogs and became outlaws to prey upon those settlers who remained. A strong stream of emigrants—mostly Ulster Presbyterians—set in to North America and continued for years. Those who did not emigrate formed armed bands—at first largely composed of Pres-

byterians—to resist encroachments of the crown. Failing to regain their rights by the sword, those who escaped imprisonment or execution fled to America also, there to become later valiant soldiers in the Revolution which severed America from the British crown.

ULSTER

The early history of Ulster is legendary. From numerous articles recently discovered, it is evident Ulster has been inhabited by a thriving population, skilled in the arts and of comparatively high civilization. The name comes from the old Gaelic name of the inhabitants, "*Ulaidh*" to which the suffix "*ster*," meaning a "*steady-ing*" has been added, and the name corrupted into "*Ulster*." A mixed population inhabited the region, with a large infusion of the aboriginal element, the Picts. For generations, Ulster was ruled by the descendants of a powerful chieftain, "Nial" and the sons of Nial or O'Neil—(O meaning "the son of")—just as in Scotch "Mac" means grandson of). The ruler who claimed authority over the entire kingdom of Ireland was called the "High King"—a chieftain whose power over other chiefs was maintained by the sword. In early days, and practically throughout her history, Ulster asserted her independence of the "High Kings" and their successors in power.

It was largely this independence maintained by the men of Ulster that caused many English settlers to seek locations in Ulster. Failing, however, to establish any large numbers of English settlers, the British government finally but reluctantly favored the Scotch, who had already established themselves in those large sections which had been almost depopulated by the long cruel wars. As these Scots were chiefly from the low lands of Scotland, and therefore differed less in manners and customs from the English, they were more acceptable to the English government than the highlanders would have been. In exchange for their allegiance to British kings, large areas were allotted to the Scotch, thus laying the foundation for the Plantation of protestant Ulster. While large numbers of Irish as well as English remained in Ulster—the Scotch were the mainstay of the Plantation. They were more peaceful than the Irish, and more industrious than the English, and were always active in maintaining their national church, giving the settlement the distinctly puritan character which it still retains.

The strength of the Scots in Ulster finally aroused the hostility of the British crown and led, during the 18th century to many social, religious and economic restrictions which resulted in many settlers leaving their homes and seeking locations in other lands. Encouraged by this attitude of the British, the Irish forces formed a powerful bund called "The Society of United Irishmen" to oppose the Scots. The latter, to defend themselves, formed a society called "Orangemen," one of whose avowed objects was to expel all Catholics from Ulster. In spite of English authorities, a prolonged and bitter struggle between the factions ensued and many atrocities were committed by both sides. Notwithstanding this continued struggle, by the middle of the 18th century the number of Scots in Ireland had risen to nearly a million. Their social condition was not that of peasants; they were intelligent yoemen and artisans.

When these people began coming to America, those families that had been longest in Ireland, had dwelt there but for three generations and confusion of mind seems to lurk in any nomenclature which couples them with the true Irish. The antipathy between the Scotch-Irish as a group and the true Irish as a group is perhaps unsurpassed for bitterness and intensity in all history. On the other hand, since love laughs at feuds and schisms, intermarriages between the colonists of Ulster and the native Irish were by no means unusual and instances occur of Murphys of Irish and McManuses of Presbyterian faith uniting. It was common use in Ulster to allude to Presbyterians as "Scotch" and to Roman Catholics as "Irish" and members of the English church as "Protestants" without much reference to pedigree. From this point of view the term "Scotch-Irish" may be defensible, provided we do not let it conceal the fact that the people to whom it is applied are, for the most part, lowland Scotch Presbyterians very slightly hibernized in blood.

Vigorous antagonism by English manufacturers against the woolen and linen industries in Ulster prevailed, and a bitter spirit of religious intolerance by the English church, and aroused by the counter reformation, was directed against the Presbyterians in Ireland. As a result, from 1719 to 1782, the people of Ulster kept flocking to America. More than half a million of these expatriates came from Ulster to the American colonies, making not less than one sixth of the population at the time of the Revolution. They settled chiefly in Pennsylvania, Virginia, and the Carolinas, many later moving inland across the mountains. They formed al-

most the entire population of West Virginia, and were the leading settlers and founders of Kentucky and Tennessee. Among them were such soldiers as John Stark, and later the naturalist, Asa Gray—the Breckinridges, the Lewises, Pinckneys, Patrick Henry, Stuarts, McDowels, Rutledges, Anthony Wayne, Daniel Boone, James Robertson, Thomas H. Benton, George Rogers Clark, Andrew Jackson, Sam Huston, John C. Calhoun, Stonewall Jackson, Woodrow Wilson and many other well known leaders. In the Civil war, they were of great influence on both sides, but were largely on the side of the Union. They were responsible for the free and loyal state of West Virginia and for holding Kentucky and Tennessee for the Union. The rapid invasion of Scotch Presbyterians into Virginia, with their small farms, with few slaves if any, and with their vigorous democratic ideas, brought a movement for two generations which resulted in important reforms in the old dominion. It accomplished the separation of church and state, religious tolerance, the abolishment of primogeniture, the extension of franchise privileges, and many other similar political and social reforms. As early as 1683 they had organized on the eastern shores of Maryland and Virginia the first Presbyterian churches in America.

During the early part of the 18th century, so great was the influx of Scotch-Irish into America that they were second in number to the English only. It is not to be wondered at therefore, that their influence upon the new country was very great. Froude says, *"In the two years which followed the Antrim evictions, 30,000 Protestants left Ulster for a land where there was no legal robbery and where those who sowed the seed could reap the harvest."*

The coming of the Scotch-Irish to America was similar to English Puritans to New England and to that of the English Cavaliers to Virginia. They were the pioneers of the American backwoods and they were more numerous and far more important than all the other people who settled in this region. As stated, Pennsylvania was the center of their distribution throughout the south and west. John Fiske says, *"Who were the people called by the rather awkward name, Scotch-Irish? The answer carries us back to the year 1611, when James I began peopling Ulster with colonists from Scotland and the north of England. The plan was to put into Ireland a protestant population that might ultimately outnumber the Catholics and become the controlling element in the country. The settlers were picked men and women of the most excellent sort. By the middle of the 17th century there were 30,000*

of them in Ulster. The province which had been the most neglected part of the island, a wilderness of bogs and fens, they transformed it into a garden. They also established manufactures of woollens and linens which have ever since been famous throughout the world."

The emigration of such large numbers from Ulster was early noted by the English crown, but all efforts to stop the loss of such valuable citizens were in vain. The bold stream of immigrants struck the American continent mainly on the eastern border of Pennsylvania, thence in great numbers turned southward through Maryland, Virginia, and North and South Carolina. It met a counter stream of the same nationality which had entered the continent through the seaports of the Carolinas and Virginia and Georgia. Turning westward, the combined flood overflowed the mountains and covered the rich valley of the Mississippi. As the Puritans of the south, but freed from fanaticism, they gave tone to its people and direction to its history, and are credited with furnishing one tenth of the famous men of the American nation. In his "Winning of the West," Theodore Roosevelt says, "*These Irish representatives of the Covenanters were in the west almost what the Puritans were in the northeast, and more than the Cavaliers were in the south. Mingled with the descendants of many other races, they nevertheless formed the kernel of the distinctively and intensively American stock who were the pioneers of our people in their march westward, the vanguard of the army of fighting settlers, who with axe and rifle won their way from the Alleghanies to the Rio Grande and the Pacific.*"

This brief survey of the history of Ireland may serve to give something of the background of the ancestors of the "FAMILY" and thus supply the lack of information about its individual members in the old world. At any rate it will indicate that such was the country, such the people, and such were the conditions under which the first direct ancestor of the "FAMILY" lived during his early life, and from which, at the early age of 18, he broke away and crossed the seas to seek greater opportunities in the new land of America.

CHAPTER II.

FIRST YEARS IN AMERICA

THOMAS THORNTON was the first direct ancestor of the "FAMILY" to come to America. Realizing the limited opportunities in his homeland and knowing something of what the possibilities were in the new world, he broke away from home and crossed the seas to America. Tradition says he ran away from home at the age of 18. Born in 1755, this would make his arrival about 1773. His birth place was Donegal County in Ulster, the northern section of Ireland. Here his family had lived for a generation or two, and had doubtless been subject to some of the conditions described in the previous chapter. He himself probably felt the hopelessness of these conditions, and determined to escape them.

He reached America practically penniless, and coming without parental sanction, he probably worked his way across on ship-board, perhaps as cabin boy—possibly as a seaman since he was a youth of considerable physical strength. His first location was Virginia, coming to that colony possibly because it was more typically English than any other, but more probably because he had friends and very likely relatives there. The family names of Thornton and Presley are to be found frequently associated in early Virginia records. In the roster of Revolutionary soldiers, from that state, consulted by the writer in the Congressional Library, besides the name of Thomas Thornton, appear such names as Peter Presley Thornton, Lt. Col., Lancaster Militia—Presley Thornton, Col., Lancaster Militia—Presley Thornton, Captain—Presley Thornton, Aid—Presley Peter Thornton, Aid—and Joseph Thornton, Patrick Thornton, and Anthony Presley Thornton, privates. The Presleys were prominent in Virginia from early times, one of that name being a leading member of the House of Burgesses in the days of Bacons' rebellion in 1676. There must have been some connection between the Thorntons and Presleys other than mere friendship which led Thomas Thornton to name his first child for a Presley.

Like most of the inhabitants of Ulster, Thomas Thornton was of Scotch-Irish descent, protestant in religion and most likely of the Presbyterian faith. Most of the inhabitants of the north of Ireland were either pure Scotch—pure English, or a mixture of these two peoples—descendants of the settlers transplanted into

Ulster and its vicinity by the English government. There were, however, many who were descended from a mixture of the Scotch and English with the Irish who remained in Ulster in spite of the opposition of the English rulers. The family names are the best indication of the probable origin of individuals. The name "Thornton" is clearly of English origin, but this does not, of course, preclude the Scotch ancestry from which the family descended.

Up to the time of William the Conqueror, there were no family names in England except among the comparatively few members of the nobility. To better identify individuals in the "Dooms-Day Book" the government ordered surnames to be adopted. These names were usually taken from the individual's work, his place of residence, or some peculiar personal characteristic or appearance, or relationship. Thus came such names as Smith, Goldsmith, Meade, Quick, Wood, Black, White, Johnston, etc. The name "Thornton" was derived from the words *thorn* and *tun*—*tun* being an Anglo Saxon word meaning an "enclosed place" and finally used to mean a "town." The name thus designated an enclosure surrounded by a thorn hedge, and an individual living there was known, for instance, as John of Thorntun, becoming later by contraction "John Thorntun, or town, finally ton. This is the origin of all names ending in the familiar "ton." Thus the name "Braxtan" undoubtedly comes from the words "bracken" a fern hedge, and the word "tun," the name being corrupted into "Braxtan." This indicates that the original, and therefore the correct spelling of the suffix "ton" is "ton and not "tan." Some members of the family have spelled the name "Braxtan." A legend in the family explains the latter spelling thus: the first member of this family coming to Indiana was a "hot" abolitionist and because his relatives in North Carolina were slave owners, he vowed to change the spelling of his name upon reaching the new country. His spelling of the name as "Braxtan" was followed by his immediate descendants, but the original spelling has been resumed by many of the present generation.

Little is known about the childhood of Thomas Thornton or about his first years in America. He probably found work in the shops and industries of Richmond or in the nearby plantations. At the time of his arrival about 1773 the colonies were already deeply engaged in the contest with the British government which three years later brought the Declaration of Independence. Although the colony of Virginia was a "bit of England" in America—its leaders strongly supported the colonial cause, believing it to be the

cause of all Englishmen—as indeed it was. There were many worthy citizens throughout the colonies, but especially in the middle colonies, who considered the unjust treatment accorded them was the act of the king and his advisers, and not the work of the English people. Accordingly these citizens did not join the “hue and cry” against the mother country, and many of them opposed the Declaration of Independence. Young Thornton must have been confused by the conflict of opinion about him. He had no great love for the crown but strongly felt his allegiance to the British nation. This explains his possible early support of the English cause, and the tradition that he first joined the British army in America. This attachment, of which there is no evidence, was indeed brief as his name is found among the early enlistments in the Virginia militia organized to support the revolution.

Historians have failed to properly note that the revolution, in many sections, was in reality a civil war. Americans were on both sides in considerable numbers—the Whigs fighting for independence, the Tories or Loyalists just as valiantly contending for the British. The pure Scotch were usually Tories—the Scotch-Irish (mostly Presbyterians) supported the Whigs. This was the situation in all the colonies, but especially in Virginia and the Carolinas. Also, not infrequently, individuals would fight on one side for a time and later on the other side. Their allegiance was often determined by their own changing convictions, the drift of the war, or too often by the certainty of pay from one or the other faction. This condition was so wide-spread that the British often declared that they would subdue America by Americans. During most of the revolutionary war period there was no state government in South Carolina, and the citizens there were nearly equally divided in their support. The condition was not unlike that in Kentucky during the Civil War, when families were frequently divided in their allegiance. The battle of Kings Mountain, one of the most important of revolutionary conflicts in the South, was a fight between Americans—Whigs against Tories—the only British participating in the struggle being the officer in command of the Tories. Before the war was closed, the entire state of South Carolina was a battle ground, chiefly for such American factions, and more than one hundred conflicts—great and small—occurred within its borders, many of them unbelievably cruel and vindictive.

Thomas Thornton lived in Delaware a part of the revolutionary period or at least enlisted with the American troops of that state. It was not unusual, however, for soldiers to enlist in whatever

colony most needed them or offered them the best opportunity for active service and promotion, or, in some cases, the best chance of receiving their pay.

The records of the Auditors' Board of Wilmington, Delaware, show that he served from Oct. 17, 1781 to April 19, 1782 (six months) in the "continental militia." He also served a part of the time with the North Carolina "militia" as shown by the "North Carolina Revolutionary Acts" of Raleigh, N. C. Service of the "militia" of more than one state is not surprising as enlistments were usually for short periods and re-enlistments were not unusual, especially by the more patriotic of the soldiers—even though the lot of the common soldier was hard and the pay small or altogether lacking. This may explain the appearance of the name of Thomas Thornton on the rosters of both Delaware and North Carolina, although he was a citizen of Virginia.

During his periods of enlistment in the continental army, Thomas Thornton was less than thirty years of age—unmarried, and doubtless had not previously become settled in any business or location. He fought in the battle of Eutaw Springs on the side of the colonies. The American forces engaged in this battle comprised besides contingents from Virginia, North and South Carolina and other states, a brigade from Delaware—a state whose records show, as already mentioned, the enlistment of young Thornton at the time this battle was fought. It is pretty well authenticated that he was wounded in this battle and taken to a nearby farm house. A family legend says (although of doubtful authenticity, as the girl he later married did not in all likelihood live in South Carolina) that the farmer's daughter nursed him back to health, and quite naturally, the two young people fell in love and were afterward married. However this may be, it is known and of record that, in 1782 young Thornton married Elizabeth ("Betsy") Robertson, the only sister of General James Robertson, who with John Sevier and Isaac Shelby, first settled the state of Tennessee. Robertson later was the founder of the City of Nashville, Tenn., and a county near that city now bears his name.

The battle of Eutaw Springs has hardly been given its proper rating in the annals of the Revolutionary engagements. It was, in fact one of the more important conflicts of the many fought in South Carolina. There were more casualties in proportion to the number engaged than in any other southern conflict. Although the battle was a "draw"—neither side being decisively victorious, it

stopped the advance of the British in South Carolina, and raised the morale of the Americans. It would have been a decisive victory for the latter but for the overconfidence, which led them to begin destroying the British camp before the latter had been completely dispersed. The Delaware forces of the Americans were used in making an important charge which at first led to the rout of the British. The American forces were under command of General Nathaniel Green, one of Washington's most trusted and capable commanders. In this connection Fiske says, "*Green went on until he had reduced every one of the inland posts. At last, on the 8th of September, he fought the obstinate battle of Eutaw Springs, in which both sides claimed the victory. Here, however, as always after one of Green's battles, it was the enemy who retreated and he who pursued. His strategy never failed. Among all the campaigns in history that have been conducted with small armies, there have been few, if any, more brilliant than Green's.*"

The site of the battle of Eutaw Springs is now (1939) maintained as a national park near the village of Eutawville, S. C., which is about 60 miles northwest of Charleston on the Santee River.

THE ROBERTSONS

ELIZABETH ROBERTSON

Since there is no available source of information about Elizabeth Robertson—the mother of the "FAMILY," it will be well to note something of her historic brother's characteristics and achievements about which history speaks in no uncertain tones. Her early training must have been like his and she must have possessed some traits similar to his. Their Scotch-Irish parents instilled in both son and daughter religious faith, self reliance, courage, fidelity and capacity for leadership. Probably only the narrow limitations imposed upon women in that early day prevented Elizabeth, the daughter, from leading a notable life similar to that of the son. We know that she had the fortitude to journey through the wilderness with her husband and children and set up a new home in a strange and wild country with all the dangers and hardships it entailed. There she lived out a worthy life on a little farm in Bourbon County, Kentucky, some twenty miles southeast of the county seat, Paris. That she was a woman of strong character is attested by the influence she evidently exerted upon the generations which have followed her in the faith in religion and the fidelity to duty which many of her descendants have shown.

GENERAL JAMES ROBERTSON

James Robertson was born of Scotch-Irish parents in Brunswick County, Virginia, on June 28, 1742, the family removing later to North Carolina. He was early taught the importance of moral virtue and brought up in a rigid Presbyterianism. His schooling was limited, as was quite generally the case in his day, but his education otherwise was not neglected. He read few books except the Bible, but he possessed a reflective and observant mind and acquired a breadth of knowledge superior to most of his contemporaries. He possessed strong practical sense, backed up by an unquestioned faith in an overruling Power—a Power which he early believed had destined him to be the founder of a western civilization. So marked was his capacity for leadership, that even when but a young man, he was sent by his prosperous neighbors and friends to seek a place for settlement in Kentucky or Tennessee.

On this journey made in 1769, he was under the leadership of Daniel Boone while crossing the mountains. Leaving Boone, he forged ahead alone and finally selected a site for the proposed settlement in a beautiful valley on the Watauga River, in northeastern Tennessee near the present town of Elizabeth. Returning east alone, he all but lost his life in the trackless wilderness. The glowing report he made was gladly received, and acted upon by his friends—eighty of whom promptly departed for the west under his leadership. Reaching the new location in due time, but under many difficulties, the little settlement at Watauga grew and prospered under his wise and provident leadership. It was not seriously threatened by the Indians for many years because of Robertson's tactful control of the neighboring tribes. More than once, as the years passed, he risked his life in solitary conferences with Indian chiefs and their war councils. The chiefs both feared and trusted him. He knew how to be severe when the occasion demanded, but always dealt honestly and kindly with them whenever they were willing to remain on friendly terms with the whites. Because of his unswerving bravery and honesty—he held the respect and confidence of all Indians with whom he came in contact throughout his life.

Closely associated with him in the settlement of Tennessee, were two other young men whose names are historic. They were John Sevier and Isaac Shelby, the latter, however, was chiefly concerned with the development of Kentucky, and was the first governor of that state.

Sevier was descended from the French Huguenots from the famous Saint Francis of Xavier—the name Xavier becoming Anglicized into “Sevier.” He grew to manhood east of the mountains, but early became an eager leader in the settlement of the lands across the mountains. In course of time he became the military leader of the westerners, and defended their settlements both from Indian attacks and from the forces of Great Britain. He played much the same part in the Tennessee country which George Rogers Clark did in the North West Territory. He has been called “The rear guard of the Revolution.” In the early settlement of Tennessee, but on a far wider scale, he was the Miles Standish and Robertson the Governor Winthrop of the western country. These two leaders formulated and put in action a government for Tennessee which continued until the country became a territory under the national government.

After eastern Tennessee, centering around Watauga, had become pretty well settled—the farsighted and courageous spirit of Robertson led him into a new adventure. In 1780, at the age of thirty-eight, he conducted a party of settlers, numbering three hundred ninety, westward into the wilds of central Tennessee. There, on high ground on the banks of the Cumberland River, he founded a settlement, later called “Nashville,” in honor of General Nash, a well known officer who was killed in the battle of Germantown during the Revolution. With a court house and land office, the town early became the center of much activity in the wilderness. The first civilized settlement of any size, it framed a compact of government and placed Robertson at its head. This was about the time the British officer, General Hamilton, the “hair buyer” was attempting, with the aid of the Indians, to exterminate all Americans west of the Allegheny Mountains.

For years, Robertson was the leader and practically the governor of all the Nashville country. The mother state, North Carolina, paid little attention to the far away settlements in her western regions and the pioneers not only had to provide their own government, but unaided, had to protect themselves from the Indians. After the Revolution had come to an end, and the colonies had begun their national existence, North Carolina organized her regions west of the mountains into counties and gave to each county representation in her assembly. Robertson was the first representative of the Nashville section and, although it was distant seven hundred miles from the seat of state government, entailing a journey through a well nigh trackless wilderness, infested by wild

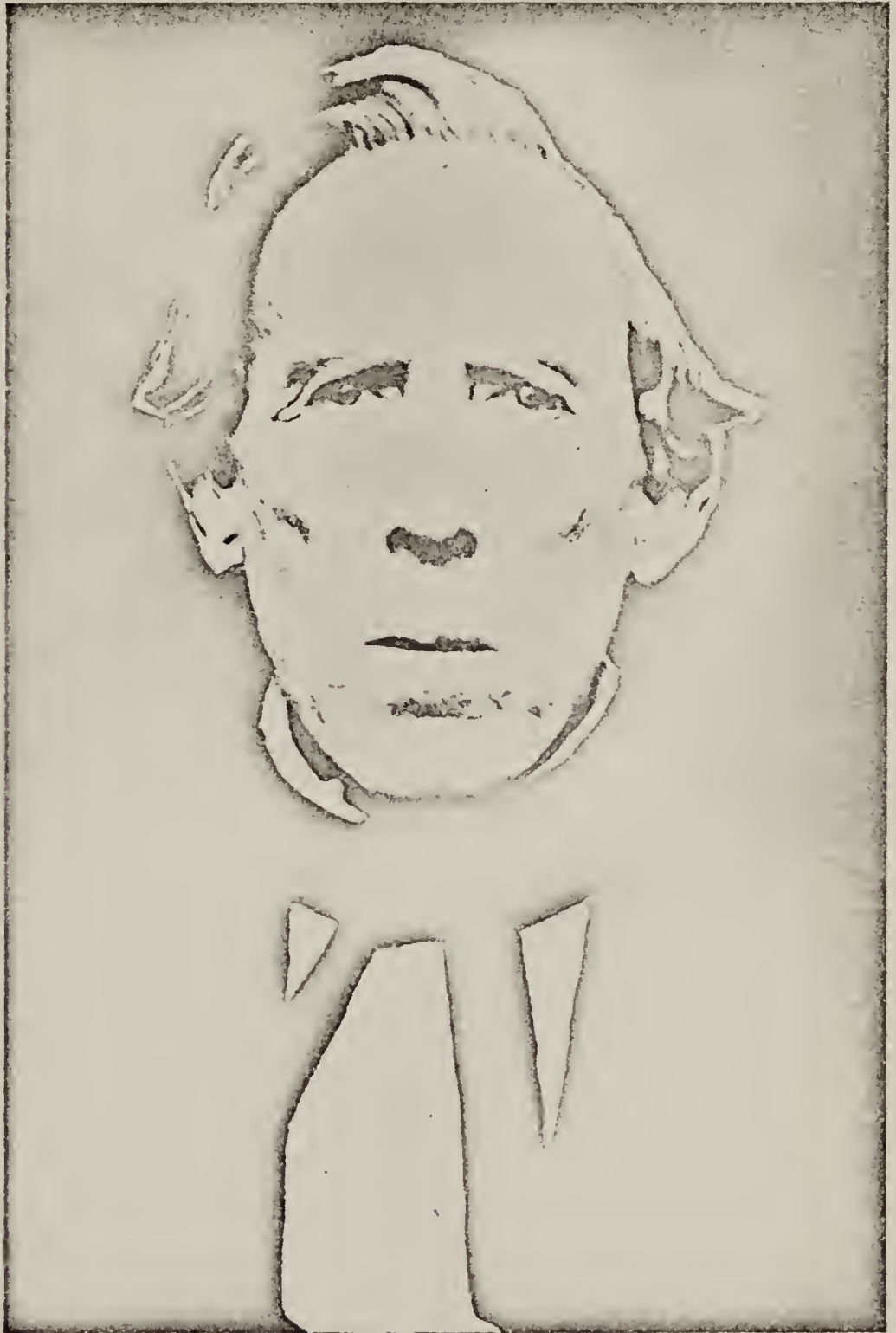
animals and by far more savage Indians, Robertson never failed to attend all sessions. As an assemblyman, he was active and shrewd in securing numerous enactments favorable to the West, for which he had given so much.

So much was contributed to the development of this western country by Robertson, that he has been called "The Advance Guard of Civilization." He and John Sevier were the leaders in keeping the fires of western civilization burning all through the Revolutionary period and afterward, and in destroying the great and powerful coalition of the Indians, formed by Tecumseh, and also in thwarting the attempts to annex the western country. History has not properly recognized the great contributions of these two western leaders, who in reality, preserved territory southwest of the Allegheny Mountains for the United States. But for their conquest and control of this western country, in all probability, those mountains would have been the western boundary of the United States as defined by the treaty of peace with Great Britain.

In personal appearance, Robertson was of medium height, well built, robust and wiry. He had prominent features and a square, full forehead. His light blue eyes were shaded by heavy eyebrows. His hair was very dark, and his complexion naturally fair but darkened by the exposure of pioneer life. His character was marked by the strong traits of a leader and many of them the heritage from his Scotch-Irish ancestry. He was earnest, taciturn, self-contained and had that quiet consciousness of power usually notable in born leaders of men. His manner was without arrogance or self assumption. He was extremely courteous and conciliatory with that rare blending of self respect and deference to others which repels familiarity but at the same time, wins friendship and puts the rudest at ease. He was cool, careful of consequences and watchful in the face of danger, but at the same time, bold, fearless, and even ready to undertake enterprises that would stagger men of less mental resources. It was not strange that men willingly accepted and followed his leadership—confident that he would guide and protect them with wisdom and courage. He was the cherished leader of his associates till the years and the hardships through which he had passed, began to tell upon his strength. His advice was sought even after he was physically unable to undertake the burdens of public service. His last hours are described by one of his biographers in the following words: *On September 1814, he sank into a profound sleep from which he awoke only to find himself in that grand company of the great and*

good men who had, like him, given their lives for their country and Christian civilization. He was a true man, a pure patriot and genuine Christian hero; and when we come to measure greatness by the New Testament standard of unswerving fidelity to duty and unselfish devotion to the good of our fellow men, it will be admitted that there have been few greater men in American history."

Surely some of the traits of such a strong character must have been transmitted to some members of the "FAMILY" even though commingled with those of other personages.



HENRY P. THORNTON



MARTHA WARD THORNTON--ABOUT 1830

A drawing by Joseph Cezar from an oil painting

CHAPTER III.

SETTLEMENT IN THE WEST

When the Revolutionary War was practically over, and Thomas Thornton had been honorably discharged from military service, he married Elizabeth (Betsy) Robertson in 1782. Although the place of their marriage is not known, the young couple soon established a home in Salisbury, North Carolina. Here, Thomas adjusted himself to domestic life after his military career had ended, and took up the task of earning a living, probably as a farmer. Here his three children were born—Henry Presley, the eldest (in 1783), Benjamin, and his only daughter, Margaret. Reports of the fertile lands west of the mountains where special inducements were offered soldiers of the Revolution, were common, and aroused the interest of Thomas and his wife "Betsy." Doubtless the latter's brother, James Robertson, had something to do with creating their desire to change their abode.

The Revolutionary War left the American colonies all but exhausted on the material side. The spirit of patriotism and devotion to duty ran high but the economic conditions were hard and had to be met as best they could be. Then, as ever, high ideals alone failed to bring food and sustenance. Many a revolutionary soldier had come out of the war penniless and with his social and financial contacts disrupted, and with no secure foothold any place. This situation resulted in many soldiers joining the western emigrants who were crossing the mountains in large numbers and settling the fertile lands to be secured there. In all likelihood, this stream of emigrants carried Thomas Thornton and family with it.

This migration of the Thorntons occurred about 1790. The family doubtless followed the trail across the mountains into Kentucky, practically as Daniel Boone had located it. A permanent settlement was finally made in Bourbon County, Kentucky, where a comfortable log cabin was built on the banks of Deer Creek. The country was fertile, game was plentiful and water and fuel at hand. The struggle to conquer the wilderness began and succeeded, so far, at least as making a living was concerned. Thomas Thornton was well and favorably known among his pioneer associates, lived comfortably for his time and place, and was evidently happy and healthy throughout a long life.

The two sons, Henry Presley and Benjamin, grew up to young manhood in the wilderness of those pioneer days—and established themselves as their father had done, as substantial citizens in their communities. Theirs were the usual experiences of pioneer boys, marked by hard work, frugality, and self reliance. They had to be capable of overcoming the hard economic conditions, and of enduring many discomforts. That they were skilled in wood-craft is proven by one of their exploits. Wood chopping contests were common in early pioneer days, prizes being given to the man or team who could fell the most trees and cut them into cord wood within a given time. When youngsters, Henry and his brother Ben, entered such contests. It was permissible for contestants to select their own trees—their judgment in this, being, of course, one element in their success in the contest. Accordingly, the young Thorntons went through the forest early and carefully selected and marked their trees. On the day of the contest it was a matter of swift work and accurate blows of their axes. Their trees were felled, cut into lengths, split and corded before any of the other contestants had finished. The prize was won—a keg of the finest Bourbon whiskey. There was nothing immoral in such a prize at that time, as whiskey was a valuable and common commodity in pioneer days. It was not used for immoral purposes as in later times. (On this occasion it was doubtless shared by the entire company in good natured friendship, without any of the evil effects of more recent days.)

The boys grew up to manhood on their father's farm, helping in the arduous work and securing the little education afforded by the pioneer school—probably most of it coming from the parents. The latter were intelligent people, well informed for their day, and firm believers in the value of education. The mother, strong in her belief in religion, cultivated in her family something of her own zeal, and taught her children to lead Christian lives. The well-nigh continuous hard work on a pioneer farm, of course, precluded much reading, even if books had been available. There was a Bible, but few other books. Nevertheless there was desire enough for intellectual things in that little family to lay a secure foundation for the later more complete and, finally, for a professional education of one of the boys at least. That there were constructive and effective methods in the rearing of the children is evidenced by the fact that both boys became excellent farmers, and the daughter a thrifty housekeeper, and a capable, attractive, young woman. Benjamin never gave up farming, but spent his life suc-

cessfully cultivating land adjoining his father's farm. The daughter, Margaret, also settled in the neighborhood, becoming the wife of George See, a prosperous farmer and leader in his section.

Henry's ambition led him into professional life. There was in Paris an academy of good standing, offering studies somewhat in advance of elementary courses—probably "a little Latin and less Greek" with something of "higher" mathematics. Henry probably attended this school, and after acquiring all the academic education it could give, he entered a law office as a student. Reading law in an office, with whatever instruction could be secured from the proprietor, was then, and for many years afterward, the only avenue to the study of law in most parts of the country. It, of course, involved much self direction and application, and required much time. It was largely a method of self education, and was successful only when the student was untiring in his efforts to learn all he could about the law and its practice. Young Thornton persisted to the end, and after several years was admitted to the bar in Bourbon County, and began the struggle for success which is the usual lot of young lawyers.

The economic condition of Thomas Thornton and his two sons, during the early years of the latter is indicated by records in the historic library in the old capitol building at Frankfort, Ky., which were found and examined by the writer in June, 1835. These records are assessment lists of property of residents which were formerly required to be filed with state officials in Kentucky. The records examined covered most of the years, beginning with 1814. They show certain property owned by the Thorntons as assessed at probably less than half the actual value, and are as follows:

1814—Thomas Thornton owned 100 A. of land on Briaman's Creek at \$8.00 per A. Also 1 slave and 5 horses. Henry P. Thornton owned 8 horses valued at \$385. Benjamin Thornton owned 59 A. of land and 5 horses—all at \$800.

1815—Thomas T. 100 A., 1 slave and 7 horses—total \$1250. Henry T. 500 A. in Nicholas Co. on Stony Creek and 5 horses. Total value as assessed \$720.

1816—Thomas T. 98 A. on Boone's Creek at \$9 per A. 1 slave and 7 horses. Total assessed value \$1411. Benjamin T. 80 A. at \$10 and 3 horses. Total \$965.

1817—Thomas T. 95 A. 1 slave and 7 horses. Total \$1535. Benjamin T. 77 A. in one section, 57 A. in another, 2 slaves, 4 horses. Total assess. \$2904.

1818 and 1819—No lists found.

1820—Thomas T. 100 A. at \$12, 1 slave, 5 horses. Total \$1700.
Benjamin 297 A. at \$15 per A. 3 slaves, 1 horse. Total \$5355.

It will be noted that Henry does not appear on the lists examined after 1815. This was probably because he was devoting himself exclusively to his law practice and had given up all farming with the ownership of the necessary land and other property, and also because he removed to Indiana in 1817. It will be noted also, that the assessments against both Thomas and Benjamin increased year by year—showing the latter to be a man of considerable wealth for his day, probably worth \$12,000. As he continued a successful farmer, he was probably worth much more than this sum by the time of his death. These figures show also, that Thomas was comfortably fixed, and was slowly increasing his holdings. From deeds on record in Bourbon County, it is shown that he had provided for old age. It is of interest to note that Henry did *not* own slaves although the others did. This was probably because he was not a farmer, rather than because of any opposition to slavery on his part. However, he was much opposed to slavery in his later life and probably never owned a slave. It will be understood that values shown by these figures are not to be judged by present day valuations. The values shown by these figures, for instance, indicate an economic status considerably above the average.

So far as known, the first land owned by Thomas Thornton consisted of ninety A. on Hingston River in Bourbon County. This was probably "bounty land" reserved for soldiers of the revolution. The farm upon which he was living at the time of his death consisted of one hundred two A. and $\frac{3}{4}$ poles, and was purchased in 1817 from Henry Wilson and wife, and was located on Boone's Creek in Bourbon County. This land, lying slightly southeast of Paris, was visited by the writer in 1935. It lies within two miles of the little village of "Flat Rock," now called "Little Rock," and then owned by W. P. Thomas. This Flat Rock district lies south of east of Paris. The land, a part of the blue grass region, is rolling and has small streams only—too small for water power, so that the people had to do their milling elsewhere or resort to horse tread mills. Hingston Creek is the largest stream in that section of the county. In 1935 Flat Rock was a very small village of about a dozen houses located along the main highway. It received its name from the flat

layer of stone which forms the bed of the small stream, Boone's Lick, which runs through it.

Three years after purchasing this farm (1820) it was deeded by Thomas and wife Betsy (Elizabeth) to George See, husband of Margaret Thornton See, together with live stock, slaves, and personal property until the death of Thomas and wife, to assure their support in old age, Thomas retaining the right to dispose of any property remaining at his death. The personal property included in the deed consisted of one colored girl, (Darke), twelve years old, five horses, six sheep, six horned cattle, twenty-four hogs, farm implements, and all household furniture. In 1825 this land was deeded outright to George See for \$900 by Thomas Thornton. This deed was not signed by his wife, Betsy, which indicates that she was probably dead at the time. Twelve years later, in 1837, this land passed finally out of the possession of Thomas Thornton and George See through a commissioners' sale to satisfy a claim of the Bank of Kentucky.

The Sees were highly esteemed by all who knew them. George was apparently a favorite of Thomas and his two sons, Henry and Benjamin. Six sons and three daughters were born to the Sees, and their descendants still live in Bourbon county, and are counted among its respected citizens. In 1935 the writer passed two prosperous farm homes belonging to members of this family.

About 1840 Thomas Thornton died at the age of eighty-five years. His declining years were evidently spent with his daughter, Margaret, and her husband, George See. In personal appearance, Thomas was tall and straight and well proportioned. He must have been of a good strong race in order to have endured the hardships of the War of the Revolution, to have recovered from the effects of severe wounds received therein at Eutaw Springs, to have met the difficulties and labor of pioneer life and to have lived to a ripe old age. He was ambitious, enterprising and courageous or he would not have ventured into the wilderness to carve out a home there for his little family. The amount of his holdings and their final disposal, indicates that he was not a rich man even for his day and that he possessed only average business ability. It has been said that Kentucky owed much of its remarkable intellectual and social development to the fact that the best of the revolutionary soldiers settled in her borders. There can be no doubt that Thomas Thornton and his family were worthy members of such settlers.

There are no descendants of Thomas Thornton by the name of "Thornton" living in Bourbon County. This is due to the fact that

the oldest son, Henry P., early migrated to Indiana, and that the other son, Benjamin, had but two children, both girls, and even these married and left the state. It will be noted that George See and Benjamin were doubly related, each marrying the other's sister, viz: George to Margaret Thornton, and Benjamin to Elizabeth (Betsey) See. In 1935 the writer learned of several Thorntons living in Bourbon County, but only distantly connected with the Thomas Thornton line. The head of this family was Anthony Thornton, who came to Kentucky from Virginia in an early day. He was a man of wealth and considerable fame. He was a judge of a state court and at one time was a member of Congress from Kentucky. His pretentious monument may be seen in the city cemetery at Paris.

While the writer could not locate the grave of Thomas Thornton, his name appears among the honored list of Revolutionary heroes who are buried in Bourbon County, displayed on a large bronze tablet mounted on the exterior of the court house in Paris. This tablet measures about six by eight feet, and bears in two columns the names of 151 Revolutionary soldiers. Its caption is—*"In memory of the patriot soldiers of the American Revolution who died, citizens of Bourbon County."* At the bottom of the tablet are the words, *"Erected in 1927 by the Jemima Johnston Chapter of the D. A. R."* In the lower corners appear in relief, left a Revolutionary soldier; right, a pioneer soldier. Thus after all the vicissitudes of life—contrary to the sentiment of Shakespeare—the good that men do lives after them.

CHAPTER IV.

THE FAMILY ROSTER

The eldest child of Thomas Thornton and his wife Elizabeth Robertson Thornton was Henry Presley Thornton. He was born Monday, March 3, 1783, at Salisbury, North Carolina—a town where his father located soon after marriage. He came with the rest of his father's family to Kentucky when but a child, and grew to early manhood on a farm near the little village of Flat Rock. It is known that he was educated in Kentucky but in what school or schools is conjectural only. As there were no public schools in that early day, especially in Kentucky, the first steps in his education must have been directed by his parents—especially by his mother, who was a woman of some culture and certainly of strong religious principles.

The Bourbon Academy was founded in 1798, when Henry was 15 years of age. It was a tuition school and taught the three R's, Latin and the sciences. It must have been successfully conducted as it continued for 58 years—until about 1856 when it became a part of the Paris school system. This academy was the most accessible school to the Thorntons, and in all likelihood it was the institution where Henry acquired much of his pre-professional education. He may have attended Transylvania University at Lexington—the first institution of higher education west of the Allegheny Mountains. That he knew something of Latin and of Classic literature is clearly shown in his law practice, and especially in his speeches in the Indiana Constitutional Convention of 1850 of which he was an active member. He would necessarily acquire an acquaintanceship with the Latin language and with Roman customs through the pursuit of his legal education, but he evidently knew more about these subjects than this source alone would give. Knowledge of history in his day had to be secured by individual reading, as the subject was not taught (in his day). Strange to say, it was thought by educational leaders for many years that history had no place in school curricula.

To a great extent, young Thornton must have been self-educated through wide reading and through eager contact with the leading men of his time. His legal training must have been secured through study and work in the office of an experienced attorney—an almost universal practice in his day, and indeed remains quite

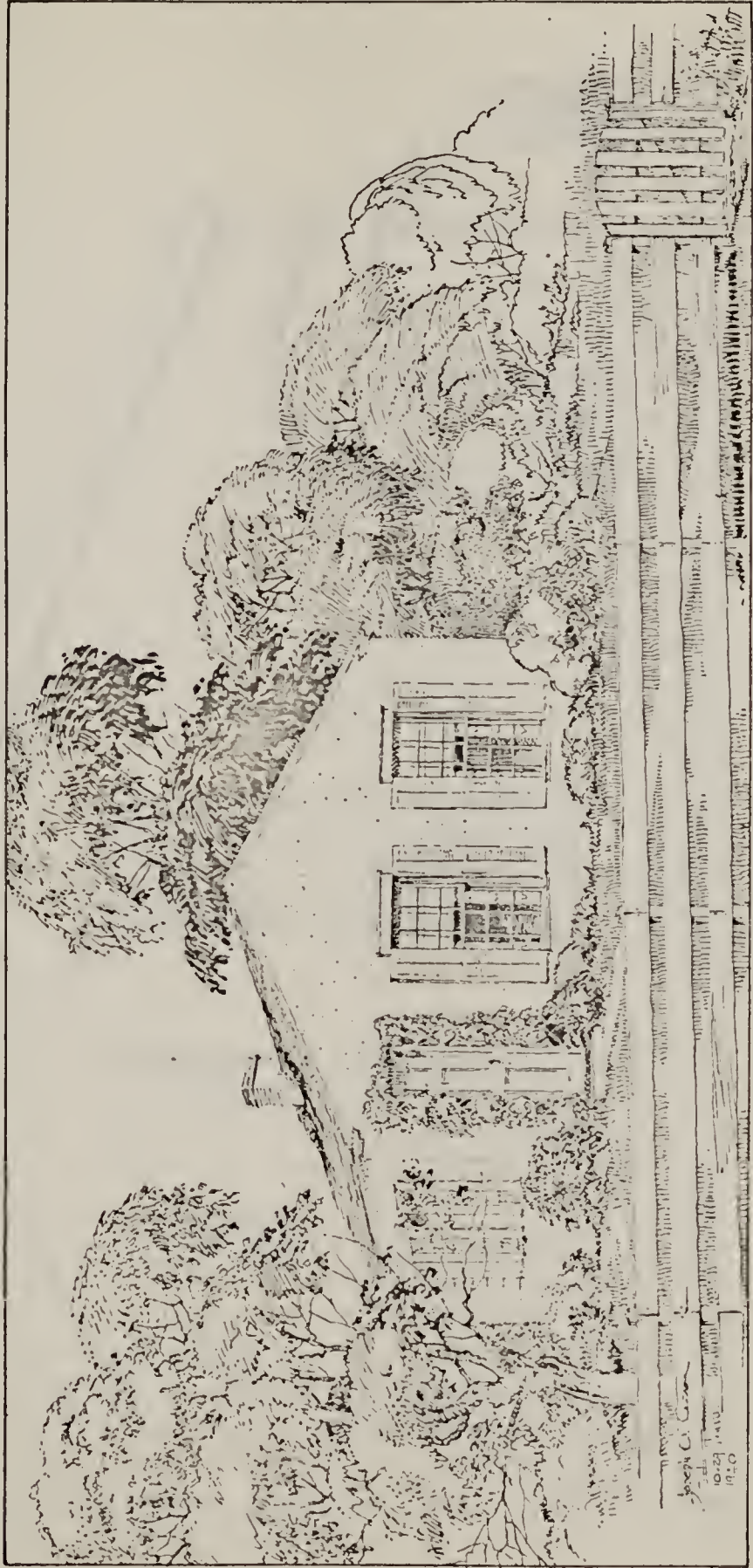
a common custom to-day. As the cash income of his father was limited, Henry had to finance his own education, especially that in the law. This gave him a training which enabled him throughout a long professional career to maintain a large family in more than comfortable circumstances. It was a factor, also, which cultivated in him a warm sympathy for struggling youths whom he aided at every opportunity throughout life.

He spent the first 33 years of his life in Bourbon County, most of the time a citizen of Paris. This early environment, of course, greatly influenced his life. At that time Paris was but a very small town, probably less than 1000 inhabitants, reaching a population of only 1217 by 1830. As often happens in sections where the land is valuable, the rural population decreases as wealthy land owners buy out the small holders of land. The inhabitants thus left in Bourbon County were not only the more wealthy but also the more intellectual of the people. This condition was due in part, also, as historians assert, to the fact that the best of the Revolutionary soldiers settled in Kentucky, and created its remarkable intellectual and social development. The people of Bourbon County, and of the state generally were patriotic as well as intellectual. They were staunch supporters of both state and nation, and it is not surprising, therefore, that Kentucky furnished more troops for the War of 1812 than any other state except Virginia. It is true that this is also due to the fact that many former Kentuckians had settled in the Northwest Territory, and had suffered greatly from Indian attacks.

To protect their former friends and neighbors, Kentuckians enlisted in large numbers in the War of 1812—the volunteers comprising many prominent men of the state—congressmen, judges, and other important officials, as well as prosperous business men and farmers. Several disastrous defeats of American forces by the British and their savage Indian allies resulted in the slaughter of many of the best citizens of the state, which so incensed the people that they determined upon vengeance.

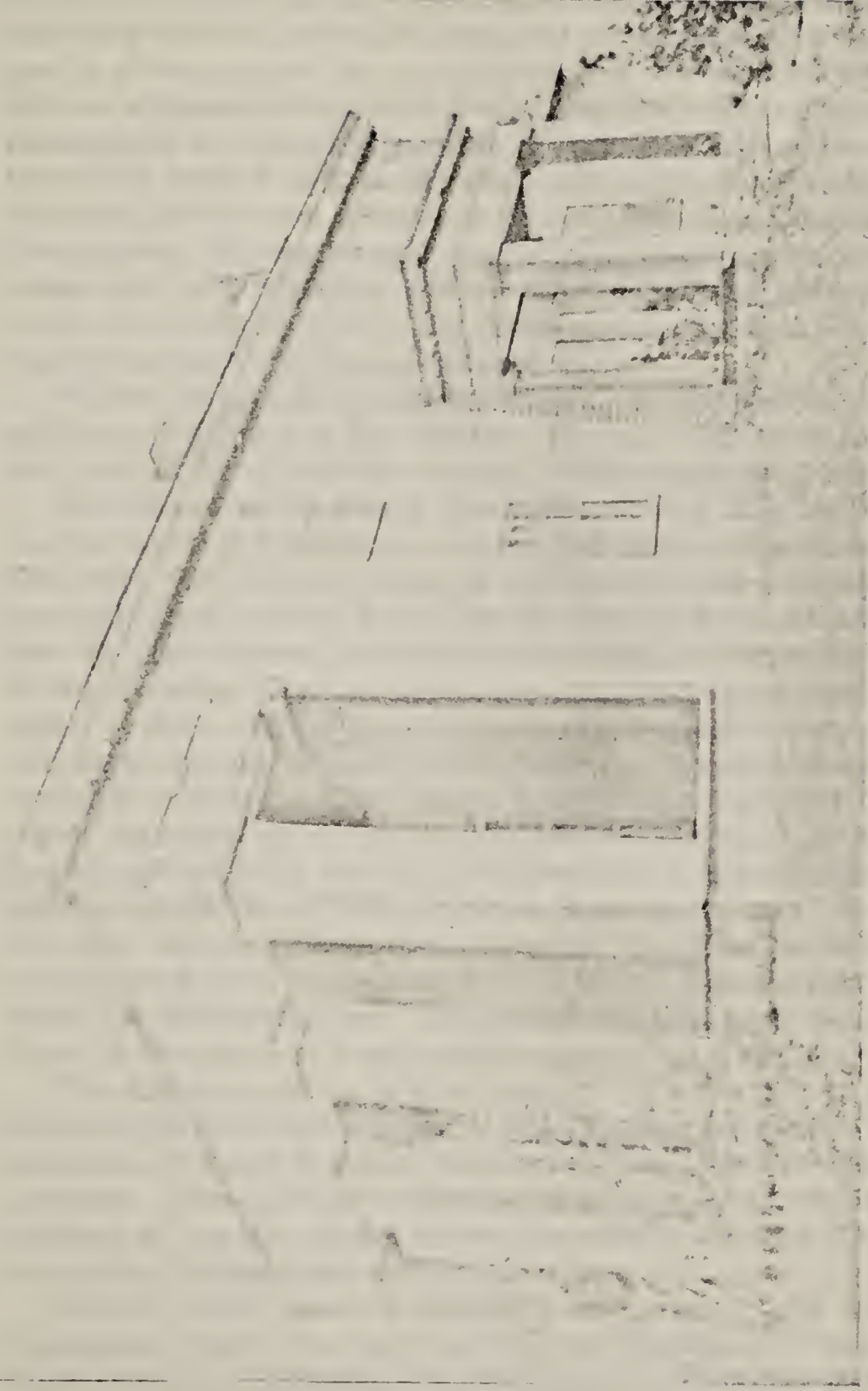
In politics, Bourbon County was strongly Whig—devoted followers of Henry Clay—and took a lively interest in political campaigns and public speaking. In that day it was generally true everywhere that membership in a party meant a strong personal allegiance which recognized nothing good in opposing parties and neither asked nor gave quarter in political conflicts.

Passing practically all of his formative years in a community such as Bourbon County, Thornton displayed throughout life the



FIRST HOME OF GEORGE A. AND MARY A. THORNTON

This sketch, based on a description from memory by the author, was made by Joseph Cezar, artist and architect associated with Maurice B. Thornton



RESIDENCE OF THOMAS V. THORNTON IN PAOLI

characteristics it instilled within him. He lived largely in the realm of the intellect—a well informed and successful lawyer, a student of men and affairs and a lover of good books. He was an unswerving Whig from the start and remained so even after the party began to disappear and become merged with the Republican party. He was a devoted follower of Henry Clay for whom he frequently campaigned as a forceful speaker in both state and national contests. He, himself held public office, serving in the legislature in 1813 and 14, and as a delegate to one of Kentucky's Constitutional Conventions. He was a ready and forceful speaker, supporting his theme with well organized and abundant facts, and in conformity to the custom of the time, using repartee and personalities, usually (but not always) in a good natured spirit.

He was interested in military affairs and belonged to the state militia even before the War of 1812. He was an officer in that war, and some of his experiences as such will be considered later.

At the age of 22 Henry Thornton married Martha Ward of Fayette County, Kentucky, of which Lexington is the county seat. The bride was 18 years of age at the time of their marriage. The ceremony took place in Paris, Nov. 3, 1805, and was conducted by Rev. William Forman, as shown by the entry on the public records in the Bourbon County court house in Paris—examined by the writer in June, 1935. How and where the couple first met and carried their romance to fruition is not known. If young Thornton attended Transylvania University at Lexington, opportunity of meeting might easily occur. Or possibly, his law practice took him into the adjoining county and to Lexington, but 18 miles distant. It is easy to picture the courtship in those "horse and buggy" days. The 18 miles between Paris and Lexington could be covered easily enough even then, in possibly 3 or 4 hours. Recently the writer made the distance by auto in about 30 minutes—one measure, at least, of the march of time in a little more than a century.

The young couple made their home in Paris the first 12 years—removing to Indiana about 1817. They became the parents of nine children—five sons and four daughters—"race suicide" then being unknown. Five of these children were born in Paris, the others in Indiana at various places where the family lived in its "trek" across the southern part of the state.

Martha Ward was the daughter of Benjamin and Elizabeth Thompson Ward, who were married in Virginia, but soon afterward moved to Kentucky, Fayette County. They had eight children, four boys and four girls whose names were: (1) Thompson,

(2) Martha (wife of Henry P. Thornton), (3) James, (4) William, (5) Abram, (6) Susan, (7) Joseph, (8) Melinda. Benjamin Ward was a man of influence in Fayette County. He was, however, stricken with consumption and died comparatively young. His wife, mother of Martha Ward Thornton, lived to an advanced age.

Most of the nine children of Henry P. and Martha Ward Thornton lived to maturity—two of them to advanced years. They were: (1) Caroline Theresa, b. Bourbon Co., 1806—d. Louisville, Ky., 1885. (2) Harriett Martha, b. Bourbon Co., 1808—d. Belleville, Ill., 1848. (3) Thomas Volney, b. Bourbon Co., 1810—d. New Albany, Ind., 1849. (4) Benjamin Thompson Ward, b. Bourbon Co., 1813—d. New Albany, Ind., 1837. (5) Susan Malinda, b. Bourbon Co., 1815—d. Salem, Ind., 1833. (6) Joseph Henry, b. Madison, Ind., 1818—d. Wyoming, Ohio, 1892. (7) George Abram, b. Lexington, Ind., 1821—d. Bedford, Ind., 1864. (8) Elizabeth Margaret, b. Lexington, Ind., 1824—d. Mitchell, Ind., 1877. (9) Jefferson Clay, b. Salem, Ind., 1827—d. Warrensburg, Mo., 1895.

I. Caroline became the wife of Samuel Woolfolk, who operated a line of steamboats on the Ohio River. She was the mother of several children, one of whom, Charles Thompson Woolfolk, lived in Bedford most of his life, serving in several public offices with efficiency and distinction. He was a man with many warm friends who held him in the highest esteem. He was closely associated with his Uncle George A. Thornton. He married Caroline Culbertson, daughter of Henry Culbertson, a leading citizen of the town and county. The couple became the parents of three fine children, Nellie, Henry and Marie. He died in middle life at Bedford and lies buried in the family lot of his uncle George A. Thornton.

II. Harriet Martha married Woodbridge Parker as her first husband by whom she was the mother of seven children as follows: (1) Maria Louisa,* (2) Daniel Webster, (3) Martha Abigail, (4) Susan Thornton, (5) Caroline Thompson, (6) Adaline Clorinda, (7) Cora Rosa.

(2) Daniel (Web) Parker married Elizabeth (Libbie) Curtis, lived in Bedford, engaging in the merchandising business with his brother-in-law, Winthrop Foot, under the firm name of "Foot and Parker." He was the father of two children, Cora, afterwards the wife of Thomas Leonard, and Alfred whose first wife was Gertrude Bowden. Cora was childless and lived in Florida. She and her hus-

* Maria Louisa was twice married, first to (a) Samuel Griffith, then to (b) R. B. Barron. Her descendants were three children and numerous grandchildren. This branch lived in another state and had little contact with the rest of the family.

band died and are buried in that state. Alfred (still living, 1939) is the father by his first wife of two daughters, Mabel and Harriet. Mabel is now the wife of Frank Cazee, now of Terre Haute, Ind., and mother of three children. Daniel, "Web," as he was commonly called, was long a substantial citizen of Bedford, respected for his integrity, ability, cordiality, and stanch Presbyterianism. Woodbridge Parker died in 1842 at the age of 46, and his widow, Harriet Martha, married Daniel Norris and removed to Belleville, Ill. She became the mother of two children by this marriage who had many descendants. She died in 1848 and was buried in the lot of her father in New Albany, Ind., beside her youngest daughter, Cora, and her first husband Woodbridge Parker.

(3) Martha Abigail married Thomas Braxtan, but died a year afterward.

(4) Susan Thornton married Thomas Bushnell, by whom she had one son, Webster.

(5) Caroline Thompson married Eliphalet D. Pearson, a successful and highly respected lawyer of Bedford, and later the circuit judge of his district. She was the mother of eleven children, four of whom died of diphtheria in childhood within a few weeks of each other, and an invalid daughter in later years. The six remaining are: Mabel, wife of Robert Houston, and the mother of Carl and several daughters. Caroline (Caddie) is the widow of Dr. John T. Freeland, for years the leading physician and surgeon of Bedford. She is the mother of Ruth (now Mrs. McLeod) and Frances, who died in 1936, as the wife of David Harper. Mrs. Freeland has always possessed fine characteristics and is now (1939) an esteemed leader in the social, civic and religious life of Bedford. Martha married first Dr. Johnson of Martinsville, by whom she was the mother of two sons. She is now (1939) the wife of a Mr. Eschelman, and lives in Marion, Ind. Henry Parker Pearson, followed the footsteps of his father and until his health failed, was a prominent lawyer in Bedford. He was once mayor of the city and represented Lawrence County in the state senate at one time. He married Dorothy Stevens of Evansville, Ind., a woman of ability and fine culture. He is the father of two worthy sons, John Dunn, and Henry, Jr. Cyrene (Rena) is the wife of Roy Cushwa and the mother of one son. Charles E. married Dorothy Reed and is now a very successful physician in Southern California, the father of several fine children.

(6) Adeline Clorinda Parker married Alfred Orton and lived in Monticello, Ind. She was an attractive woman of refinement and

poise. She was the mother of Julius, Ora, and Emma. Julius became a Presbyterian minister. He married Mary Hills, and became the father of Marjorie, and Richard Orton. Ora was unmarried, and was a successful teacher for many years. Emma died in infancy.

(7) Cora Rosa Parker died in early childhood and was buried in the lot of her grandfather, Henry P. Thornton in New Albany, Ind. It was the record of her burial which enabled Thomas V. Thornton, in recent years to locate the lot in Fairview Cemetery and secure funds from the family to properly mark the graves on the lot and provide for their perpetual upkeep.

III. The third child and the eldest son of Henry P. Thornton was Thomas Volney Thornton, usually called Volney. He was born in Bourbon County, coming to Indiana with his parents when about 7 years of age. He was a man of unusually good intellect and possessed personal characteristics which made him a popular leader in his community. He followed in the footsteps of his father, and became a successful lawyer, practicing first in New Albany, and later in Paoli, Ind. While living in New Albany, he served as City Clerk, and was a member of the legislature at one time. It was he who gave his younger brother, George, a start in life, assisting him in entering the legal profession by reading law in his office at Paoli, and later aiding George in securing the position of Deputy Clerk of Lawrence County, at Bedford, under Gustavus Clark.

Volney married Clorinda Coffin of Paoli, a member of a leading Quaker family of Orange County. As he was a devoted Presbyterian, Clorinda's church declared that she had "married" without the fold," and excommunicated her from the Quaker church. The couple had one child which died in infancy. He himself was never of strong physique, and in his late years was practically an invalid. He remained active, however, in his profession, and in his interests in community affairs. He served fourteen years as Clerk of the Court in Orange County, and took an active part in the affairs of Paoli. He gave the lot upon which the first Presbyterian church was erected, and assisted in its erection. A prominent street in the town bears his name, and the house he built for a residence—one of the finest of the early homes—still stands, although its original classic exterior was destroyed by a subsequent owner. The following is from an article on the house and its original owner in the *Paoli Republican* of March 15, 1934:

"The house was built about 1846 for Thomas Volney Thornton. The house originally had a high portico, supported by four large

square columns, extending across the west side. The Doric ornamentation of the frieze and cornice is identical with that used on the court house. The style of the house is classic. The house has ten rooms and a large attic, where the heavy hand hewn timbers, pegged together with wood, show the marks of the axe. The limestone chimneys seem as substantial as when built nearly one hundred years ago. The interior trim is of yellow poplar, and sawed, plain, painted white in excellent taste. A wide hall, with stairway, extends through the house from north to south. The large double parlors on the west side have high windows made in three sections. Each parlor has a fireplace with white painted wood mantel, the low shelf is supported by fluted columns, and a mantel frieze is in Greek key design. The hall doors are massive and have interesting trimming details. There are large, airy bedrooms and a wide hall upstairs. The admirable and convenient arrangement of the rooms shows thoughtful planning."

Volney Thornton, the first owner and builder, was a lawyer, aristocratic in appearance, tall, dark, handsome, intelligent, and well educated. He served as county clerk for fourteen years. He was a member of the court house building committee which was appointed in 1847. A slender marble shaft marks the grave of Volney Thornton on the north side of the old cemetery in Paoli. Near by is the grave of his little daughter, Harriet. His untimely death at the age of 39 years, cut short a promising career and his passing was widely mourned. He probably had more namesakes in Orange and adjoining counties than any other local citizen ever had.

It was in this beautiful home that George Thornton and Mary Braxtan were married, and the following day were given a large family party.

IV. The fourth child of Henry P. and Martha Ward Thornton was Benjamin Thompson Ward. He died in New Albany, Ind., at the early age of 24—a young man of great promise, but did not live long enough to establish himself in any calling. He was never married.

V. The fifth child, Susan Malinda, died at even a younger age than Benjamin, viz. 18 years. The family was then residing in Salem, Ind., and her remains are buried there.

VI. The sixth child, Joseph Henry, was perhaps more widely known than any other member of the family. He was born in Madison, Ind., on July 23, 1818—the first of the family born in Indiana. He began life as a lawyer, but early engaged in business, in his

late years as a broker in Cincinnati, Ohio. He was postmaster in that city for some years. At the outset of the Civil War, he enlisted in the Union army at Leavenworth, Ind., and was made colonel of a regiment. He served throughout the war with distinction, locating in Cincinnati after the war—the last years living in the resident suburb of Wyoming. He died April 27, 1892 at the age of 74 years, and is buried in Spring Grove Cemetery, Cincinnati, Ohio. He was evidently named for his mother's brother, Joseph Ward, and for his own father.

He was a well-read man, always devoted to the better things in life. He took great interest in his family history and possessed knowledge in that field which was extensive and which has contributed to this sketch. He married Miss Isabelle Leavenworth of Leavenworth, Indiana. To them were born four children: Martha Margaret, Henry Leavenworth, Mary Belle and Alice Caroline. The two younger daughters died in childhood. The last named met a tragic death at the early age of five or six years. A steam boiler blew up in the neighborhood of her home in Cincinnati, and a piece of it crushed out her life as she was jumping the rope on the sidewalk. Henry L. married Etta Nyman and one of his sons, Ward Thornton, attained some success on the stage, and later in business. Martha (Mattie) married Albert Allen of Cincinnati, and was the mother of two daughters and a son. Margaret, Edith, and Thornton Allen. The girls are now (1939) successful teachers in Los Angeles; Edith being married, and Thornton is a successful business man in that city. Henry L., his sister Margaret and his mother died in California and are buried in that state.

VII. George Abram Thornton, (father of the writer), the 7th child of Henry P. will be, together with his family, the subject of a subsequent chapter. Here it is only necessary to consider his place and position among his brothers and sisters. He was born Oct. 16, 1821, at Lexington, Scott County, Indiana, then the county seat, where his father located after leaving Madison. He died in Bedford, Ind., on Sept. 14, 1864, at the early age of 43 years. His last resting place is in Greenhill Cemetery, Bedford, and is marked by a dignified family monument.

VIII. Elizabeth Margaret, the 8th child, became the wife of Dr. J. C. Pearson. The couple first lived in Orleans, then in Mitchell, Ind. At the latter place she died in 1877, at the age of 53. She was born in Lexington, Ind., Feb. 20, 1824. She was the mother of Ella, Martha, (Mattie) Florence, Charles, George and Thomas. Ella was the wife of Park Tolliver and the mother of three sons, Wil-

liam, Ralph and Harry. Martha is now (1939) the widow of Sylvester W. Kendall, and the mother of Lyn and James. She is a woman of strong character, kindly and gracious in all her relationships, and courageous in the face of difficulties which, to many, would seem insurmountable. She has been for years untiring in her researches in family history and has contributed many of the facts contained in this sketch. Florence nobly assisted her sister, Martha, in caring for their father, Dr. Pearson, in his declining years, and is now contributing to the maintenance of the home in Indianapolis. Charles (Harry) has been an invalid most of his life. George was a successful clothier in Illinois for years, and band master of one of that state's leading musical organizations. He died in 1936. Thomas is now a traveling salesman, and makes his home with his two sisters in Indianapolis.

IX. Jefferson Clay Thornton, ninth child, was born in Salem, Ind., on Jan. 9, 1827, and died in Warrensburg, Mo., in 1895—age 68 years. He was the only college graduate among his brothers and sisters, having been graduated from Indiana University in 1848. He was a member of the Beta Theta Pi fraternity to which his three nephews, Thomas V., Henry C., the writer, the writer's son and grandson also belonged. He prepared for the Presbyterian ministry. After holding several charges elsewhere, he finally located at Warrensburg, Mo., where he spent most of his life, and died and is buried there. He married Katherine Bird and was the father of 11 children, eight of whom died in infancy. Those reaching maturity are, Fannie Bird, Charles Horace, James Clay. He was a man of fine culture and spirituality, and was successful in the ministry.

Eight years after the death of his first wife, Martha Ward Thornton, Henry P. married in New Albany a widow, Mrs. Ann Eliza Collins Thorne. From this union two children were born—Henry (Harry) P., Jr., Mary Frances (Frankie). Henry, Jr. married a very good woman of Lawrence County, near Bedford, Miss Isabelle Hobson, by whom he became the father of four beautiful children: Henry P. III, Earl, Margaret and Louise. Upon the death of their mother, when they were very young, they went to California to live with their Aunt "Frank." The latter's mother also went with them. The children's father, "Harry" after a second marriage, also went to California. All of this family have since died, and are buried in that state, except Henry III and Earl who are now (1939) in business in that state.

Thus this chapter briefly sketches the coming and going of this large family. One is reminded that,

“All the world’s a stage,
And all the men and women merely players.”

where each plays his little part, then makes his final exit, leaving the drama to be carried on by actors who enter after his brief scene is over.

CHAPTER V.

A PIONEER LAWYER, STATESMAN, SOLDIER IN KENTUCKY

The hard work of his early professional career brought success as then rated to Henry P. Thornton, and made him a popular leader in his community. He was esteemed for his integrity, sincerity and cordiality, and had a host of friends. He soon was earning a living ample enough to establish a comfortable home in Paris with his bride, Martha Ward. Almost at once the family began to increase and must have been a happy and well regulated one. The children's education was provided for—a task of no small difficulty in that early day. As previously narrated, the daughters grew up to gracious and capable womanhood; most of them married well and bore worthy sons and daughters. The sons followed the footsteps of their father, and entered professional careers with distinct success.

That Henry P. Thornton was respected and trusted by his fellow citizens is shown by the fact that he was elected to the state legislature of Kentucky, and was sent as a delegate to the state's constitutional convention. While his chief occupation for ten or more years in Bourbon County was the practice of law, he was also interested in farming, at one time owning 500 acres of land in an adjoining county. His brother, Benjamin, and his sister, Margaret, (wife of George See) lived on farms of their own adjacent to that of their father, Thomas—a few miles east of Paris.

His membership in the state legislature covered the sessions of 1812-1813 and 1813-1814, representing Bourbon County. In both sessions the journals show that he was an active member, and voted constructively on most of the measures presented. It is significant that his votes were usually on the winning side, although frequently "Nay." He was clearly opposed to special, hasty or partisan legislation and favored several acts upholding moral standards. He favored stricter gambling laws, covering "cards, dice, and backgammon," as well as "billiards." However he opposed including horse races under gambling regulations. He favored laws encouraging the manufacturing of salt and other industries. He voted for the revision of election and militia laws—for extending the power but simplifying the procedure of court officials—for the

simplification of tax laws—the payment of the state's national debt and for the relief of debtors. He was appointed to several important committees whose reports were usually adopted.

He was a speaker of ability and engaged frequently in political campaigns in behalf of his friends as well as for his own interests. In a campaign following the war of 1812, he took part effectively in support of his commanding officer in that war, Col. Richard M. Johnson, although he himself was a Whig and Johnson a Democrat. Johnson was a candidate for a second term in Congress, and found himself so hard pressed in his race that he called on Thornton for assistance. The victory was won, but was modestly ascribed by Thornton to the wounds received by Johnson in the war just closed. A few years later Col. Johnson was elected Vice-President of the United States on the ticket with VanBuren—a campaign in which he was again supported by Thornton. The Johnson family, headed by the Colonel, was long very influential in Kentucky politics and several members of the family held important state offices. Col. Johnson and Thornton were close, life-long friends, as testified to many years later in Thornton's address on the death of Johnson, delivered to the members of the Indiana Constitutional Convention of 1850, as it appears in the printed record of Convention's proceedings.

As a devoted follower, admirer, and supporter of Henry Clay, Thornton frequently spoke for Clay in his numerous campaigns. As one of the "War Hawks" who warmly advocated the war of 1812, Clay was strongly supported by Thornton, who was then less than 30 years of age. The dangers to which Kentuckians were continuously exposed on account of the savage Indians, and their but little less savage British allies, north of the Ohio—together with the lack of understanding and sympathy on the part of the people and leaders in the east, aroused young Thornton as it did his fellow citizens, and made him an enthusiastic supporter of "War Hawks" leadership. It is not surprising, therefore, that he not only advocated the war, but early enlisted in its service as an officer.

Strong, active, influential, a natural leader, he was asked by Col. Johnson to organize a company of mounted men to serve under Johnson, with William Henry Harrison as commander-in-chief. The company's quota was fully recruited, and drilling had been going on, when announcement of the British victory at Fort Meigs was made. This necessitated calling out the troops sooner than expected, and many of the men could not go at once. Accordingly the companies of Thornton and Coombs were combined and the leaders

drew lots to determine the captaincy. It went to Combs with Thornton as First Lieutenant. The company thus organized at once joined other troops under Johnson, the entire body of Kentucky troops being under the general command of Governor Selby.

Johnson's organization was unusual. The men were formed into a brigade of mounted infantrymen—an idea of Johnson's to make them a mobile army so that the enemy might be attacked rapidly and at unexpected points. The plan was opposed at first by Gen. Harrison, but Johnson's influence at Washington was great enough to secure the plan a trial and final acceptance by Harrison much to the advantage of his forces. The rendezvous of the Kentucky troops was in Scott County, from which point they crossed the Ohio River and marched through western Ohio to the region of the Great Lakes. In northern Ohio and Indiana, the Kentucky troops rendered valiant service frequently by putting the Indians to rout, and defeating their British allies. In these attacks, Johnson's mounted men were especially effective, surprising the Indians, destroying their villages, and striking again at a distant point before the Indians were aware of their presence.

The victory of Perry on the lake, made it possible to ferry across Lake Ontario to Canada, in pursuit of the enemy. The latter, British and Indians under General Procter, realized that they were being hotly pressed, and retreated to a spot they considered favorable on the Thames River some 75 miles east of Detroit. There they vigorously met the attack of the Americans—4000 strong, mostly Kentuckians. The number of troops under Procter is not known, but greatly exceeded that of the Americans. Early in the battle, Johnson's mounted men were ordered by Gen. Harrison to attack the Indians under Tecumseh who had stationed themselves behind brush piles and fallen tree limbs. In the assault the horses became useless and the troops were ordered to dismount and advance on foot into what turned out to be a hand-to-hand encounter. Johnson at the head of his men, was viciously attacked and so severely wounded that he had to be carried off the field, but not before he had killed several of the enemy, including Tecumseh. While there is some doubt, shared by Johnson himself, that it was he who killed Tecumseh, he was sure that he shot down a notable Indian chief—probably Tecumseh—as that great leader was never seen again, and the Indian confederation which he attempted to form rapidly broke up after the Battle of the Thames.

The engagement was a bloody one but was soon over. The British were early put to rout, Procter fleeing for his life and

leaving his Indian allies to be defeated decisively by Johnson's troops. Young Thornton went into this battle by the side of his commander, Johnson, but fortunately received minor injuries only. His stalwart form, his agility, his quickness of mind, undoubtedly had much to do with saving his life in this conflict, and making him a valiant soldier. This battle brought the most decided defeat which befell the British during the entire war in the west, and effectively broke their power and that of their Indian allies. It also avenged, to some degree, the slaughter of Kentuckians earlier in the conflict, and brought just fame to Col. Johnson, Governor Selby and General Harrison. In all the movements of Johnson's troops, Thornton took active part, but he made so little of his participation therein that this experience has had inadequate consideration in accounts of his life.

After his services in the war, young Thornton resumed his law practice and continued to take an active part in politics. He continued his interests in the civic and social affairs of his community and was always constructive in thought and deed. In passing, it will be interesting to note the origin of the name of his county and its county seat. It was one of the early counties formed in Kentucky—about the time that France was held in high esteem as a friend of America. Accordingly, the name of the ruling family in France was given the county, and that of that country's capitol to the county seat. The county was settled largely by Virginians and North Carolinians, and was chiefly pure American stock from those states.

While reasonably prosperous in Bourbon County, Thornton's growing family made it desirable to take advantage of any new opportunity which offered. During their residence in Paris, from 1805 to 1815—five children—three daughters and two sons—were born to Henry and Martha. A new state, Indiana, adjacent to his own, was admitted to the Union in 1816. The opportunities for a lawyer in such a state were inviting, and offered a challenge to an ambitious young man. To be sure, it required courage to break away from all the ties of family and profession and politics, and to re-locate a family of seven in a new country. But Thornton and his wife were equal to the task and eager to meet the challenge offered them. Accordingly soon after 1816 (probably the next year) the family removed to Madison, Jefferson County, Indiana. The spirit which actuated this move was, of course, the spirit of the pioneer—the same as that which had prompted the father, Thomas, to break away from his native Irish surroundings and cross the

ocean to find new opportunities in America. This eager seeking for new lands and new chances has been the moving spirit which has builded America—the greatest nation in history—and it is with justifiable pride that one finds one's ancestors have been important factors in this great achievement.

CHAPTER VI.

THE TREK IN INDIANA

Madison, the new home of the Thorntons in Indiana, was the gate-way to the new state. In earlier years, it was the "port of entry" to the wilderness north of the Ohio River. River navigation was the easiest, and for many years, the only means of reaching the Northwest Territory from the east. Madison, although a village of less than 500 inhabitants, was the "emporium" of the region, and afforded marked commercial, professional, and social opportunities. Moreover it was the nearest settlement of any consequence in the new state to the Kentucky home of the Thorntons. Thus it is readily apparent why this place was selected as the beginning of their new venture.

At that time, Indiana was in its earliest pioneer days. Its settled section if, indeed, any of its area could be called settled) comprised only the most southern counties bordering on the Ohio River and a few adjoining counties. All of these were but "back woods" settlements, with the nucleus only of the civilization which was to come.

From the viewpoint of today (1939), it is still difficult, indeed, to picture the crudity and ruggedness of Indiana from 1816 to 1835 and even later days. Cultivated fields were still covered with girdled standing trees. Improved farms sold for five and ten dollars per acre. There was little money in the country and produce brought very low prices. Wood, cut stove length, sold for \$1.00 per cord. Corn, 10 cents, wheat 25 cents per bushel. Board, including meals and lodging, at private homes was \$1 to \$2.50 per week, and at best hotels, \$2.50 per week. Lawyers' fees were in proportion to these prices—\$250 to \$400 per year. The income of most of the pioneers came from bartering, and little money was received by any one. In 1817 there were few white settlements and these were largely in the towns, on or near the Ohio River.

Transportation and communication of all kinds were very poor. There were no roadways—only Indian or buffalo trails. There were, as yet, no canals, and of course, no railroads. Telegraphy had not been discovered. There were no bridges. Travel was chiefly on horseback or afoot. Not a carriage nor a buggy, and few wagons were in the state. It is said the first buggy was brought to

Connersville from the east, but could be little used. An entry in the court records of Washington County, discovered by the writer in 1938, discloses a mail route typical of those provided in Indiana in 1830. The entry sets out the contract with a mounted mail carrier for one year, beginning January 1829. The remuneration was \$350 per year, payable \$87.50 quarterly. The route was as follows: From Brownstown by Leesville, Bedford, Bloomington, Spencer and Bowling Green to "Tarehut;" the schedule required leaving Brownstown every Thursday at 4 A.M. and arriving at "Tarehut" every Saturday at 6 P.M. Returning, following the same schedule, arriving at Brownstown on Tuesday at 6 P.M.

THE PRACTICE OF LAW IN EARLY INDIANA

Practically all lawyers in pioneer days were self-made men who had to secure their education as best they could. Few were able to attend even the small county seminaries or the colleges then beginning to spring up. They had to secure their legal education by "reading law" in some generous attorney's office. Those among them who were gifted by nature with vigorous and keen intellects and good health were successful. Their profession was not an easy one. They had to know the law and court procedure, but also had to be "good mixers" and make friends over a wide area. The counties where they lived furnished too little business, and progressive attorneys "rode the circuits" in pursuit of business. Some circuits were quite large—for instance the one extending from Brookville to Fort Wayne, after the more northern parts of the state began to be settled. All "circuit riders" rode good horses—the best the country afforded. They were usually valued at about \$60, which was the highest price of the day. The animals were trained for traveling and knew how to negotiate the worst roads, to follow winding trails through thick forests, to swim rivers, and in general to carry their masters, with his saddle bags—often well filled and heavy—through all sorts of long devious journeys. These horses often bore fantastic names, such as "Wrangler," "Blue Dick," "Big Sorrel," "Red Jacket," "Grey Fox," and "Dancing Rabbit."

In trying cases, opposing attorneys were often bitter and sarcastic toward each other, but outside the court room, members of the bar were like brothers, and rode their circuits in close comradeship, finding much to interest them and to satisfy their desire for adventure in the variety of trials and incidents which confronted

them. Not infrequently they found the small pioneer taverns overcrowded, and it became necessary to cast lots to determine who should occupy the beds the first half of the night—the less fortunate ones taking the second half. In all such associations there was good humor, plenty of fun, fine jokes and good natured raillery among themselves and other guests and the cheerful landlords.

The food furnished in taverns was ample and wholesome, but limited in variety and of course such as the crude pioneer resources afforded. Corn bread or pones with boiled squirrel and sassafras tea was often the bill of fare. In their journeys about the circuits attorneys sometimes rode in small "cavalcades" of six or more, but they usually rode the trails alone. Their faithful horses, usually well bred, carried them almost unguided through almost pathless forests, sometimes passing under low hanging branches which played havoc with the rider's tall hat. These splendid horses swam rivers, traversed rocky hillsides and muddy roads and endured all sorts of weather and brought their masters, with a heavy load of important papers, safely and surely to their destination. Streams are usually considered the all important means of travel in early times, but willing and sturdy horses were the most common factors in the transportation of pioneer days and deserve an honored place in the history of every nation's development.

Pioneer attorneys were ready off-hand practitioners, quick to meet the demands of almost any occasion. As O. H. Smith says, in speaking of his own experience, "*Sometimes we had to meet attorneys from other states who would fling in Latin and technical terms with triumphant air, but in most cases they were foiled by the quick return of our bar.*" Lawyers in the early days were active in politics—a larger percentage then than now. The explanation is not hard to find. Dealing with public officials of their day, at a time when new communities were constantly springing up which required legal organization and guidance—leadership readily rested upon the shoulders of those qualified to assume it—usually trusted lawyers. Then, more than in after years, the office sought the man. Attorneys, as experienced speakers, frequently engaged in political campaigns even if they did not desire public office themselves. Politics were taken seriously in that day and those who fought its battles were filled with the spirit of crusaders in a most righteous cause. The strongest members of the bar were naturally the most constant and valiant defenders of their political faith.

The campaign of 1840 was typical of many others. For governor of Indiana, Judge Bigger, Whig, was pitted against Tilman A. Howard, Democrat, and for President of the United States, William Henry Harrison, Whig, opposed Martin VanBuren, Democrat. Says O. H. Smith: "*This was the greatest and most exciting political contest I ever witnessed in the state. At the time, I was chairman of the Whig Central Committee and made the appointments for meetings over the state, appointed the speakers, attended many of the meetings and spoke continually by day and by night. Our best speakers were filled with enthusiasm and untiring zeal. We had on our side such men as George G. Dunn, Richard W. Thompson, Henry S. Lane, Newton Claypool, Schuyler Colfax, William McKee Dunn, Jeremiah Sullivan, William S. Coffin, HENRY P. THORNTON, James Rariden, Joseph N. Cravens, P. A. Hackleman, Conrad Baker, and others of the same character. The campaign closed with a great torch light procession at Indianapolis; the first of the kind I had ever seen in the state. The parties vied with each other in the brilliancy of their transparencies, the bands playing beautifully, the whole heavens lighted up with rockets and the streets filled with bonfires. The sounds of music, singing, explosions of rockets and huzzas of the multitude rose above the voices of the speakers. Thus ended (near midnight) the memorable contest of 1840 by the election of Judge Bigger, Governor, and General Harrison, President, both by overwhelming majorities.*"

At the time of the arrival in Madison, about 1817, of Henry P. Thornton and family he was 34 years of age and the father of five children—three daughters and two sons. In his day this was not a large family, although in the present day it would be so considered, and held to be "quite out of style." In his day fashion had not decreed the limitation of offspring and the conditions of pioneer life made it possible and desirable to obey the scriptural injunction to "increase and multiply." The young couple was vigorous and strong, and the family thus started was later increased to nine, all of the children growing to maturity—three of them living beyond man's allotted "three score and ten." Young Thornton's law practice in Madison was even more successful than it had been, and he took an active part in the business, political and social affairs of the community. He early formed a partnership with a leading attorney of the town, Alexander A. Meck. The firm of Meck and Thornton handled much of the legal business of Jefferson County and were generous in assisting worthy young men to get a start in the law. Among those thus assisted

was a law partner of Mr. Thornton and
 was J. F. D. Lanier who later became a financier of note and gave valuable financial aid to Indiana's war governor, Oliver P. Morton during the Civil War. The Lanier home in Madison is now (1939) one of the show places of Indiana—a part of the state's park system.

Besides his law practice Thornton engaged in commercial ventures now and then. One of these seems to have been a general store with a partner by the name of Lee. Court records in Jefferson County show a suit against "Thornton & Lee, tradesmen" and discloses the fact that the business failed, although the amount involved was small—\$300. Experiences similar to this in the life of Thornton may be found in court records of other counties where he lived, and indicate that, outside of his profession, he was not successful. This is no doubt due, in part, to the fact that he was too generous with his competitors. It has been said of him by those who knew him personally, that even in the practice of his profession, he was inclined to let his antagonist take advantage of him.

Among his important activities outside of his practice, was his leadership in the organization of the Grand Lodge of Freemasonry. He had been active in Masonry in Bourbon County and early saw the importance of establishing a Grand Lodge in Indiana. After considerable work and correspondence the movement was carried out, and the Grand Lodge was organized at Madison on January 12, 1818, and Thornton was made the first grand secretary. While devoted to Masonry, as his activity in its promotion clearly shows, he was not in sympathy with some of its ritualistic customs, especially public parades in full regalia. He publicly criticised such a parade one day in Madison, and was promptly called by the Grand Lodge for an explanation. This he gave with an apology and was only reprimanded. This was the first trial held by the Grand Lodge in Indiana. A full account may be found in the history of Masonry in this state.

After three or four years in Madison, Mr. Thornton, then thirty-seven years of age, began his quest for newer and better professional opportunities in Indiana. While he was not a "rolling stone," he was ambitious and eager to succeed and to promote his best interests. No doubt his growing family gave him the incentive to try new fields, however great the difficulties he must encounter. An addition to his family had come in Madison—the birth of a third son, Joseph H. in July, 1818. During his lifetime in Indiana, Mr. Thornton moved from place to place—always relocating in communities which, at the time, were the most progressive and pros-

perous in the state. The following is the list of his places of residence where he practiced his profession and took part in politics; with the approximate dates and length of residence in each:

Madison, Jefferson County, 1817-1820, three years.

Lexington, Scott County, 1820-1825, five years.

Salem, Washington County, 1825-1834, nine years.

New Albany, Floyd County, 1834-1860, twenty-six years.

Bedford, Lawrence County, 1860-1865, five years.

Lexington, the place to which he removed about 1820, was the first county seat of Scott County, which adjoined Jefferson County on the west. Scott County had just been organized and offered advantages to a young lawyer not found in the older community at Madison. He was the first prosecuting attorney of Scott County, appointed by Indiana's first governor, Jonathan Jennings. The entry on the docket of Scott County is as follows:

"First day of the April term, 1820—The court then proceeded to the appointment of Henry P. Thornton as P. A. for the county of Scott. Who was accordingly sworn into office."

He at once became a leader in organizing the legal machinery of the county. He designed and caused to be adopted the official seal for use of the circuit court as the following record shows:

"Friday morning, second day of the April Term, 1820. On motion of Henry P. Thornton, Esq., ordered that James S. White, agent, for the county of Scott be instructed to contact with some fit person for a seal for the use of the Circuit Court of said county and that the following be the device. The Goddess of Justice and Liberty holding in her left hand the scales of justice, in her right hand a bundle of rods as an emblem of our union—the size of the seal to be one and one-half inches in diameter and the words 'Scott Circuit Court' engraved there about in large capitals."

Another entry suggests the remuneration attorneys and other officials often received. In 1820 the court ordered the payment of \$10 to Henry P. Thornton, attorney, for one term of court. At the time when so little money was in circulation, this small sum was quite ample for the terms of court, usually short (two or three days) and with but few simple cases on the docket.

About 1897 the writer asked a friend whose home was in Lexington, to ascertain if any one still living had a remembrance of "Major" Thornton, as he was then called. The report was that one of the oldest inhabitants could faintly recall such a personage; that he was tall and slender and always well dressed. He usually wore a tall hat, and over his shoulders was an ample cloak. He was a

prominent citizen and was greatly respected. This is about the picture of his appearance given by his contemporaries at other periods of his life. During his years in Lexington, as was the custom, he regularly practiced in the courts of other counties, some of them remote from Scott County, as the records show.

It is probable that the acquaintanceship which riding the circuit brought him, led Major Thornton to seek new locations as often as he did. After about five years in Lexington, where his family had been further increased by a son, George Abram (father of the writer) and Elizabeth Margaret—the former born in 1821 on October 16, the latter in 1824, on February 20—the family moved to Salem, Washington County. That little village was then the “Athens” of Indiana. It early had a strong bar, numbering among its members some of the most brilliant and noted lawyers in the state. It was noted for its educational interests, for its newspapers, for its writers, and for leaders in civil and commercial affairs known beyond the borders of the county. Here Mr. Thornton, then in his early forties, took up his residence about 1825. During the time he lived here, his practice increased notably—his cases being chiefly in commercial and probate fields. He also represented the county in the state legislature in two or more sessions, the journals showing him to be an active and constructive member. He served as chairman of the judiciary committee; represented the House in impeachment proceedings against a justice of the peace; introduced many amendments to laws, one of them to prevent selling “ardent spirits to Indians;” offered a law to abolish capital punishment; presented petitions for the incorporation of railroads, especially one from Woodbridge Parker and other citizens of Washington County praying for the passage of a law for the incorporation of the New Albany, via Salem to Indianapolis railroad. During the session of 1830, Thornton, with other members and a number of citizens, organized the Historical Society of Indiana on December 11, 1830. Thornton was drafted secretary of the meeting which adopted the necessary by-laws, name, etc. The original record of this meeting, together with the entire constitution and by-laws are in the handwriting of Mr. Thornton, and may be seen in the original minute book now (1939) in the Delavan Smith Historical library in the State Library building, Indianapolis.

While living in Scott County, Mr. Thornton represented that county in the legislature which then met in Corydon. Here he served as clerk of the house in more than one session, the legisla-

ture then meeting annually. A document, brief but interesting, relating to this period, is also in the Smith Library—a certificate, written by Thornton, and signed by him as clerk of the house, and by the clerk of the senate, appointing Samuel Merrill state treasurer. Some of the interesting bills considered by the legislature in Corydon with which Mr. Thornton was concerned were the following: On the formation of new counties in the New Purchase; on debts and debtors; on state roads; on sales of lots in the new capitol, Indianapolis; on the erection of a court house in Marion County, first mentioned as "Center County"; on granting divorces; on impeachment of justices of the peace. It is to be noted that the legislature then concerned itself with local and special legislation. It was, in fact largely, this provision of the first constitution, imposing on the legislature so much special legislation, that it became "swamped" as the population grew, which made necessary a new, or at least a revised, constitution.

While residing in Salem, the Thornton family was increased by the birth of another son, Jefferson Clay. However, it suffered a loss here of a young daughter, Susan Malinda, who died at the early age of 18 years. Here also, his second daughter, Harriet Martha, was married to Woodbridge Parker, a well known and respected business man of Salem. Mr. Parker was active in Masonry, being elected Grand Master at Salem in October, 1832. (See "History of Masonry in Indiana," by McDonald, pp. 344-345). He ranked as a fine ritualist and lecturer. A daughter of Woodbridge and Harriett M. Parker—Harriet by name—became the first wife of Thomas Newby Braxton, whose sister, Mary Braxton became the wife of George A. Thornton. Harriet Braxton lived but a year after marriage.

Upon a visit to Salem in 1938 to search court records, etc., the writer found references in the records which enabled him to locate the house in which Mr. Thornton lived while in Salem. It is located on lots 127 and 128, near the corner of Poplar and Water streets, one square west of the court house. It is now in very bad repair and used as a flour mill and feed store. In its prime it was evidently a pretentious building—a two story brick with ornamental iron grill work for porch railing, black walnut finish inside, winding stairway leading to large bedrooms. This house was probably the birthplace of Jefferson Thornton in 1827, and the home of George Abram in his early boyhood.

After a residence of approximately nine years in Salem, Major Thornton removed to New Albany, Indiana, about 1835. This little

city was then the largest in the state—the “emporium” as it were of the commonwealth. Here he lived longer than anywhere else—here he passed what were probably his most productive and prosperous years, through his fifties and sixties and well along into his seventies. The next chapter will deal in some detail with his activities during this period of his life. Here sorrow as well as success was his lot. His wife, Martha Ward Thornton, died June 17, 1837, at the comparative early age of fifty years. In the same year a few months later, his son, Thompson Ward Thornton, a promising young man who had prepared himself for the legal profession, died at the age of twenty-four. He bore the name of his mother’s parents. He was never married. Major Thornton’s daughter, Harriett (whose second husband was a Mr. Norris) her first husband, Woodbridge Parker, and their little daughter, Cora, also passed away during his residence in New Albany. All lie buried in Fairview Cemetery, New Albany, on Lot No. 12, Range 5, Plat No. 3. These five graves remained unmarked until 1915 when they were located almost by chance by Thomas V. Thornton while working in New Albany as a State examiner of Accounts. Through his leadership and energy, a subscription was secured from surviving descendants of Henry P. Thornton about 1915, which provided suitable markers for each grave and a fund for the perpetual upkeep of the lot. In 1935 the writer went to New Albany and inspected this lot and the cemetery and found everything well cared for. Fairview Cemetery, the city cemetery of New Albany, is well located, is now under careful supervision, and is the last resting place of prominent citizens of the city and surrounding country.

About 1860, at the age of seventy-seven, feeling the weight of years of active practice and public service, Major Thornton moved to Bedford, Indiana, where his son George A. Thornton was a successful banker. He formed a law partnership with this son, although the latter took little part in the business of the firm. The son assisted him in the purchase of a home, located at what is now (1939) the southeast corner of 17th and M Streets. Here he passed the remaining years of his life, cultivating a fine garden of flowers and vegetables, and carrying on an active, but diminishing, practice at the bar in Lawrence and adjoining counties. During the Civil War, although far beyond the age of enlistment in the army, he stanchly supported the cause of the Union by speech and deed, and gave it all the assistance an influential patriot could give. On June 6, 1865, at the age of eighty-two, he passed to his reward—his son having preceded him in death by less than a year. His

monument stands on a lot adjoining that of his son in Green Hill Cemetery in Bedford. Throughout his life he had been a capable, painstaking lawyer, and a constructive, honorable leader in all the best interests of the communities in which he lived, and of his adopted state, and died respected and honored by all who knew him throughout the state.

CHAPTER VII.

PROFESSIONAL AND PUBLIC LIFE IN INDIANA

During pioneer years in a new country, business is not highly organized and is conducted on a small scale and along but few lines. There are few, if any, corporations and commerce is carried on largely by individuals, or, at most, by partnerships. Dealings among the people, and with their government are simple and direct. Markets are limited largely because of poor transportation, but also because production does not greatly exceed local requirements. Population is sparse, and transactions among the people are comparatively few and on simple terms. Prices are low and little money circulates.

Criminal acts, even though comparatively frequent, are elementary and usually committed by individuals rather than by rings and cliques. Courts are few, their sessions short, and cases tried before them—both civil and criminal—are simple and brief.

Under such conditions, the practice of law usually would be simple and common place—much of it of a routine nature. The practice of Major Thornton—both in Kentucky and in Indiana—was largely concerned with business deals, such as the collection of debts, the closing of estates, the organization and disposition of partnerships, and the settlement of bankrupt cases. Now and then, so far as shown in old records which have been searched, he handled divorce cases, trials of counterfeiters, thieves and other such malefactors. Although research in old court records has by no means been exhaustive, no murder trials have been found in which he participated, although he may have been connected with some such cases. His fidelity to the strict interpretation of the law, and his refusal to resort to the sharp practices which criminal lawyers so often used, doubtless tended to preclude his employment in criminal trials.

As the law and custom required, Mr. Thornton was formally admitted to the bar in every county in which he practiced. Records of such a formality appear in the court records of proceedings of the time. One of these entries may be of special interest to the readers of these pages. He was first admitted to the Lawrence County bar in June 1823 at Palestine—the first county seat of the county. Palestine was located on a bluff on the west bank of the

east fork of White River, about eight or ten miles southeast of Bedford. Cholera and other diseases raged throughout the region around 1820 and the place, which at one time had high hopes of being selected as the capital of the state, was found so unhealthy that its removal was finally determined upon. An act of the state legislature in 1825 provided for the relocation of the village on the site of the original town of Bedford. Accordingly, the public square and all lots with numbers the same as in Palestine, were laid off at the new site—even the channel of the river appearing on the new plat. It is probable, also, that the slope of the public square was provided for in the Bedford site, as there is an evident resemblance in the two sites in this respect. The act of the legislature provided that, within a specified time, residents of Palestine should relocate themselves on lots in the new site corresponding to their lots in the old site—no expense being entailed for this exchange of lots. The plan was not acceptable to all citizens, evidently, as the time limit had to be extended more than once, and penalties finally provided for failure to conform to the limits set. The relocation was finally completed. The site of Palestine has long since reverted to nature, and years ago when visited by the writer, only a few bricks could be found to indicate the spot.

During his long practice, Mr. Thornton frequently had cases before the supreme court of the state. There as elsewhere, he was associated with the leading lawyers whose names will always be prominent in the legal history of the state. Among these were George G. Dunn, Ashbel P. Willard, James Whitcome, William McKee Dunn, George V. Howk, George A. Bicknell, James W. Kelso, Randall Crawford, Thomas L. Smith, and Benjamin Parker. Mr. Thornton conducted his law practice alone usually, but there are records of several partnerships from time to time. The first of these appears to be that of "Thornton & Meek" in Madison. Others while in Salem were "Thornton & Thomas" and "Thornton & Kirby."

Besides his law practice, Mr. Thornton always found time to aid the promotion of what he considered the best interests of his community. While he was an ardent Whig all his life, he did not place party allegiance first in local affairs, although such an attitude was then quite unusual. He was firm in his faith in Christianity, although his participation in church activities was not especially notable. He was a consistent member of the Presbyterian Church all his life, and gave it hearty allegiance, at one time aiding the organization of a congregation and the erection of a building for that denomination. That his adherence to his church was pro-

nounced is evidenced by its influence upon his children, all of whom were devout members of the Presbyterian church and strong in its support. One son, Thomas V. Thornton, while a resident of Paoli, Indiana, donated the lot upon which, by his assistance, a church edifice in which the congregation worshipped for many years, was erected.

Mr. Thornton's public activities were not limited to local welfare, but extended also to state affairs. As in Kentucky, he was a member of the state legislature in several sessions, both in the old capitol at Corydon and in Indianapolis. Sessions were then held annually, and he was a member of the fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth, ninth, and tenth sessions held in 1820, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25 in Corydon and was Asst. Clerk of the house in the sixth and seventh sessions, and Clerk in the eighth, ninth and tenth sessions. Also while a resident of Salem, he represented Washington County in the session of 1830-31. He was a member of several important committees, frequently serving as chairman of legislative committees.

Some of his views as a legislator are indicated by the Journal of Proceedings of the general assembly. For instance, he favored the maintenance of canals, and later the incorporation of railroads. He was very active in promoting the New Albany and Salem railroad—now a part of the Monon line. He made many motions favoring amendments of laws to make them less formal and more practicable in their application. Although he and others of his family were slave owners in Kentucky, he strongly opposed slavery in Indiana in the face of many efforts to establish it in the state, and he always upheld the rights of colored citizens of the state. He supported a motion on restricting the sale of "ardent spirits," and was favorable to a proposal to abolish capital punishment. In the sixteenth session, of which he was a member from Washington County, he served as chairman of the important judiciary committee.

Also while a member of this sixteenth session, he joined other members and citizens, as stated in the previous chapter, in organizing the "Indiana Historical Society." The meeting was held at night in an upper room of the old Marion County Courthouse, then used also as the State House, on December 11, 1830—the fourteenth anniversary of Indiana's admission to the Union. As already stated Henry P. Thornton was the first secretary of this society, and wrote the minutes of this first meeting. A charter was granted the society by act of the legislature on January 10, 1831. News-

paper accounts of the founding of this society, issued on its one hundredth anniversary, December 11, 1930, mention facts pertinent to this sketch.

"In an upper room of the old courthouse, dimly lighted with candles, and warmed inadequately by an altogether inadequate fireplace there gathered, on the evening of December 11, 1830, a group of legislators, residents and visitors to organize the society which was to preserve the records of the state." The names of the first officers and members are given, including that of Mr. Thornton, followed by this comment:

"These are the names of men who were the important part of the early history of Indiana, and it is fortunate that the society's roster has preserved them. Many of these men were probably members of the general assembly of that day. Every one of them deserves a memorial biographical sketch. Their lives were a part of Indiana history."

In addition to his law practice, his legislative activities, and his contributions to local interests, Mr. Thornton often took part in political campaigns, usually on behalf of the Whig party, and its candidates. One notable exception was his campaign in Kentucky for Col. Richard M. Johnson. He and Johnson were life-long friends (associated, as we have noted, in the war of 1812). Although Johnson belonged to the Democratic party, Thornton gave him whole-hearted allegiance and support in his campaigns for congress and for the Vice Presidency of the United States. Mr. Thornton was a friend and strong supporter of Henry Clay, and always gave him all the assistance in his power. Johnson joined him in the campaign of the "War Hawks" in support of Clay for the presidency in 1824.

Mr. Thornton was a speaker of ability and force. After the manner of the time, his speeches were somewhat formal, dignified, contained frequent references to Greece and Rome, and, especially in his law practice, marked by use of Latin words and phrases. Also, according to custom, they abounded in keen but good-natured sarcasm and "cracks" at his opponents. They were logical expositions of his views, based, especially in his later years, upon extensive knowledge of the law, and of the principles of government. That his opinions were esteemed is indicated by his record in the Constitutional Convention of Indiana of 1850, as shown in the two volume publication of the "Speeches and Debates" of that body.

The conditions which made a greatly revised or a new constitution for the state necessary have been previously stated. Under

an act of the legislature, the people voted for a constitution convention to be held in Indianapolis in the fall of 1850. An election of delegates followed, and Henry P. Thornton elected Whig delegate from Floyd County (New Albany), and the Hon. P. M. Kent, then editor of the "New Albany Ledger," was chosen the Democratic delegate. New Albany was at that time probably the largest city in the state. William H. English, Democratic candidate for the Vice Presidency of the United States in 1880, was secretary of this convention, and shortly before his death had gathered much material for an account of the convention and biographies of its members. Unfortunately, he did not live to complete the undertaking. Some of this material is now (1939) in the Smith room of the Indiana State Library, but most of it is in the library of Chicago University.

Throughout the convention, Mr. Thornton served on one of its most important committees, that of "Courts and Court Procedure." One of the chief purposes of the convention was to make provision in the new constitution for radical changes in the system of courts and for modernizing court procedure. Under the old constitution, trials were conducted under discredited practices inherited from early English procedure—not unlike that pictured by Dickens in his "Jarndice vs. Jarndice." Under such procedure, cases had to be presented on certain forms and under certain narrow rules or they were thrown out of court. In one of his addresses in the convention, Mr. Thornton showed how just claims were lost and not even brought to trial, simply because wrong legal forms were used. Also, the system of courts had proven inadequate, thwarting and greatly delaying justice.

An examination of Mr. Thornton's discourses before the convention will disclose his constructive contributions as an influential leader, toward incorporating in the new constitution provisions for greatly improving the whole system of courts and their procedure—provisions which are now a part of the constitution and underlie the judiciary functions of the state. He was a progressive member, and although sixty-seven years of age—among the older delegates—he vigorously advocated pronounced reforms in the judiciary and in the practice of the law. Some of the proposals he made were not then accepted, but have since had to be provided by legislative enactment. For instance, he urged the importance of a probate judge for each county, who would always be "on the job" and who, in addition to handling estates, should have restricted jurisdiction in criminal and civil actions. Since that time, in the large counties

of the state, the election of probate judges, and in smaller counties the appointment of a probate commissioner, has been provided by law.

He also proposed a supreme court, presided over by a state chief judge elected by the people of the entire state, who, with the circuit judges, should comprise the supreme court. His argument was that this would provide a court large enough to dispense justice promptly and fairly. Since then, the smaller supreme court, as provided by the constitution, has been so far behind in its disposal of cases that, years ago, it was necessary to create by law an appellate court to relieve the supreme court. He also advocated a "Court of Conciliation" to settle cases "out of court" in a sense, before which contending parties by agreement could present their cases and avoid formal litigation, expense, and delay. Committees of arbitration to avoid litigation are now common in settling disputes, and bar associations and progressive judges are now urging "pre trial" conferences. He strongly urged upon the convention reforms which would eliminate all distinctions between common law and fictions of law, between law and equity, and the complete abrogation of all the old technicalities in court procedure which clogged trials and prevented justice from being done.

These progressive measures were opposed, in the main, by many of the lawyers in the convention, although they were younger than Mr. Thornton. The latter asserted that these opponents were narrow conservatives, afraid to establish practices to which they would have to become adjusted, or they were ignorant of progressive measures already adopted and in successful operation in up-to-date states, or they were actuated by selfish political motives. Sarcasm and personal recriminations frequently marked speeches in the debates on these and other questions before the convention.

Other measures supported by Mr. Thornton in the convention may be listed as follows: 1. Increasing revenues for public schools; 2. Regulating interest rates and tax titles; 3. Protecting the rights of colored citizens to hold real estate; 4. Controlling the long misused funds which had been established for Clarksville by Virginia when that state donated 1000 acres of land in Indiana to George Rogers Clarke and his soldiers; 5. Creating an elective attorney general who was to be responsible for correctly and promptly reporting the decisions of the supreme court. (Delay and gross inaccuracy in making such reports was the rule at the time). The constructive, progressive, and courteous participation of Mr. Thornton in all the deliberations of the convention is not only a

source of pride among his descendants but, above all, was a worthy and valuable contribution to the framing of a constitution which has promoted and protected the interests of the state for approximately ninety years.

One of the speeches delivered in the convention by Mr. Thornton deserves special mention. It was made in support of resolutions introduced by him on the death of Col. Richard M. Johnson, which occurred during the sessions of the convention. In simple dignified eloquence, the speaker eulogized the deceased, told of his associations with Col. Johnson in the war of 1812, and modestly described his own participation under Johnson in the victorious Battle of the Thames which closed the successful campaign. This address not only disclosed something of the speaker's customary style and language, but also gives an insight into his war experience not to be found elsewhere. It was delivered before the convention on Monday, Nov. 25, 1850, and will be found in full in the report on the "Debates and Speeches" published by authority of the convention.

Before closing this chapter, it will be illuminating to review some of the estimates of Mr. Thornton and his career by his contemporaries and by writers who have had access to data relating to him and his times. A biographical sketch in the "History of Ohio Falls Cities and Their Counties." Vol. 2, says:

"Major Henry P. Thornton, one of the oldest lawyers in the state, settled in New Albany in 1836. He was a man of great physical powers, and when sixty-five years of age, would mount his horse and ride forty miles a day on his circuit without apparent fatigue. He was a lawyer of considerable ability, but not enough of a student to keep pace with the more studious of the profession, yet he was fairly successful. He was several times elected by the legislature to the clerkship of the House of Representatives and also to the position of secretary of the Senate. He removed from this city (New Albany) to Bedford about 1853, where he died at the age of nearly ninety years." (In fact at 82 years.)

In the "History of Lawrence, Orange and Washington Counties" page 112, this appears:

"In June, 1823, Edgar C. Wilson, Henry P. Thornton, Thomas H. Blake (formerly judge of the circuit) and James Whitcomb were admitted. Thornton was an attorney of the old school, having been born in North Carolina, educated in Kentucky, and trained in all courts of Southern Indiana. In Kentucky he met the ablest men of the day at the bar, and was friend and ardent admirer of

Henry Clay. In Southern Indiana he met and measured lances with such men as Amos Lane, James Marshall, Carpenter, Stevens, Howk, Harbin H. Moore, and many others. He afterward removed to Bedford, Lawrence County, where he resided for many years. He was NOT a great lawyer—lacking in legal acumen and in power to convince and control the court or jury. His generous disposition, especially in late years, led him to yield too much to his opponent, and the wily adversary could, and usually did, take every advantage of this disposition. But he was an industrious, hardworking and painstaking lawyer, and to the last term through which he lived, he might be seen making his way to the court house, tall, commanding, and straight as an arrow, with his carefully endorsed papers in his arms. Major Thornton was well and favorably known throughout his circuit, and was an exemplification of the old adage that "lawyers live a good while, work hard and die poor."

From the "History of Lawrence and Monroe Counties" published in 1914, page 117, the following excerpt is taken:

"He (Major H. P. Thornton) was not a great and powerful lawyer; he was too lenient with his opponents to be so, but he was a conscientious, faithful and exact attorney, and he commanded the universal esteem and respect of his friends and clients."

From a sketch of the life of Henry Collins, editor and lawyer of New Albany, published in "Ohio Falls Counties," Vol. II, pages 213-214 comes the following little humorous story which indicates some of the personal characteristics of Major Thornton:

He (Collins) was exceedingly careless in his dress, rarely paying attention to either his own or other peoples' clothes. At one time when called to Bedford in some ease, he met some of the first lawyers in the state, among whom were Richard M. Thompson, late Secretary of the U.S. Navy, and Major H. P. Thornton who was his friend and former preceptor. The Major, who was somewhat fond of dress, and always wore his best, thus accosted him, 'Henry, why the deuce do you not wear better clothes when you go away from home?' 'Well,' replied Collins, 'it makes no difference, nobody knows me here.' 'But you do not wear any better clothes at home,' retorted the Major. 'It makes no difference again,' replied Collins, 'everybody knows me there.'"

A source which is more accurate and less prejudiced than those already quoted is the standard work by Judge L. J. Monks under the title, "Courts and Lawyers of Indiana," which affords the following excerpts from Vol. I, page 131, and Vol. II, page 206.

"Henry P. Thornton, of New Albany, a member of the judiciary committee (of the constitutional convention) a lawyer of ability, also found great dissatisfaction with the Probate courts. 'I heartily agree,' he said, 'that this system has done nothing but furnish facilities for robbing widows and orphans as well as for doing injustice to creditors of estates of decedents; that the proceedings of these courts are such as to lay a foundation whereby all our land titles will be shaken and rendered doubtful.' He favored a new county court, not alone for the probate business, but to have cognizance over lesser crimes and suits at law."

In the chapter on the Supreme Court, Henry P. Thornton is thus mentioned. *"Mr. Smith had considerable practice at the time of his appointment to the Supreme Court, but could hardly be ranked as a lawyer with George V. Howk, Henry P. Thornton or James Collins."*

From "A History of Freemasonry in Indiana from 1808 to 1898," by Daniel McDonald, Past Grand Master, pages 406-407, comes the following on the connection of Thornton with Masonry:

"Henry P. Thornton, first Grand Secretary after the permanent organization of the Grand Lodge, served from the beginning until the first meeting of the Grand Lodge in September, 1818. He was elected and served as Grand Orator for the years 1823-24 and 1826-27, after which he disappeared from the Grand Lodge. By profession, he was a lawyer. In 1817, having just returned from Bourbon County, Kentucky, and located in Madison, he formed a partnership with Alexander A. Meek, which lasted for several years. Brother Meek was appointed brigadier of the state militia, and he appointed Major Thornton brigade inspector."

An incident narrated to the writer by his brother, Henry C. Thornton, throws a side-light upon a characteristic of Major Thornton, which, however, as already mentioned in a previous chapter, was a characteristic of most citizens interested in politics. Henry, then a lad of about thirteen years of age, well remembered his grandfather whose name he bore. A political celebration by the Democrats was being held in Bedford about 1864. For the use of the principal speaker in the parade his mother, widow of Major Thornton's son George, had loaned her carriage—then the finest vehicle in the town. Upon hearing of this generous act, Major Thornton called Henry to him and said, "Son your father would feel outraged if he were living and knew of the use of his carriage by Democrats." Although this narrow attitude would not have been that of the son, George, any more than it was that

of the widow, it well expressed the spirit of the generation which was passing out. While reprehensible, it had the virtue of a firm loyalty to party that led to greater active participation in public affairs than, unfortunately, now prevails.

The last will of Henry P. Thornton, dated December 29, 1863, was first examined in 1939 in the county clerk's office at Bedford by the writer. The following is a brief outline of its provisions:

1. All miscellaneous books in his library to his sons, Joseph H. and George A. Thornton.

2. All law books, and all miscellaneous books selected by his wife, may be sold at discretion of executors.

3. Gives all the rest of his estate, both real and personal, to his beloved wife for her and her children.

4. His faithful and beloved sister-in-law, Margaret W. Collins, was to remain living in the family and receive support; also was to have any bedroom furniture she might select up to a value of \$100.

5. Appoints beloved wife sole guardian of her children without bond.

6. Appoints his sons Joseph H. and George A. as executors without bond.

7. Executor, G. A. Thornton, to sell at his discretion any real estate except the residence as follows: Forty-six acres in Harrison County; eighty acres in Martin County; one hundred thirty acres in Jackson County, near Brownstown. The proceeds to go to wife and her children.

The will was witnessed by John Gyger and Samuel Rariden (the last named being the attending physician).

The reader of this chapter will have a clear conception of Major Thornton as a man, as a citizen, and as a professional and public leader. While not brilliant, he possessed marked ability. He was sincere, faithful and loyal in all his relationships. He performed with unusual thoroughness and painstaking care every task he assumed. Proud, honest, generous, and courteous, he steadfastly refused to resort to sharp practices or slipshod methods in order to advance his interests, either financially or politically. He was, therefore, esteemed and respected for his honesty and entrusted with important tasks, because of his ability and skill. It will be noted that he was frequently called upon to serve as secretary or clerk of organizations to which he belonged. Such service entails originality as well as knowledge and skill, and neatness in work,

and often means the detailed, accurate performance of the real work of the group—functioning like the “man behind the gun.”

The influence of such a man may not be spectacular, but it always contributes greatly to the best cultural and civic welfare of society. He may not profit in worldly goods but gains that which is more enduring than wealth and leaves to his descendants a far greater inheritance than silver and gold. Henry P. Thornton was reared under strict Scotch-Irish Presbyterian principles. His mother, Elizabeth Robertson, herself had grown up in a family of that faith and undoubtedly instilled these principles in her children. It is not surprising, therefore, that integrity, fidelity, and a sense of duty dominated the son's philosophy of life; that in his participation in the work of the world, he never let expediency displace honesty; that he steadfastly adhered to that teaching of the scriptures, “A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches.”

CHAPTER VIII.

GEORGE ABRAM THORNTON

George Abram Thornton, the seventh child and the fourth son of Henry P. Thornton, was born at Lexington, Scott County, Indiana, on October 16, 1821. Lexington was then the county seat of the newly organized county of Scott. The boy received the name George from his father's favorite brother-in-law, George See, the husband of Margaret Thornton. See was a substantial farmer and citizen of Bourbon County, was closely associated with the Thorntons and a man in whom the family placed great confidence. This is evidenced in part, by the fact that Thomas Thornton, in his later years, deeded his farm and its equipment in trust to George See and Margaret See to assure the maintenance and care of himself and wife in their old age. The name Abram came from a greatly esteemed brother of the lad's mother, Abram Ward, who was a successful and respected business man and manufacturer of Paris, Ky., active in the Presbyterian church and in other community interests.

Shortly before the boy was born, Major Thornton had removed from Madison, and taken up his abode in Lexington, practicing as usual, throughout the adjacent counties. He served as the first prosecuting attorney of Scott County, under appointment of Governor Jonathan Jennings, first governor of the state. The family resided in Lexington about six years, and it is probable that young George's school days did not begin until the family became residents of Salem, Indiana, in Washington County.

In Salem his young boyhood, from about four to fourteen years of age, was passed, and his first schooling occurred. While making some researches in court records in Salem in 1938, the writer located the house in which the family lived and where these tender years of the boy's life were passed. In its day, the house was one of the finest in the village; its present condition has been described in a previous chapter. Salem, at that time was considered the "Athens" of Indiana. It was notable for its educational and library facilities. It had one of the best academies in the state and furnished several leaders in education in early Indiana. The bar numbered among its members the state's leading lawyers and

statesmen. There was Judge Benjamin Parke, noted as a legislator and a magistrate—the father of the law library in Indianapolis, one of the best of its kind in the country. He was the first president of the Indiana Historical Society. Another distinguished member was John Hays Farnham, a graduate of Harvard, a brilliant lawyer, a forceful writer and leader in civic affairs. He was the most active founder of the Historical Society, and served as its first corresponding secretary. There were other members of the Salem bar, as well as many citizens, in that early day, who were comparable in ability to those mentioned, even though they might be less notable. Under the inspiration of such leadership, it is not surprising that there existed an intellectual atmosphere quite unusual in early communities. It was doubtless such conditions as these which induced Mr. Thornton to locate his growing family there where the children would have desirable educational and social advantages. He himself was successful in his practice and his ability was at once recognized by his colleagues. He was evidently popular among the people as he represented the county in several sessions of the legislature then meeting in the new capital of Indianapolis.

About 1835, when George was fourteen years of age, his father again sought a new location which would offer greater opportunity for his increasing practice as well as better social advantages. He chose the city of New Albany (then the largest city in the state), which possessed unusual manufacturing and transportation prospects, as well as educational institutions offering unusual facilities. The academic education of George continued during his residence in New Albany, but was not completed there. In 1837, when he reached the age of sixteen years, his faithful mother died, and soon thereafter he went to make his home in the family of his older brother, Volney, at Paoli. Here he completed all the schooling he ever received in the county seminary—an institution such as those established by law in nearly all counties then existing in the state, offering courses of study similiar to those of high schools of a later day, but fewer in number and less extensive. An example of the boy's school work, so carefully and accurately done, even as a boy, appears in some of his algebra lessons which have fortunately been preserved. These lessons on a few pages neatly sewed together, are models of tidy, accurate and plainly written work. The lessons were on equations, and the forms used in the problems are exactly like those of today. The booklet bears the date of Dec. 16, 1837, when he was sixteen years of age.

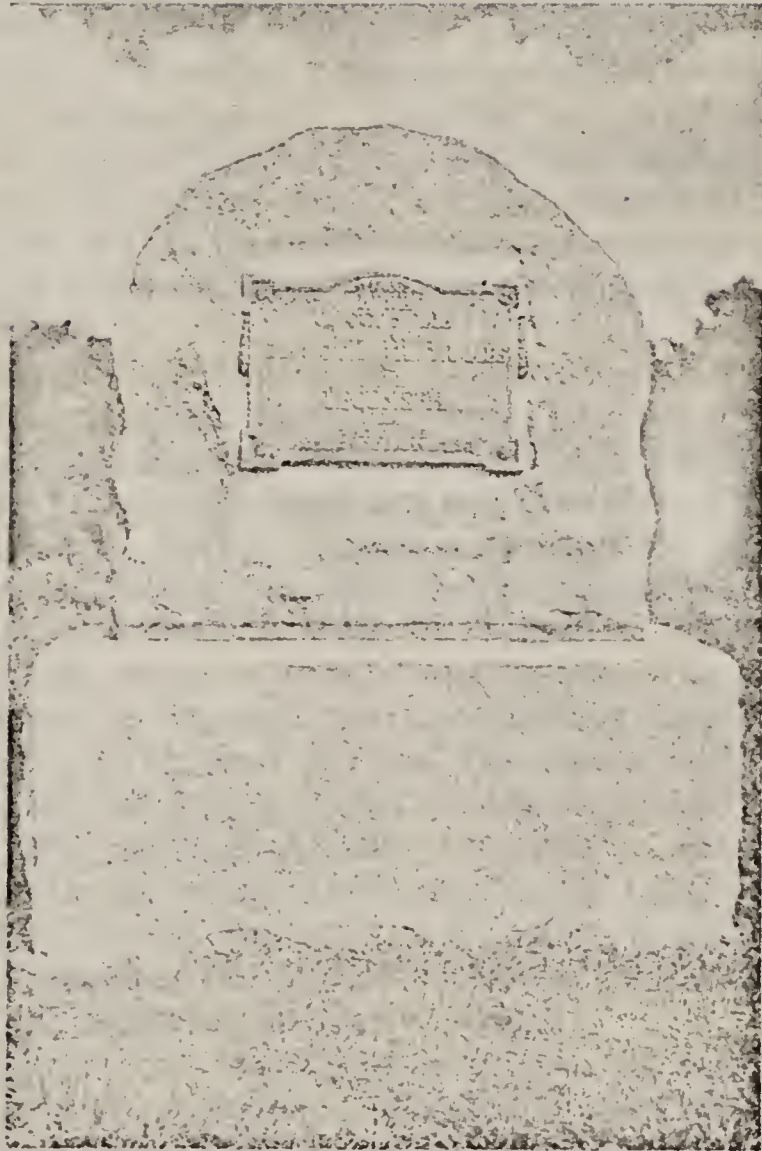
$$\begin{aligned}
 19: \quad x = \text{Age} & ; \quad \frac{x}{3} + \frac{x}{4} + 20 = x \\
 & x + \frac{3x}{4} + 60 = 3x \\
 & 4x + 3x + 240 = 12x \\
 & 4x + 3x - 12x = 240 \\
 & \quad 5x = 240 \\
 & \quad x = 48 \text{ Ans.}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 20: \quad x = \text{No.} & ; \quad \frac{x}{5} + 96 = \frac{x}{4} \\
 & x + 480 = \frac{5x}{4} \\
 & 4x + 1920 = 5x \\
 & 4x - 5x = 1920 \\
 & \quad x = 1920 \text{ Ans.}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 21: \quad x = \text{Length} & ; \quad \frac{x}{5} + \frac{3x}{7} + 13 = x \\
 & x + \frac{15x}{7} + 65 = 5x \\
 & 7x + 15x + 455 = 35x \\
 & 7x + 15x - 35x = 455 \\
 & \quad 13x = 455 \\
 & \quad x = 35 \text{ Ans.}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 22: \quad x = \text{No.} & ; \quad \frac{3x + 30}{5} = 66 & \text{Prinj} \\
 & 3x + 30 = 330 & 100 + 10 = 110 \\
 & 3x = 330 - 30 & \frac{3}{5} 110 = 66.1 \\
 & 3x = \frac{30}{5} = 100 = \text{Ans.}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 23: \quad x = \text{Whol. Orchard} & ; \quad \frac{3x}{4} + \frac{x}{10} + \frac{x}{8} + 20 = 3x \\
 & 3x + \frac{4x}{10} + \frac{4x}{8} + 80 = 4x \\
 & 30x + 4x + 40x + 800 = 40x \\
 & 240x + 32x + 40x - 320 = 64.00 \\
 & \quad 8x = 64.00 \\
 & \quad x = 800 \text{ Ans.}
 \end{aligned}$$



MONUMENT ON SITE OF THAMES BATTLE

Attending the seminary about the same time that he was a student, was the girl who later became his wife, Mary Amanda Braxton. This acquaintanceship began there and continued until the young couple became engaged. Long afterward, these facts were told the writer by his mother, who was the young lady herself. Completing his academic studies, young Thornton read law in Paoli in the office of his older brother Volney. This brother was a man of superior intellectual ability and rare moral worth, and was eminently qualified to direct his younger brother in his legal studies, and in moral standards as well. "Reading" law in an office of some attorney who was willing to give space to a student for a few simple services in return, was the usual method of securing a legal education at that time, and indeed, for some time to follow. Fortunate and few were those who had the opportunity of attending a law school.

While George was admitted to the bar in several counties, he seldom actually practiced. Gustavus Clark, who was active in business and political affairs in Salem while Major Thornton resided there, had relocated in Bedford and had been elected Clerk of the court in Lawrence County. Doubtless through the Major's influence, and that of Volney Thornton, George was appointed by Clark as his deputy and went to Bedford in 1846 to assume his new duties. Mr. Clark dying in office, young Thornton, who had shown himself proficient in his work, was appointed to complete his term. At the close of Clark's term of office, Thornton was elected to succeed him in 1852 and was re-elected in 1856. The fidelity and ability with which Mr. Thornton fulfilled his duties is evidenced by the fact that early in his second term of office, in 1857, he was made cashier, and practically manager, of the newly organized Bedford Branch of the Bank of the State. In a history of Lawrence County (page 186) the following statement occurs:

"The original bank, established in 1834 as the Bedford Branch of the State Bank of Indiana, operated successfully until 1854, when its affairs were wound up and the Bank of the State of Indiana was founded at Bedford with a capital of \$150,000. D. Ricketts of Indianapolis was president and G. A. Thornton was cashier. It did a flourishing business, with many stockholders, and its issues were always received at par value. In 1865 (after the death of Mr. Thornton) M. A. Malott became president and W. C. Winstandley cashier. Under this management, the bank was conducted until the spring of 1871, when its long career was honorably brought to a close and the issues retired."

During the years Mr. Thornton served the bank, he was almost entirely in control of its affairs. He remained in this position until his death, which occurred on September 14, 1864, at the early age of forty-three years.

The last tragic hours preceding and following the passing of the father are thus recorded in his diary by the son Thomas:

"Saturday, August 27, 1864—Pa was taken sick this morning about 3 o'clock with pain in the breast which gives him such pain that he can hardly breathe. Afternoon—my father is a little easier than in the morning.

"Sunday, August 28, 1864—Pa easier than yesterday.

"Monday, August 29, 1864—Was going to college today, but will not go now until pa gets well.

Wednesday, August 31, 1864—Grandma is attending pa with great tenderness, watching him and ministering to his every want as though he were her own child. Later, pa requires constant attention.

Tuesday, September 13, 1864—Last night the physician told my dear father that he could not recover, and early this morning, he sent for me to give some directions about a few bank matters in which he was interested, of which I took a memorandum. Now I plainly see the dark shadow of the Angel of Death, and I fear the consequences.

Wednesday, September 14, 1864—This morning death came and robbed us of our dear father. Oh, how hard, how seemingly impossible, it is to realize that "I am fatherless." Pa died this morning at about half past three o'clock.

Thursday, September 15, 1864—The funeral of my dear father took place this afternoon at 2 o'clock. Oh, how sad, how lonely is home, the place so dearly prized by that dear one who now lies cold in death—*my father*.

Friday, September 16, 1864—The last words addressed directly to his children by my departed father were: "Kneel down, dear children." And we all knelt around his bedside as one of our affectionate uncles (Joseph H. Thornton) offered up a most touching prayer to God, beseeching Him, that if it was His will, our dear father might be spared. But all in vain. Death had marked him as its victim and all that was to be done by us was to, as far as possible, cheer him in his last and dying moments.

Survivors were the widow and seven children, the eldest sixteen years of age, the youngest (the writer) but one week old. Fortunately they were left with a beautiful home, later known as "Elm-

wood," and sufficient income for the wife and for the maintenance of the children until each reached maturity. The entire estate, under the wise provision of the will, when it was finally settled, after a period of twenty-one years, amounted to approximately \$170,000, exclusive of Elmwood. It consisted largely of cash, securities and real estate. The original bond of the executors was for \$80,000, the sureties being the following well known business men of Bedford: William Fisher, Daniel W. Parker, Winthrop Foote, Ambrose Kern, Eli Dale, and John Reed. The executors named in the will were: E. D. Pearson and H. F. Braxton. Mr. Pearson, a young lawyer, was a nephew by marriage, and H. F. Braxton (Frank) was a brother of the widow, and was a successful business man of Bedford at the time. Braxton, some years after the Civil War, removed from the county, and, at his own request, was relieved from his duties as executor. This left Mr. Pearson sole executor, and he was made guardian of all the children on January 16, 1867.

The will was made by Mr. Thornton on his death bed, September 8, 1864, only six days before the end. It was dictated to his son, Thomas, then but a boy of 16. The writer recently found the will in its original form, among the voluminous papers of the estate in the Clerk's office in Bedford. The excellent rounded penmanship of a boy was clearly evident. The following references to this service for his father is made in the brief diary kept by Thomas at the time:

Wednesday, September 7, 1864—Wrote pa's will to-day, he being the dictator of course.

Thursday, September 8, 1864—Pa appears a great deal better today. He was able to sit up in his bed and sign his last will and testament, though he said he "thought he would be up in a few days, but still it is well to be prepared for such emergencies as might happen." The will was probated in October, 1864. It was remarkable for its brevity and for the wise provision for the settlement of the estate. The latter was probably due to Mr. Thornton's long and wide experience in the settlement of estates. Instead of leaving the estate to be closed promptly, by forced sale if necessary, as in the case of most estates, the will provided for the gradual liquidation of the estate at the discretion of the executors in the following terms:

"Third. I authorize my executors to sell, either at private or public sale, any of the real estate now owned by me, whenever, in their opinion the interests of my estate may be promoted by said

sale, and they may make such sales either with or without giving notice required by law on sales by executors.

“Fifth. I hereby authorize my executors to execute all deeds which I may be bound to execute.”

The entire will consisted of but six items which may be summarized as follows:

1. Most of personal property to wife.
2. All amounts due from his father given to his step-mother and her children.
3. Executors to sell real estate at public or private sales and with or without notice usually required by law in the settlement of estates.
4. Executors to dispose of personal property not given to wife.
5. Authorizes executors to make all deeds required to effect sales.
6. Appoints his kinsmen, E. D. Pearson and H. F. Braxton, executors of this will.

The will was signed on September 8, 1864, and witnessed by S. A. Rariden and D. W. Parker.

The executor, E. D. Pearson, after the discharge of H. F. Braxton, carried out his trust with fidelity, patience and wisdom through the 21 year period, settling with the different children as each became of age. His fee probably amounted to approximately \$4,000, there being one allowance by the court on April 9, 1874, or \$2,500.

At first the estate consisted of considerable cash, bank stock, railroad stock, government bonds, notes receivable, a few unpaid accounts and much real estate in Lawrence, Orange, Martin and Floyd Counties, and some in the state of Kansas. By selling these assets under normal conditions and at opportune times, the value of the estate was conserved, and the heirs benefitted accordingly. Of the real estate holdings, the most valuable was the home place, “Elmwood.” The house was a large two story brick of the square type of architecture with ornamental porch across the front and a side entrance or vestibule. There was a large back and side porch. There were ten large rooms, all finished in heavy casings and mouldings—the two first floor front rooms having double French windows opening onto the front porch. A wide hall, with an ornamental stairway extended half way through the lower floor, and a similar hall extended through the entire second floor. The front walk was of heavy stone, some sections more than two feet thick, all dragged to the spot on ox-drawn sleds from the quarry later

known as the "Blue Hole." At the time it was built, and for years afterward, the residence and grounds was the show place of Bedford. The entire ground consisted of eight acres, five comprising the lawn with its formal flower garden and ornamental shrubs and trees, large vegetable and fruit gardens in the rear, and an orchard of twenty-five or more fruit trees of many varieties at one side, with a three acre field back of all. The property was located on the north edge of the town of Bedford, the south line of the property corresponding with the north corporation line. What is now (1939) 12th street was the private drive for the property. The ground originally extended westward from Lincoln Avenue to N street with a frontage along the avenue north almost half way to 11th street, then called "Spider Creek Lane." The five acres immediately around the house was purchased from Joseph Rawlins for \$1,000, the deed being signed by Rawlins, and his signature acknowledged by William Fisher, Justice of the Peace, on February 20, 1857, and recorded on February 25. The additional three acres and 60 poles were purchased on April 15, 1859, for \$400, from Eli Dale and wife, with William Fisher and wife joining in the deed (because of some irregularity in a previous deed by the Fishers to the Dales). This deed was recorded on June 21, 1859. The property was kept intact for nearly forty years after the death of Mr. Thornton. Here the children grew to maturity in the atmosphere of a happy home life under the tutelage and care of a devoted mother who never permitted the shadow of her deep and ever abiding sorrow to darken the lives of her loved ones.

About 1890, the entire property was platted and made the "Elmwood Addition to the City of Bedford." The private driveway was widened into what is now 12th street and extended to the present "N" street. "M" street was laid off north from 12th to near the present "11" street (the Spider Creek Lane). Refusal of adjacent property owners to join in the plat prevented the extension of "M" street to 11th street and caused the present jog in "M" street, and made necessary laying off a short street from "M" to "N" streets.

After the death of Mary A. Thornton on March 18, 1895, the settlement of her estate was completed by the purchase of "Elmwood Addition" from the other heirs by her son E. B. Thornton. He completed the sale of the lots as the years passed on, and later remodeled the residence into four apartments—completely changing the interior, such as removing the side entrance, erecting a second story on the kitchen, removing the side porch, etc. He also removed all out buildings, the gardens and the orchard, and all

ornamental trees and shrubery. The iron fence in front was replaced with a hedge, and the grounds immediately surrounding the house made into a lawn which was unadorned but neatly maintained. Soon after the death of Mr. Thornton, his children sold the property for a funeral home and the new owners again remodeled it to suit their purposes. While this disposal of the property was probably justifiable on financial grounds, it brought deep regret to the writer who could not forget the tender associations with which it surrounded all his early life—a spot made sacred by the most endearing of family ties—a haven of joy and peace and protection to which loved ones turned for comfort and contentment which no other place on earth could give. Thus it is that the ruthless and inexorable march of time destroys that which one holds most dear and leaves him only cherished and sacred memories.

The estate left by George A. Thornton was acquired by him in the short span of 18 years. He came to Bedford in 1846, practically a penniless young man of 25 years. His income was small even for his time. He married in 1847 (July 13), and had to practice extreme frugality for the first few years. For the first year or more the young couple occupied a story and a half house located at the northwest corner of the present L and 15th streets (the Norton corner). The property, Lot No. 29 of the original town of Bedford, was then owned by Mrs. Malinda Yandel and was only rented by Mr. Thornton. For about three months after their marriage, the couple must have boarded in Bedford before settling in the Yandel house, as the following rather touching entry in his diary suggests: "October 23, (1847)—I go to Reading. Come home and take supper at home—first meal I ever ate in my own home. Good indeed."

That he and his young wife were provident is proven by the fact that they soon purchased a home of their own, even though it was modest and small. This was a rambling one story structure, plastered on the outside (because it was built by a plasterer) located on the south side of the present 14th street, midway between K and L streets. The purchase included two lots, Nos. 46 and 47 in the original town of Bedford, and was made from Charles P. Read for a consideration of \$500, the deed being signed by Read on December 25, 1848, attested by Gustavus Clark, and recorded on March 27, 1849. Into this house he moved on April 3, 1849. Here the family lived for approximately ten years, until the new house "Elmwood" was completed early in 1859, and here four children, Henry C., Mary, Edmund and Emma S. were born—only the two youngest children, George A. Jr., and Joseph F. being born in

"Elmwood." This first home, lots 46 and 47, was sold after "Elmwood" was completed, the deed bearing date of November 19, 1859, the consideration being \$2000, the deed signed by himself and wife, and attested by Charles T. Woolfolk, Notary Public. (See records in recorder's office of Lawrence County).

The methods by which Mr. Thornton amassed his fortune are not only illuminating but afford a fine example of what can be done by industry and thrift. By frugality, with the help of his prudent wife, he always managed to spend *less* than he earned. Savings thus secured he usually invested in loans well secured, other securities or real estate. Through his business connections in the clerk's office and later in the bank, he doubtless had opportunities for investment brought to his notice which he keenly and correctly appraised and promptly took advantage of. Herein, of course, was the greatest factor in his success—his shrewd business sense and his decisive, accurate judgment. In addition to these qualities, he was very resourceful and industrious. A perusal of a line-a-day diary which he kept through the years of 1847-48-49 and -50 impresses the reader with his indefatigable activity in the great variety of his accomplishments and interests and how eagerly he was always turning his hand to increase and conserve his income. He was clerk of the circuit and probate courts—served as clerk for the county commissioners, made the tax duplicates, collected taxes, frequently riding out in the country to make such collections, did much writing for one "Peters," probably an officer who needed help, read law and was admitted to practice both in Lawrence and Orange Counties, made frequent business trips in all sorts of weather (on horse back usually.) He arranged public sales in both counties to settle estates and to satisfy judgments, sometimes, himself, crying the sales at the court house doors. He assisted in making land surveys now and then. He was more or less active in the Masons and in "The Sons of Temperance"—holding the office of secretary and later of presiding officer in the latter. He was an elder in the Presbyterian church nearly all his life, and for years served as Sunday School Superintendent. He regularly attended church and prayer meeting in which he took active part. If there was no preaching in his own church (as frequently happened, as few of the little churches could afford regular pastors) he attended other churches, usually the Baptist or Methodist, whether he was in Bedford or elsewhere. He was active in meetings of the Presbytery and frequently entertained its members in his home. The weekly

prayer meeting frequently met at his house (then a common custom.)

On the first house he owned, he himself, out of office hours, did much of the work of remodeling and building, even to papering the rooms. He planted his own garden, harvested his crops, burying certain vegetables under ground for winter use. He did practically all the work on his lawn and its flowers, which he cultivated in profusion. He sometimes cut up, salted and smoked his own meat from hogs he raised. Once in a while he worked on the roads, then required by law or providing a substitute, and sometimes took road contracts. At his home he kept one or more horses, a cow and pigs and cared for them himself. He frequently sat up all night with sick members of his church and lodge and assisted at their funerals and in the settlement of their estates, appraising their property and arranging sales therefor. All his travels had to be on horse-back or by carriage, as there were no railroads in that section at that time. Roads were practically unimproved and most of the year were very muddy and rough, and streams had to be forded or ferried, as there were few bridges. In bad weather, especially in winter, he often had to spend a night on the way from Bedford to Paoli—a distance of twenty miles—a trip he made several times each month.

In addition to his activities in business, church, etc., he found time for considerable social life, and his diary records frequent teas, parties, dinners, quilting bees, candy pullings, church and lodge entertainments, and many social gatherings of relatives and friends at his home. He cultivated friendships among his business associates both at home and in other communities and in the best circles, and he must have been genial and generous of his time and means.

That his investments were always honest and above board cannot be questioned. In the business world, he was uniformly esteemed for integrity, wisdom and efficiency. In the "History of Lawrence, Orange and Washington Counties," the following reference to his work may be found:

"Care of the Court Records. Mr. Clark kept the records in good shape and his deputy, George A. Thornton Esq., both while deputy and afterward as Clerk, made a model clerk, writing an unusually even hand and being himself a lawyer, his entries and forms were concise in style and technically correct. He perhaps did more to give form and tone to the records of the county than any other man in it."

In his business deals, he was not harsh, and did not drive "hard bargains," but on the contrary was noted for his generosity and consideration of others with whom he had business relations. Of this more than one of his contemporaries assured the writer as he met them from time to time. Nor did Mr. Thornton build up his estate through "war profits." It had practically all been secured before the Civil War began, as an examination of the dates in his business career clearly shows. On the contrary, he contributed liberally to the financial support of the Union cause. Only his age, the size of his family and a request by Governor Morton, Indiana's war governor, that he remain behind the lines and aid in the state's war financing kept him from enlisting in the ranks. He contributed generously to the support of the families of relatives and friends at the front, and toward the purchase of supplies for companies of soldiers passing to and from the front through Bedford. One of the last acts of his life was providing for such military forces encamped in Bedford.

In presenting the general characteristics of Mr. Thornton the writer prefers to quote certain excerpts from a memorial sketch written by his close friend and former pastor, Rev. Dr. C. B. H. Martin:

"In business qualifications he was second to none. Endowed with a vigorous and versatile intellect and trained by thorough, practical discipline he was fitted not only to take his place among his fellows, but to wield an influence far-reaching and controlling. His integrity was firm and decisive and as his intellect was bright, so his amiability was more winning. His public spirit was notable. His liberality and energy often helped forward to success enterprises that else must have failed. By his death the church has been sorely bereaved. His Christian life proved the sincerity of his profession, his whole career was one of beautiful, Christian piety. Fidelity was one of his eminent characteristics. The genial cheerfulness of his piety shed its light over his daily life. The world never dared charge him with hypocrisy. He counted it 'nobler to be than to seem.' His dying counsels, as he stood on the brink of eternity, bore testimony of the preciousness of Christ and the sufficiency of His grace—a fitting close to a life spent in the service of the Redeemer."

THE DIARY OF GEORGE A. THORNTON

The line-a-day diary of Mr. Thornton is worthy of a somewhat extensive consideration in certain of its details for several reasons.

It not only shows his own activities at the outset of his mature career during the important years of his life, viz. 1847-48-49 and -50 but it also clearly indicates his characteristics and the kind of young man he really was. It also throws much light upon the business, social and religious conditions of that early day. The reader will be given an idea of its contents and style by excerpts taken here and there; one to show the general thought and wording which prevails, others to narrate the more important incidents it records.

The first entries, covering a week, are typical.

1847

"January 1, 1847.—Cloudy gloomy day. Rain until the middle of the afternoon. Party at Mr. Ganes at eight, full attendance. 2nd—Fair day. Spent the evening at Miss Hendricks. Some ladies there. See the picture man again. 3rd, Sunday—Beautiful day. Communion meeting at N. S. (New School presbyterian) church. Mr. Brownlee preaches. 4th—Rain, rain, rain. Water higher than ever before known."

These extracts are typical of most entries in this interesting diary. They state commonplace facts, but reflect something of the thinking—the doings and the social contacts of the writer. The extracts which follow will refer only to items of special interest:

"8th—A real jollification party at Rawlins. 10th, Sabbath—New plan in Sunday School proposed. 11th—Commenced reading 'Chitty's Pleadings' (a law book). 22—Weighed today with blanket coat on 148½ lbs.

"February 8—Probate court sits until 13th. 19—Go over to Paoli. Muddy indeed but no rain.

"March 1—Froze last night. Intended returning to Bedford, found roads too rough. 2—Start home, find roads wretched indeed, muddy, rough, so reach home about 4 o'clock P.M. Find some young ladies at our house, Miss Rawlins and Miss M. Go to party at Mr. Malott's. Quite a crowd present. Pretty pleasant time considering the mud and the fact of my having rode so far over such roads. 3rd—Commissioner's Court in session. 5—Rev. Mr. Camborn arrives in town today. Mr. C. preached at Baptist church at 11 o'clock, commencement of communion meeting here, also at night. 7—Mr. C. preached twice today and the Lord's supper was administered. Good sermon. 10—A young party at Mrs. Clark's. Miss Helmer there and some girls of the town. 12—Snow several inches deep. Quilting at Mrs. Newkirk's. 13—Snow melts entirely.

Party at Miss McLain's. 15—Home made candy making at Miss H's. 20—Write home to E. M. T. (his sister Elizabeth), T. V. T. (his brother Volney) and M!A!B! (Mary Braxton) his future bride).

"April 1—Receive license to practice law from Judges McDonald and Otto. 3—Employed in case vs. Williamson. Gain it. Fine day. Jeff (his brother, a student then in Indiana University) came down yesterday evening. Goes home this morning. 10—Received letter from Mary last night. Good. 12—Singing school commences in town. Mr. Wheeler teacher. 15—Z. Coffin (brother of Volney's wife, Clorinda) in Bedford this evening. Stays with me. Brings presents and letters from M. A. B. and E. M. T. What a glorious thing it is to have friends. 17—Fine day. Visit the Miss M's. with Liz C. (Elizabeth Clark daughter of his employer, and one of the belles of the town). 18—Sunday School anniversary passes off with good attendance. Address from G. A. Thornton. 19—Learn my speech took considerably. Glad of it I am sure.

"June 10 and 11—Clerk for Board of County Commissioners. 16—Received letter from Mr. Braxton stating condition of Volney's health. Leave Bedford for Paoli immediately about 2 o'clock P.M., reach P. at 7. Find V. better, thank God. 17—M. A. B. returns from Louisville. Jo (his brother Joseph H. T.) at P. also. 19—Ed. Woolfolk comes out. Volney still improves. 21—Go to Sims. Stop at father's, find folks well pleased with my young brother's (Jeff) lecture. 22—Go over to Louisville. Father and stepmother go with me. 23—Return to N. Albany. 24—Leave early for Paoli. Call at father's. Reach Paoli at 6 o'clock. Find Volney worse again and that a sad accident has befallen poor little Jo Woolfolk. Powder flask burst in his hand, carrying away his little finger, breaking his thumb and otherwise injuring him.

"July 13—Father and wife, Jo T., Richard Woolfolk, Susan Parker to Paoli. Warm day. Wonder of wonders; *Married* at last, this evening at 9 o'clock to the right one. Pleasant company composed of relatives mostly. 14—Friends at Volney's, delightful. 15—Start to Bedford, reach there in good time after being frightened in the river by horse refusing to go along. Zeno C. and Lizzie T. accompanying self and wife. 16—Party at Mr. Clark's at night. 18—Attend S. School and church *with wife*. 19—Little party at Mr. D. Dunihue's.

"August 2—Elections. 4—Letter from Jo T. Probate Court. 10—Party at Miss Hendrick's. 11—Paid W. Judah for Volney \$1.02 and received of him \$16.66 costs in attachment case in C. Court.

15—Communion meeting at Mr. Kittridge's. 16—Go to Paoli with Mary and Jo. Find folks well. 17—Volney, Caroline (his sister), Clorinda and Jo at Mr. Braxton's to dinner. 13—Court meets in Paoli. 15—Admitted to practice in Orange Circuit Court. Robertson case. 25—Begin to raise church frame. Presbytery adjourns until Tuesday. 28—Raise part of church. Hard work.

"October 1—Go back to Bedford with Mary. Find folks well. Baptist General association in session. 2 and 3—Attend Baptist meeting. Hear President Chandler preach. 18—Mrs. Yandle moves. 15—Go to Leesville. 16—Go to Fayetteville. 20—Take possession of Mrs. Yandle's house. 21—Things come from Paoli. Tate (hired man) brings them. Francis Braxton comes with him. 23—I go to Reading come home, take supper at home—*first meal I ever ate in my own home*. Good indeed. 25—Circuit court meets. Horse gets out of lot, leaves for parts unknown.

"November 1—Circuit court adjourns. 2—Go to Springville in search of horse but fail to find him. 8, 9, 10—Rains tremendously. White River, Salt creek raising with great destruction. 11—Jeff T. and Thomas Braxton come to B. Have some friends "to tea," Mr. Malott and lady, Dr. Rariden and lady, R. Bryant and lady, Jeff and Tom. Hear from horse through Volney. Good. 12—Tom and Frank B. start for home although 'tis a gloomy drizzling day, muddy, cold and disagreeable. Jeff starts for Bloomington by way of Heltonsville. Probate court meets. 16—Hear of death of Rev. S. Kittridge at Indianapolis Friday last. Sorrowful. 21—Probate court has been in session the past week. Great amount of business done.

"December 6, 7, 8, 9—County Commissioners meet. Clerk for them. 16—Start to Paoli. Stay at Nugent's. Stay at Webb's overnight. 17—Reach Paoli before 12 o'clock. 19—Cold. 20—Mr. Barthels commences teaching singing school in Paoli at Methodist church.

1848

"January 7, 8, 9—Father Martin preaches in Paoli. 10—Very cold. Can't travel. 13—Start home. Break down near Eversole's. Come as far as Nugent's in mud. Remain all night. 14—Come to Bedford in mud, rain and tribulation. 18—Mary Rariden, Mrs. Yandle and William at our house to tea. 21—Dr. R. and wife, Bryant and wife take tea with us. Muddy, slippery. Went to country yesterday. Dinner at Allen Burton's. Return by Jim Beasley's. No money. 28—Northern lights appear (*aurora borealis*). A beautiful, most sublime sight indeed.

"February 14—Have neglected taking notes up to this date. Probate court sits. A great deal of business on hands. 26—Go to Paoli to attend Probate court. Hear Father Martin preach.

"March 4—Return to Bedford. 6, 7, 8, 9—Board of County Commissioners meet. Clerk for them. 5, 6, 7—Father comes to Bedford 5th, leaves 7th. 10 and 11—Painting house. Methodist protracted meeting commences. 13—Munson and I go over to Paoli C. C. Fine day overhead. Good roads but very cold. 14—Munson returned to B. Father, Judges Dewey and Otto at Volney's to tea. Otto rather an unsociable fellow. Dewey more agreeable. 16—Susan Parker (his niece) and I start for B. about 12 o'clock. Reach B. before sundown. All well. 17—Paint house. 18, 19—Mr. Brownlee preaches at M. E. church. Also in Presbyterian church.

"April 1—Debate between Springville and Bedford societies. 11—Mrs. Braxton, Homer and Charles (her young sons) come up. Have ground plowed for garden. Mrs. Laforce and Thompson and husbands coming over to our house to tea. 12, 13, 14—Make garden. 15—Mother and boys go home. I go to Esq. Keithleys to trial. 28—Jefferson comes in V's carriage. Dusty roads. 29—Get horse for Jeff. Start for Paoli, Mary, Susan and self in carriage. Rained last night, roads fine. Reach Paoli in good time.

"May 3—Return to B. in buggy. Homer goes with me. Supper at Dr. Rariden's H. and self. 5—Muster day (for enlistments for Mexican War). Mr. Deacon of New Albany here. 6—Go to Esq. Mitchell's to trial. 7—Rev. Levi Hughes preached in B. church. At our house in the afternoon. 8—Probate court meets. Busy until Saturday. Hear from Mary by letters. 15, 16, 17—Circuit court. Father came to town about 10 o'clock. Another letter from Mary. 20—Railroad meeting at Court house. (To secure aid for building it through the county). Democratic meeting also. 23—Busy in the office making up fees. 24—Work in garden till noon. 2 o'clock start for Paoli, reach there about 8 o'clock and find that *I became the father of a fine boy* about 11 o'clock A.M. on Sunday the 21st inst. Mary and boy doing very well; better than I had expected, thank God; (The fine boy was Thomas Volney Thornton II). 30—Return to Bedford. Sad parting with my best of wives and charming boy. 31—Work in garden till noon.

"June 2, 3—Paint. 5—Com. court. Clerk for it until 16. 7, 8. 9—Go over to Paoli at noon. Get cut slightly. Find Mary and babe have been very sick. Better. 10—See Volney and family. V. not so well. 12—Still warm. V. dines with us at Father B's. Take

Mary and boy in carriage to Volney's house. 19—(After return to B). Rained last night and this morning. Set out cabbage plants. 20—Received letter from Mary this afternoon. Answered. 21—Boy one month old today. Paint kitchen floor. 22—Work in garden and finish painting floor. 23—Get some sweet potato plants. make ridges, etc.

"July 1—Go over to Paoli to see Mary, boy and family. 6—Rained all night last night. Start home, Mary, self and boy. Lost river up, have to go around. Provoking. Reach Mr. I. Burton's. Stay all night. Fine folks. 7—Come home early this morning. All well. Charlie Woolfolk with us in all our tribulations. 11—Mr. A. Wheeler comes to publish the "Bedford Herald." 15—Commence making tax duplicates for Peters. Up to this day busy with tax books. Go blackberrying. 24 to 28—Making duplicates.

"August 22—Calculate fees, etc. of Probate Court. 23—Commence duplicates of taxes again. 24—Work hard today at duplicates. 26-27—Go over to Paoli and to camp meeting with V. and C. 28-31—Probate Court of Orange County in session. Busy.

"September 2—Come home this morning. All well. 4 to 7—County Com. court. 8 to 16—Work for Peters copying duplicates, and at home copying duplicates. 26—Go to Bloomington myself. Hear speches in the chapel at night. Stop at Orchard's (Hotel). 27—Commencement day. Jeff C. T. graduates.

"October 5 to 9—N. S. Presbytery in session. Preachers leave for Crawfordsville. 11—Geiger hauls wood for me. I stack it, 8 cords in all. 14—Go to Paoli with Mary and boy in buggy. *Run away with at Orleans. Miraculous delivery.* Mary injured a good deal but fortunately not dangerous. Child not hurt at all. After tarrying an hour or two, we go on to Paoli. Reach there about 8 o'clock. Go up to V's at night. 15—Sabbath, rains. Stay in doors. having a sprained knee, swelled very much. 16—*My 27th birthday.* Fine day. Go to V's.

"November 5—Rev. Wm. Dale preaches in N. S. Church, the last time old school are allowed to use it. 7—Presidential election. 'Old Zack for ever.' 9, 10, 11—Polls compared. Majority for Taylor in county 39. Have news from other states. Taylor triumphs. One thousand cheers for 'Old Buena Vista.' 16 and 17—Work at wood pile and odd jobs. Bury cabbage, beets, potatoes and turnips. 24—I am quite sick today. Severe headache. 25—Better today. Was elected superintendent of Union Sabbath School last night, also trustee of Presbyterian church (O. S.) today. (Refers to union of old and new school factions). 27 to 30—Go over

to Paoli to Probate Court. Quite cold. Engaged in Pro. Co. Very busy in Spear's estate.

"December 1—Start home. Rains, drizzles all day. Only get to Burton's. Very wet and cold. 2—Get home this morning at 10 o'clock. Snows. 3—Sunday school in Baptist church commences. Rev. Parks and myself superintendents. Good commencement. 6—Prayer meeting at our house tonight. 20—Receive letter from Jeff containing the sad intelligence of the *death of our beloved sister, Harriett*, who died on the 7th inst. (in Illinois). The Lord grant to be a protector and guide to her little ones and that we may all profit by this sad bereavement. 'The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away, blessed be the name of the Lord.' 25—Christmas. Not much done in town. 31—The Methodists have a watch meeting tonight at their church.

1849

"January 10—'Sons of Temperance' organized in Bedford. 24—Prayer meeting at Eli Dale's.

"February 5 to 11—Mariah and John and Mrs. Hendricks and Susan Parker join the church. Sacrament today. I was elected and ordained elder. 16-23—Sat up last night with Mr. Briggs. Very bad. Great railroad meeting.

"March 4—Mr. Briggs died Monday morning, February 26. The Lord protect his helpless family. 6—Very muddy indeed. No mails. 9—Prove Mr. Robert Briggs will today. 10—Take valuation of Briggs property. Fine day. 23 and 24—Work on lots, pruning trees, etc. Transplanting flowers, shrubs, etc. 28—Elected W.P. of B.S. of T. (Sons of Temperance) last night.

April 3—*Move to own house. Hard work.* Clean up grounds, yard, etc. 18 to 21—Reed finished plastering. I worked at home, whitewashing, etc. 23—Rains in afternoon. Z. Coffin comes to bring sad news of *Brother Volney's death*, who died at New Albany this morning at 10 o'clock. Alas, how great is our loss. 24—Go over to Paoli. Reach there about 9 o'clock. Remains of brother brought home in afternoon. Father, step-mother, Joe, Ed Woolfolk and Sarah Luckis and others accompanying them. 25—Burial takes place at 10 o'clock. Father Martin previously delivered a short address in the church. Father and wife start home. Mrs. Sands remains. 26 and 27—Edmund and Sarah L. leave for Louisville, Jo T. and Mrs. Sands this afternoon. 28—Look for Thomas Braxton and Martha (Parker) to return. Married Tuesday last 21th. 30—Monday, return home with Mary, Susy, Tom, Mrs.

Daniels and boy in Mr. Braxton's carriage, Elisha driving. Break down but get another wheel and go ahead.

"May 2—Cool for May. Prayer meeting at L. H. Dale's tonight. 5 to 10—Work streets. Work in garden, making beds, plant onions, corn, beans, potatoes. Paint house. 11—Stay in office and paint some. 14—Circuit Court meets. Father, step-mother and Harry come. 15—Buy cow today of Olly Owens, \$12.00. 21 to 26—Finish planting corn and potatoes on east lot. Paint house on inside and work in garden. Calculate fees of Circuit Court, etc. 28 to 31—Go over to Paoli. Prove Bro. T. V. T.'s will. Make calculations for settlement of Campbell estate. Busy.

"June 4—Co. Com. meet (in Bedford). Clerk for them. 11 to 16—Probate Court meets. Busy all these days.

"July 3 and 4—Prepare grounds for celebration. Sons (of Temperance) celebrate the day. Large turnout. 9 and 10—Work on duplicates and in garden. 11—Prayer meeting at our house tonight. Mr. Williamson's school suspends. 14—Railroad meeting. 16—Mrs. Rawlings, Bryant and Rariden here to tea. 20—Go blackberrying. 21 and 22—Go over to Paoli. Bro. Volney's funeral sermon preached by Dr. Wood. Text, I Cor. 15, 55, 56.

"August 20—C. Poutzler dies with cholera this morning and is buried in the evening by Sons of Temp.

"September 21 to 22—Go out to Owen County collecting sale notes of Stans estate. Ride all over woods, hills, rivers, creeks and mud holes and collect only \$4.16. More success next day. Very tired.

"October 1—At Paoli settling various matters. 2—Go to New Albany on 'Pauline' (his horse). Called at father's at night. He is not well. 3—Go over to Louisville to see Dick et al. (the Wool-folks). Return to New Albany, stay at father's. Kind enough. Buy buggy today. 4 to 5—Return to Paoli, then come home in own buggy with Mary and boy. 6—Make sale of G. S. Humston's property. Cried sale myself. Take severe cold. 9 to 13—Cut up and stack corn in lot. Make gate and hang it. Bring in pumpkins. Make shed. 16—Work at home part of the day. *My 28th birthday.* 20—Loan money to Dunn and Munson. 23—Attend Sons of T. meeting tonight. 24 to 27—Paper room today all day. Work roads. Paint house. Take depositions. 29—Circuit Court commences its fall term.

"November 1 and 2—Very little business in court. It adjourns in the afternoon. 6—Party at Jess Mitchell's. 10—Haul straw, put down carpet, etc. 14—Prayer meeting at Mrs. Goodlet's. 20—Mr. and Mrs. Williamson, Mr. and Mrs. Green, Miss Hendricks.

and the Goodlets at our house to tea. 21—Messrs. William Blackwell, Williamson and Rector here to dine. 26—Go to Paoli. Start early and arrive at 12. Take supper at Thomas Braxton's. Good. 27—Attend Pro. Court and make several settlements. 28—Richard Woolfolk and Mr. Barr come out in stage to put up telegraph instrument at Paoli. Mr. Braxton returns from the south also. Supper there with Thomas, Martha et al. (Martha, his niece, first wife of Thomas Braxton).

“December 4 to 6—Board of County Com. meet (at B.). Clerk for them. 7 and 8—Commence attending to Thompson's business. Methodist Quarterly Meeting. Had meeting at Laforce's last night about church matters. Go to Methodist meeting. A considerable stir. 11—Busy collecting taxes. Sons initiate tonight. Very busy. Prayer meeting at our house tonight. Ellen O'Neal, J. Farmer and wife, Miranda R., Mr. Roberts and B. O'Neal here to supper.. 14—Bought pork, cut it up and salt it away. 16—Campbellite or Reformed meeting in Baptist church. 21 and 22—Very busy receiving taxes. Very cold. Invited to dine at Mrs. Blackwell's. 26—Masons have public installation tonight.

1850

“January 1—New Years. Beautiful day. Installation of S. of T. officers. I am made B. S. Engage Mr. Hinsdall to teach in seminary. Prepare to send Sol Eldridge (insane) to Indianapolis. My horse goes in wagon. 12 and 16—Graham pays note. Settle other matters. Cloudy. Sold property to Jess Mitchell. 23—Cut up and salt pork and beef. 25—Attend to Kindred Flinn matters. 30 and 31—Rev. Hughes preaches tonight. Pastoral visits today by Revs. Hughes and Roberts.

“February 11 to 18—Pro. Ct. sits. A great amount of business. Later not so much but enough. Charge fees in Pro. Ct. and arrange papers.

“March 8—A little girl was born to us this morning at 20 minutes before 2 o'clock. All well as could be expected. Fine child. (This was Martha his second child who died in 1855). 11—Commence smoking 2nd lot of pork today. 12—*Smoke house and contents burned* down this morning about 4½ o'clock. Home was nearly destroyed. 13—Work all day cleaning up after the fire. 16—School meeting today. Chipman paints house.

“April 2—Move house for kitchen. Easy work. 5—Make grape posts. 11—Ziba Foote and Mary Laforce married. 17—Dine at Eli Dale's with all family. 18—Set out onions. Traded with Munson. 20—Go with surveyor and Rariden to survey his land.

"May 9 and 10—V. Huff and I dig holes and set fence posts. Nail planks on front fence. 11—Go over to Reading to write papers for Nugent. 21—Tom's birthday; 2 years old today. 25—Go over to Paoli with Mary and the children. Circus at Orleans as we pass through. 29—Attend to sale of Maxwell's land. 30 and 31—Return to Bedford and work in office.

"June 10 and 11—Probate Ct. Very busy day—a perfect rush. 18 and 19—Go over to Paoli for Mary and the children and return. 20—Stable finished about this time. 21 and 22—Work on streets. Take contract. 25—Hear the sad news of Martha's death this morning at 1 o'clock. (Martha Parker Braxton, the young wife of Thomas Braxton, and daughter of Woodbridge Parker). Start to Paoli immediately with Mary and child. Lizzie with Lee Stone. Thos. V. left behind at Mitchell's. 26—M. buried. Jo comes. Father Martin preaches funeral.

"July 3—Thomas Braxton comes to see us this morning. 4—S. school celebration. Deliver address. 8 and 9—Work in office. Receive letter to be candidate. 18—Finish new home (repairs after fire). 19—Go to Lawrenceport to candidate's speaking and return. 21—Communion in our church for the first time. 23—Make balance of fence between Raney and me (west side of lot adjoining what was later the Mike Messick home). 27—Go to country to take vote on calling pastor. 29—Put boards on carriage and woodhouse.

"September 6—Wind up matters about house. 15—Go to country with Rev. Williamson. Sessional meeting. Prepare call, etc. 17 and 19—Presbytery convenes and transacts much business. 23—Prayer meeting at sunrise. Rev. Roberts installed as pastor at 11 o'clock. Lord's supper at 3 o'clock. Many in from the country. 23—Commence copying census returns.

"October 1—Very busy copying census. 17 to 21—Gray digs cistern. Roach works at walling cistern. 23-24—Work wheeling away dirt from cistern now and then for several days.

"November 3—Circuit Court in session. 29—Write for Col. M. C. Commenced yesterday. He is sick all day and no account. 30.—Col goes home today. Glad of it. (This "Col." not identified).

"December 2—Co. Com. meet. Clerk for them. 3—Finish McCree's business this morning."

Here the diary practically ends. Nearly a year later a few entries were made in September 1851 (as shown below) after which the keeping of the diary was permanently ended. It was kept going pretty faithfully from January 1, 1847 to December 3, 1850, as

will be noted by an examination of these excerpts, which represent less than one-fourth of all the entries. It covered a period beginning shortly after the writer went to Bedford when he was just past 25 years of age, through his marriage and the birth of his first two children, until he was well established and had reached the early part of his thirtieth year.

1851

"September 7—Mr. Clark starts for Illinois and Iowa. 23—Send up my resignation as Son of T. 28—Go to Orleans to dedication of M. E. Church.

Final End of Diary.

Certain definite facts of interest brought out by this diary, may be grouped into those relating to the following:

1. Business. 2. Transportation and communication. 3 Religion. 4. Social activities. 5 Domestic life. 6. Personal characteristics of the writer.

1. Business—The clerk of the court had many duties then which are now performed by the county auditor, the treasurer or the sheriff. However some of the "jobs" done by young Thornton were doubtless taken over by him to assist (for a fee) the officers whose duties he performed. For instance the diary tells of the clerk making out the tax duplicates, collecting taxes, appraising property of decedents, providing for public sales and sometimes crying such sales. He not only served as clerk for the circuit and probate courts, but also frequently for the county commissioners. In collecting taxes, court judgments and money due estates, he often had to ride over the county, and sometimes into adjacent counties. It was apparently permissible for the clerk, as in Mr. Thornton's case, to carry on a law practice in addition to his clerical duties. While serving as clerk he was admitted to the bar in both Lawrence and Orange Counties, and evidently carried on a certain amount of probate business. Records in the Recorder's office in Lawrence County, show that during his term as clerk he was appointed, time after time, more than any other single individual, commissioner to make sales as ordered by the courts—usually real estate. This was probably in part extra work which he sought for the fees it brought. His well known accuracy and honesty in handling such sales was of course a factor in giving him such jobs.

2. Transportation and Communication—In that day there were no improved roads and few bridges, and railroads were just beginning to be built in Indiana. What is now known as the "Monon"

was projected northward from New Albany but for years extended in a very crude condition no farther than Salem. The diary mentions frequently, "Railroad meetings in the Court House." These were held to promote public interest and financial support in order that the "New Albany and Salem Rail Road" might be extended through Bedford. One inducement offered was a promise by the promoters to bring the rails "right through the public square"—a most unfortunate arrangement as time has abundantly proven.

Transportation was then by horse back or at best by carriages and wagons. Roads were almost impassable, in bad weather extremely muddy or frozen in rough ruts in wintertime. Frequent trips to Paoli, a distance of 21 miles, made by the writer for business and pleasure, usually required from four to eight hours, and sometimes necessitated an overnight stop. White River had to be crossed by ferry in high water, in low by fording. Either way required time and sometimes involved danger.

Mail was carried by "post riders" and was very slow and infrequent. Postage was high, usually about twenty-five cents per letter, depending upon the distance. There were no telegraph lines in service in most of Indiana, although their construction was beginning in some sections of the United States. The diary states that an "electric telegraph" was brought out to Paoli from Louisville, to be tried out. It was three days before Mr. Thornton learned of the birth of his first child in Paoli, and then only when he himself reached there by horse back. The death of his brother Volney in New Albany was brought to him by special messenger barely in time for him to attend the funeral in Paoli. He did not learn of the death of his sister in Illinois till two weeks later. To facilitate communication, letters were sent by chance travelers with whom the writers had some acquaintance. Packages and freight were usually transported privately where there were no stage lines, and such lines were rare.

3. Religion—Most churches could not support a regular minister, but were supplied by "circuit rider preachers." When they had no services of their own, devoted church goers, like the writer, attended the meetings of any itinerate preacher who chanced to be in town, no matter what denomination he represented. Present day church members might find a lesson in this practice. In Bedford, the two sections of the Presbyterians viz. the Old School and the New School, existed for a time, but the diary tells of their coming together and the writer being made superintendent of the "Union Sunday School," and a trustee of the combined sections.

Church services, synodical meetings of the Presbyterians, quarterly meetings of the Methodists, revivals of the Baptists, the mid-week prayer meetings, all these were the chief and almost only public assemblages and sources of entertainment. The prayer meetings were usually held in the homes of church members. There were few lodges—one of which, the Sons of Temperance, the writer early joined—later he joined the Masons. Church members strictly observed the Sabbath, wherever they were. They cared for each other in sickness, frequently sitting up all night in serious cases. Funeral sermons were often delivered weeks after the burial. Weddings were solemnized much as today, usually without a wedding trip, sometimes with elaborate ceremonies and large parties, but more frequently, as in the case of the writer, with only relatives and a few friends present, and a family dinner later. The marriage vow was held sacred and there were few divorces.

4. Social Activities—The diary frequently tells of “teas” held at the various homes of the writer’s circle of friends. This circle was made up without regard to religion, politics or business relations. The names of the members of this circle mentioned in the diary, will recall something of an early day to the descendants of the old families, and may be of some historical interest to the younger generation. During his first years in Bedford before his marriage, the writer tells of attending parties where the young ladies of the town were attractions, some of whom belonged to well known families whose descendants are still prominent in the community. The writer also mentions a drive to Leatherwood with “Liz C.,” who was the daughter of Gustavus Clark and one of the belles of the town. Mention is also made of a variety of social functions, ^{even} schools, church dinners, picnics and other similar simple gatherings. Apparently all were properly chaperoned and the hours were early. Travelers were frequently entertained at private homes, although there were inns and taverns for wayfarers in the larger towns.

5. Domestic Life—Probably in their family life few men were as domestic, informal and energetic as the writer of this diary. In addition to his many business duties, he found time to do many chores and much repair work around his home. For instance here are some of his activities along this line: (a) mowed the lawn with a scythe as lawn mowers were unknown. (b) planted, cultivated and harvested crops from a garden, including digging, storing potatoes, turnips, and cabbage. (c) helped build a barn, carriage house and fences. (d) painted the house inside and out. (e)

papered rooms and whitewashed smoke house. (f) cut up and salted away meat and smoked hams. (g) tended his horse, cow and pigs. (h) wheeled away the dirt from a cistern he had workmen dig. Doubtless there were other chores he performed not mentioned in the diary, all of which he did both to save expense and to get exercise.

Under the law in Indiana until quite recently, a voter was required to "work the roads" or hire a substitute. The writer found time, in his earlier years, to do this work himself, and at one time, he even took a road contract. His wife was as industrious and frugal as he, and in early years of her married life, had no maid, even doing the washing and ironing herself, although she had not been accustomed to doing such work in her father's house.

It was through such an energetic and provident program that the young couple soon established themselves among the well to do citizens of the town and was certainly the foundation upon which they built up a more than comfortable fortune.

6. Personal Characteristics—The facts already stated throw more light upon the traits of the writer than any description can possibly do. The capacity for hard and painstaking work by both head and hand, and the will to do it, is clearly evident. He was called upon to do much important and tedious clerical work, both as a public official and later as a banker, and the accuracy, neatness and precision of this work were well known. Much of this work because of his indomitable energy was voluntarily discharged either to increase and conserve his income, or to accommodate his friends. He did not despise menial work, but performed it with the same efficiency he used in his official duties. He was neither too proud nor too lazy to engage in any sort of honest toil whenever it presented itself and was advantageous to him.

The deeply religious side of his character is emphasized again and again throughout his diary. He regularly attended church services even when away from home, and when his own church had no preaching, he attended elsewhere. He was ordained an elder in the Presbyterian church, served as a trustee, and for many years was superintendent of the Sunday School. He took part in the weekly prayer meeting which was often held at his house, as were also meetings of official church boards of which he was usually a member. Although the larger home he built later, after the close of the diary, is not mentioned, it is well known that it, too, was always open to visiting ministers and synodical delegates.

Mr. Thornton was sociable and had many friendly contacts. There are many references in his diary, as already stated, to parties and teas and to the entertainment of visiting relatives and friends. After his marriage, his home was the scene of numerous social "functions," and always extended a cordial welcome to visitors. In all this entertaining, as in other matters, he was cordially aided by his gracious wife, Mary, whose fidelity to him and his ideals was always the greatest source of his strength and success. In his family life and toward his relatives, Mr. Thornton was appreciative and considerate and uniformly faithful to all the ties of kinship, and he thus early became counsellor and provider for less fortunate kindred.

The diary closed in his thirtieth year. He lived thirteen years longer, dying just before the end of his forty-third year. In this short span of thirteen years, the traits of character shown by this brief line-a-day record brought him to a position of honor and influence and prosperity seldom equaled in his day in such a brief time. The story of such a life needs no comment. Its lesson is plain to all who will but read it. It is rich in suggestions to this age wherein success is expected without labor and life follows the pathway of easy morals.

CHAPTER IX.

MARY AMANDA BRAXTON THORNTON

Mary A. Braxton was one of eight children born to Hiram and Martha (White) Braxton—five sons and three daughters. She was the second child, Thomas Newby being the eldest and Charles Lindley the youngest in the family. Her two sisters died in early childhood of the cholera, a disease which swept the country in the early 30's. Her brothers all lived to maturity, two of them to advanced age.

She grew up as practically the only daughter and was carefully and lovingly shielded by her parents and her brothers. There was much Quaker blood in the family and strict observance of all moral rules was the custom. She often told the writer that she was allowed to "go out" with only one or two young men of the town. From a daguerreotype taken about the time of her marriage, it is evident that she was a beautiful young woman. Her abundant hair was dark but not black; her eyes were a deep blue; her complexion clear with delicately "rosy" cheeks; her features classical and her figure moderate in size and contour and marked by graceful lines. Added to these attractive physical features was a gentle, generous and lovable disposition—a disposition which marked her whole life.

It is not surprising, therefore, that she was sought after by the young men of her acquaintance. However, she was not particularly interested in would-be suitors, but devoted her thoughts and ambition toward the cultural side of life. She was a student in the county seminary and there cultivated a love for poetry and art and literature and nature which characterized her throughout life. At that time the county seminary in Indiana was similar in its courses of study to the high schools of a later day and was the state's answer to demands for public education above the three R's. It afforded the youth of the county—both boys and girls, the opportunity to secure a little more advanced education than that afforded by the elementary schools—a little Latin, higher mathematics, some science, and possibly history.

Attending the seminary in a somewhat more advanced class than she, was the lad who was later to become her husband—George A. Thornton. This lad, at about the age of sixteen, after the death of his mother in New Albany, came to Paoli to make

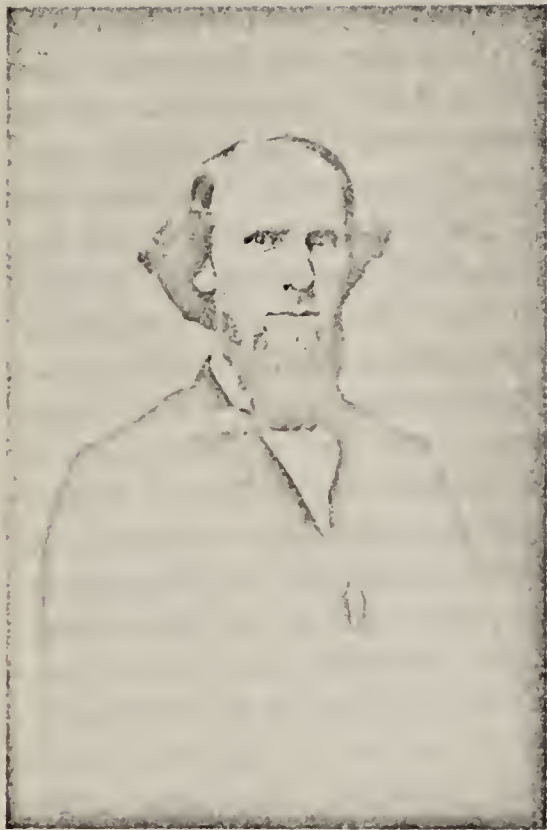


MARY A. THORNTON



GEORGE A. THORNTON

From daguerreotypes made just before their marriage in 1847.



GEORGE A. THORNTON
About 1861, age 40 years



MARY A. THORNTON
About 1876, age 50 years

his home in the family of his older brother Thomas Volney or Volney as he was called by members of his family. In the seminary, he was a thorough and painstaking student. An algebra paper now (1940) in the possession of the writer, attests the precision and neatness with which he did his work even in boyhood. He was an esteemed and popular student in his seminary career. After completing his general education he began reading law in the office of his brother Volney. He also doubtless assisted his brother in the work of the county clerk's office—an office which Volney held for fourteen years. The latter was eminently fitted to be the instructor and almost a father to his young brother. As previously stated he was a man of the highest type—well known and greatly esteemed in his community for his honesty, efficiency and generosity. He was public spirited and contributed much to the best interests of his town and county. Although but 39 years of age at the time of his death he had established himself as a successful lawyer, public official and financier. He built one of the finest homes in the town, which still stands (although remodeled to a less classical structure)—a monument to his taste and prosperity. He donated the lot upon which the Presbyterian church was erected with his aid, and where it stood until a few years ago. He was also one of the commission which directed the erection of the present court house in Paoli—a structure which has been highly praised by art students and architects for its classic lines. It is significant that a street in the town still bears his name, as previously stated. He had married one of the most cultured young women of the town, Clorinda Coffin, a member of a well known Quaker family. She was intelligent and brave enough to refuse to be bound by certain narrow tenets of that sect, and married without its consent, although she was promptly “churched” for marrying without the fold.” She and Volney became the parents of two children, both of whom, however, died in infancy.

Into this cultured home which this marriage established, young George entered and spent there several of his adolescent years. It is not to be wondered at that a lad of his intelligence and pleasing personality, coming from such a home, should be welcomed into the best families of the town. Among these families was that of Hiram Braxton, a leading merchant, which prided ~~him~~ himself upon the scrupulous observance of all the requirements of what would now be called “polite society.” The only daughter in this family, Mary, had practically reached maturity, and her acquaintanceship with young George was readily accepted. It was inevitable that

this friendship should ripen into something more, and as soon as the young man's prospects looked favorable, an engagement followed.

While residing in Salem, Indiana, around 1830, where the father of George, Henry P. Thornton, was engaged in the practice of law and in politics, he was associated with Mr. Gustavus Clark, then a prominent citizen of Washington County. At that time Volney was in his early twenties and doubtless also was well known by Mr. Clark. The latter after a time removed to Bedford, Lawrence County and became by election the Clerk of the Circuit Court of that county. So it happened that after George had proven himself proficient in clerical and legal work, he was offered the position of deputy clerk by Mr. Clark. Undoubtedly the friendship of his father and brother with Mr. Clark had its influence, but his own qualifications were the determining factor in bringing him the position. Accordingly he went to Bedford in 1846, in his twenty-fifth year and entered the office of Mr. Clark. His engagement to Mary Braxton was consummated before he left Paoli, but the marriage did not occur until he had become definitely and successfully settled in his new duties and in his community life.

During a year of adjustment, there were, of course, frequent visits to Paoli and probably more frequently letters, although mail service was poor and postage was high. One of these letters is now (1940) in the possession of the writer, given him years ago by his mother. It is closely written in fine lines but neatly done and entirely legible, to the smallest details. It was written, it must be remembered, with a quill pen. It was folded, as was the custom, to make its own envelope, sealed with red wax, and the cost of postage marked on the outside in ink by the postmaster, "25 Cents." It is lengthy, recounting family and social happenings and many of the little details of everyday life. While it clearly shows the affection he cherished, it contained no sentiments which might be called sentimental.

On July 13, 1847, in Paoli, at the beautiful home of Volney, in the presence of a few relatives and friends, the marriage ceremony took place, and lovely Mary Braxton became the happy bride of George A. Thornton—the splendid young man who had proven himself in character and ability worthy of such a fair prize. The next day a family dinner was given the young couple at the home of Volney and Clorinda. On the following day the journey was made to their new home in Bedford. Contrary to the present custom, the young couple did not make this journey alone; they were

accompanied in the carriage by Lizzie Thornton, the groom's sister, and Zeno Coffin, brother of Volney's wife, Clorinda. The only adventure on the journey, as related in the diary, was the refusal of the horse, at first, to cross the river near Bedford. As it was during the summer low stage of water, the crossing had to be by fording, and this frightened the horse. Upon reaching Bedford the party doubtless stayed at the house where Mr. Thornton had been boarding—probably the home of Dr. Samuel A. Rariden or that of Alex Dunihue. "Parties" for them followed their arrival—the first at Mr. Clark's, Mr. Thornton's employer, with "Liz" Clark, a belle of the town presiding. The next day Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Dunihue gave a party at their house. This was followed by a gathering of the young people given by Miss Hendricks, another friend of the groom, whose family early removed from Bedford. Mr. Dunihue was one of the foremost citizens of Bedford and a warm friend of Mr. Thornton.

The young couple did not go to house keeping till the October following their marriage. Their first abode was the property owned by a Mrs. Yandel located on the northwest corner of what is now 15th and L streets, diagonally across from the Presbyterian Church. Here they lived the first year on an annual income of about \$500, which even then required frugality and economy to make ends meet. The wife frequently told the writer that she did all the house work, even the washing and ironing, and that they had to use great care in meeting their household expenses, as they determined to live within their means. She at once became her husband's help-mate, not his burdensome spendthrift. Following such a program throughout the early years of married life, they were enabled to lay the firm foundation of the fortune which was later theirs.

They began house-keeping with a few things brought from Paoli in a wagon by Frank Braxton, Mary's brother, and a hired man. To these few furnishings, they added equipment from time to time as they needed it, but always when they could pay for it. Such thrift enabled them within two years to purchase a home of their own, in 1848. From one Charles P. Reed, for a consideration of \$500, they bought lots numbered 46 and 47 on the original town plat of Bedford, the deed being signed December 25, 1848, attested by Gustavus Clark, and recorded March 27, 1849. The property was located on the south side of what is now 14th street, and extended from the west line of the Methodist church to the east line of what was then the Rancy property, now (1940) belonging to the heirs of Mike Messick. The house was a one story structure

covering considerable ground, plastered outside as well as inside, because it was built by a plasterer. Over the front entrance was a trellis covered with vines. It was a unique building and not unattractive. Almost at once, as soon as there were the necessary funds, improvements were made, in part by the hands of the father himself as his diary shows. A barn, a carriage house, a smoke house and a cistern were provided. The house itself was redecorated inside and out, and the rather extensive grounds were set to flowers and fruit, and a good sized garden was prepared. Here the family lived for nearly ten years; here four children were born—Henry Clark, Mary Clorinda, Edmund Braxton, and Emma Sickles.

Prospering financially, and feeling the need of a larger home, Mr. Thornton purchased ground adjoining the north edge of the town of Bedford. For a consideration of \$1000 he bought from Joseph Rawlins, ground described in the deed as follows: "The tract of land in Lawrence County—a part of the South east quarter, Section 4 T. 5 N. R. 1 west, as follows: Beginning at the northwest corner of the town of Bedford; thence North 3 rods to the Southwest corner of the land of Eli Dale; thence 23 rods East to a stake in the center of the state road from Bedford to Bloomington; thence with the center of said road to the northern boundary of said town; thence west to the place of beginning; containing 6 acres more or less with all appurtenances there to." The hand and seal of Joseph Rawlins was affixed the 20th of February, 1857, and attested by William Fisher, Justice of the Peace. Deed was recorded February 25th, 1857. Immediately, on the south half of this six acres, was begun the erection of the beautiful home, later known as "Elmwood." This new home was completed in 1858 and the family moved in. Here two children were born, George Abram, Jr., and Joseph Francis (the writer), the first December 23, 1859, the latter September 6, 1864. Later additional land was purchased extending the original tract to what is now N street, from 12th to 11th streets, containing three acres and sixty poles. This land was bought from Eli Dale and wife, with William Fisher and wife joining, for the sum of \$400, the deed being signed April 15, 1859, and recorded June 21, 1859.

Here in "Elmwood" the family life was ideal, more so if possible than ever before. It was not the material surroundings, ample as they were, so much as the influence of a gracious and loving mother and the wise and kindly provident father which made this a home of happiness and good will. Not only for members of the immediate family was it a delightful abode, but it early became

a haven for less fortunate relatives of both parents. But the serenity of such a household was not long to endure. In less than seven years after establishing the home, the father died at the early age of forty-three years, leaving the mother and seven children, the eldest 16 and the youngest but one week old. Fortunately means enough were left to provide support in comfort, to maintain the home and to rear the children to maturity, and until the mother herself passed away thirty-one years later.

These devoted parents had lived a perfect married life throughout the all too brief period of seventeen years. Such a happy life—such success in so short a time would be almost incredible but for the knowledge of the sterling characteristics of the father and mother. When but thirty-eight years of age, the mother was left to meet, alone, the vicissitudes of life and the rearing of a large family, but through it all she showed the same fidelity to duty which had always marked her life. Although the home could never be the same to her, she continued to make it a happy and cultural abode for her children. Her courage was fortified by a complete faith in religion and all its teachings. Without a shadow of doubt, she carried all her burdens to her Lord, and there found strength to carry on, lovingly and faithfully, throughout the remaining thirty-one years of her life. Throughout all these years, the writer, the last to leave the home as the youngest of the family, was her almost constant companion. He had every opportunity to experience the depth of her love and to know the keenness of her sorrow. He can testify that she never allowed anything in her own life to dominate or shadow the lives of her children, but wisely and tenderly exerted an influence for all that was best in human behavior which was far more powerful than words. She made the home continuously a place of happiness and a source of inspiration, and during all the long years since its doors were closed forever, the life within it has remained the brightest of all the precious memories of her children. Shortly before she left home for the last time, to visit her daughter Mary, she wrote in a letter to a little grand-daughter, Louise, (now Mrs. McDougal) a beautifully expressed sentiment which showed her tender love for the place and the sacred memories she cherished connected with it.

All her children had left the maternal roof and had founded homes of their own, and for a time she was left alone. She carefully arranged everything about her home, "putting her house in order" apparently with a premonition that she would never re-

turn. After her departure she wrote in reply to the letter referred to these poetic words:

“Thank you, my dear, that you miss me at home—dear, dear home. No doubt it looks lonely. The unbroken snow on the threshold, no smoke curling from the tall chimneys, no lights in the windows, no lonely mother there looking longingly through the windows of her heart for the dear faces which never come.”

A few months later, on Monday, March 18, 1895, at 2 o'clock A.M., at the home of her daughter in Sturgis, Michigan, this devoted mother passed away in the sixty-ninth year of her life. She was so near and dear to the writer, and his relations with her were so personal and sacred, he prefers to let the following excerpts from a memorial to her in the public press, express an appreciation of her life and character.

“At the early age of thirty-eight she was left a widow to care for a family of seven children, entailing upon her much responsibility and anxiety in bringing her to face many trials in her arduous task. She proved herself a faithful, untiring model mother, unselfish in the extreme, a beautiful example of the power of a life moulded after the teachings of the ‘Man of Nazareth,’ so that one has said of her, ‘For years I have seemed to find my thoughts of her beautiful and genuine Christian life, at once a stimulus and a talisman.’ Among the private papers of a son (the writer) she had left, upon her last departure from home, a marked clipping expressing her own deep convictions, in these prophetic words: ‘Lest I may go and leave you without opportunity to say this, I want you to have the comfort of knowing that, if I were to go to-day, it would be in the sure and certain hope of a blessed immortality. That hope is based not in any worthiness of mine, but solely in my abiding trusts in my living redeemer.’ She was a woman of the tenderest sensibilities and great refinement. She loved beauty in all its manifold forms, whether it be in field or forest, in prose or poetry. Instead of devoting her talents to literary channels, as she well might have done, she turned her gifts to nobler uses, which was to enrich her home life and to charm and elevate the character of the loved ones in the home circle—the home for which she labored with such unceasing fidelity. She was always ready to help the needy and oftimes denied herself in order to assist some worthy one in need. She was a faithful and consistent member of the Presbyterian Church and has left an example of a beautiful and simple faith in the Redeemer that is a rich legacy to her loving children and all who knew her.

"Thus has passed away one whose noble life of self sacrifice and untiring devotion to a quiet and unobtrusive existence, but one more potent for good than many that have been more conspicuous. Who can measure the influence for good that such a beautiful character exerts? The sweet and hallowed charm of her life will never cease to affect the lives of those who are left."

Excerpts from Her Letters to Her Children

Her letters to her children were like "the tie that binds." As the family left home and scattered widely, it was she who kept each member in touch with all the others. They were free of all rehearsals of trials and troubles, but gave the essential and interesting facts in the current lives of the various individuals and families. While they were couched in terms of a loving mother, they were in no sense sentimental and "gushy." Rather they were distinguished by a fine delicacy of feeling and expressed in language which was gracious, incisive, and often poetic in thought and word. In keeping with her devout faith in a personal God, her letters always closed with a benediction as well as in terms of tender affection. She often enclosed in her letters, clippings of poems or important prose expressive of her own sentiments, which she gleaned from her wide reading. She never wrote a letter which was perfunctory or superficial. The recipient always knew, even before opening the envelope that it contained precious messages which would richly appeal to both his head and his heart.

In writing throughout her later years, she always used a pencil, as her hands were afflicted with rheumatism. For this reason, also, she had her letters addressed by others, or in some cases, she was furnished a supply of envelopes "ready addressed" with rubber stamp, or in print. While much which her letters contain is too personal to be repeated herein, it will be permissible and profitable to quote excerpts from many of them to indicate something of their richness of thought and beauty of language, and to show, with great clarity, her tenderness and wisdom. Most of the letters were written during sojourns at the homes of her two daughters, which she made from a sense of duty, usually during periods of illness in the families visited. Practically all of the letters from which these excerpts are taken were written the last ten years of her life—approximately during the last decade of the scriptural span of three score and ten.

The earliest letter quoted was written to the three youngest of four children left at home while she was in Michigan to assist in the illness of her daughter, Mary, who then lived in that state.

Saginaw, Mich., Oct. 24, 1877.

My Dear Emma and George :

You are all one family now and will read as well as accept letters in common. Emma's cold, I am glad to know is better as she is able to go out. But what church did she go to? Where did my noble George devote a sacred hour—to see some young ladies, hey? Oh well, Mr. Shaw says he thought G too noble a fellow to go to see the girls instead of going to church. Wonder, yes, I wonder.

When you all have to go out evenings, Joe must get some one to stay with him, not go around loose, be so very lonesome. That makes me feel bad, so try some other plan. Time is flying. Soon I'll be home again. Mary has a comfortable and elegant home and is a very neat orderly housekeeper, such as you Emma, will make I have no doubt, when "Mistress of a Manse" or stately stone front, or the less pretentious cottage home. No matter, it will be home however lowly, and it is not the palace that makes the home, but faces we meet there, has been truly said. You can both do much to help your young brother be happy as it is the privilege of all young children. Do not let him seek society down town. Street schools abound everywhere, and I trust my dear child will shun them. I shall return as soon as my duties here will permit and never leave you again only as duty calls me away. God bless and keep you all in His everlasting arms. All send love.

Mother.

(In the same envelope was the following letter to her youngest son)

My Dear Boy :

Your letter, received yesterday, did me much good and I feel glad and thankful that my little son could write such a good letter. Now you must not neglect to write often to your absent Mother. It should be your pleasure to tell me everything that interests you or that in any way is interesting to me—all your little cares or troubles or pleasures. You know I am always *your best friend* and counselor. Don't write your letter at once but a little every night as occasion allows. What a lesson for the boys of Bedford is the sudden death of one whose young life was wasted. My dear son, let me here, as I have done so often before when I could speak face to face with you—let me ask you to love the blessed Savior, who gave His

Son to die for us. "Seek first the kingdom of Heaven" is the advice of Infinite Wisdom and Love. It is the earnest, constant desire of mother's love that her dear children may early give their hearts to Christ, to live for Him. There is no higher aim than to be an unbroken family in Heaven. (Here follows numerous items about family and friends in Saginaw). You are, as George says and I truly hope, much in love with one another. I hope order and system prevails in that home—once a model—and that at the table you do not fail to recognize the Hand that gives you so liberally your daily food. Take time for gratitude and thankfulness. Now, my sweet child, I wish I could feel your dear arms twining and your warm kiss upon my cheek tonight as I try to say goodnight hundreds of miles away. It is late, and I will not write more tonight. "God bless thee and keep thee, and make His Face to shine upon thee and give thee peace," with all our loved ones is the prayer and goodnight benediction of your loving Mother.

Emma's Home, Mitchell, Ind., May 30, 1881.

(To son Joe)

My Darling Boy:

You may not know how longingly I watched your fast receding person as your "lovely Jennie" (saddle horse) posted you from my sight on your homeward journey last Saturday evening—longing for another glimpse of my dear, dear son—all in vain. No, my dear son, it is not that I cannot trust you at home or elsewhere or anywhere. No, no, you do not think so—but can divine the true reason—my delight to be with you—my loneliness without you. If I had not your love I would care not how soon I should sink to repose. But that boon is mine yet, I joy to know and life is worth living with it. (Items of family interest here, with a brief description of a circus on a nearby lot). You will write me and believe I love you better than anyone else can do. God our Father bless and keep my
Mother.

Mitchell, Ind., Nov., 1881

(To same while on a later absence).

My Darling Son:

Your kind postal received. Was pained, my darling boy, to think you are having some of the little trials of life. Be brave and bear them nobly as you always know how to do and as you usually do. I think you will and try to give an answer that will turn away

wrath. You will be better by it and what now you think a thorn may become a rose in its sweet perfume of kind deeds and words. But how little after all, do I care for anything in life—only a right preparation for death, which I know daily is drawing near. It may be for years coming, but come it will and may sooner than we think. Therefore, my dear son, I cannot afford to say or do one little act that may cause a pang to any one I love. And if I have done so, and I am sure sometimes I do though unconsciously to myself I pray all may forgive and forget. Give love to the dear little ones. I want to see all. Our Father bless you with His continued love is the wish of your loving
 Mother.

Mitchell, Ind., April, 1881.

(To same about a visit to Donaldson's Cottage, now a part of the State Park at Spring Mill, near Mitchell).

Dear Son:

We all went to Donaldson's on Thursday. Albert got a hack and Gus D's wife and mother went with us. We had made all arrangements with the Count to go on Thursday precisely at one o'clock. We reached there, he met us at the door, was introduced and shook hands all around. We were paid for the trip, though the day was not pleasant—so cold, roads muddy. Yet we were much instructed as well as amused at the many curiosities of his collection from all parts of the world. He is a mystery, surely, is refined and intelligent and a rigid observer of the Sabbath day. Said his dear old Scotch mother had taught him to keep that day holy, which he always tried to do as best he could. He would not make or receive visits on that day. Hope some day you can visit this "Shawnee Cottage," the home of George B. Donaldson, wild as the mountains and glens of Old Scotland. Write me soon, my darling boy. I love your good words as I love you, my boy, and I pray God to make me worthy of that love always. Our Heavenly Father keep you in His tender love.
 Mother.

Sturgis, Mich., Sept. 14, 1883.

(To same on his 19th birthday).

My Dear Son:

Your ever welcome, always longed for letter received, giving such joy as none other pen can wield. How glad, how consciously grateful I am to the Great Giver that so abundantly overflows my cup of thanksgiving as I recount the mercies of the past and of the

nineteen years of his existence whose young life is my love. And Oh, today as I sit under the shadow of a remembered sorrow—the greatest grief that ever darkened my heart, made me a widow and my children fatherless. This day, the anniversary of that which made our once bright home so dark, brings some joy and great rejoicing in that I am blessed above many widowed mothers with ever faithful love of noble sons and true daughters, so that my pathway is yet brightened. Thank you, my darling boy, for such good proof of your fidelity to mother and home. Your home shall be bright if aught I can do will make it so. Write very soon and don't delay. Love to all.

Mother.

Bedford, Ind., Nov. 10, 1885.

(To same on the study of law).

My Beloved Son:

I am sorry to hear of your weakening about the study of law—but cannot censure that nobleness of nature which shrinks from the “arts of the practice.” It was that very thing disgusted your own dear father with the practice of law. The profession of teaching is a noble calling—the ministry noblest of all. “Commit thy ways to the Lord and He will direct thy steps.” Do your part and the Great Father and Helper of us all will not fail in his promised aid. Excuse this scrawl and believe in the unchanging love of

Mother.

Bedford, Ind., Nov. 19, 1885.

(Same on selecting law or teaching).

My Dear Son:

I do not think that I urged the study of law—only suggested doubtless that, inasmuch as you had already such qualifications for a lawyer and had selected that profession, you better persevere. But you are the best judge of your ability and surely know better than any if you have a dislike or prejudice to it. Possibly you may or may not overcome this. One serious objection to teaching as a profession would be a migratory life, unless you attain a professorship in some college. Oh, well time enough yet for these honors to be talked about. You will be beloved and respected, no matter what you follow as a profession and I know you will act well your part in life's great drama. Goodnight and a Heavenly Father's blessing be upon our beloved child.

Mother.

Bedford, Ind., Nov. 25, 1885.

(To same on a family reunion at Thanksgiving).
Emma's House (Bleak House) Thanksgiving Day.

Dear Son:

Thanksgiving and we are just home from church services when your letter was handed me and gave renewed occasion for my most devout thanks. These days, like most anniversaries, bring up sad thoughts as well as joyous ones, as our loved ones gather around us and we are happy in the consciousness of their love. Yet there are vacant chairs and aching voids in our hearts. We cannot be perfectly resigned to what is God's will. Through the weakness of the flesh we are human still. Though it may be one of the best of His blessings and mercies to us we cannot feel it so. We only know our loved ones are gone and we know they are safe forever from the ills of life and happy in the presence of a blessed Savior, and today are looking down upon us with a loving benediction. Oh,

that we could be ever conscious of this and always feel their presence near to help and comfort when we are weak and cast down. How brave and hopeful, how calm and happy would we ever be. But, though the many links in life's chain have been broken, others remain only the brighter for the strain upon them and stronger that we depend so entirely upon their support and comfort. All join in love to you. God bless us all. Ever loving and thankful,

Mother.

Bedford, Ind., Dec. 2, 1886, Thursday P.M.

(To same at Poughkeepsie, N.Y.).

Our Beloved Child:

Your splendid letter reached me yesterday P.M. Since which was written, you have doubtless received two from me—the last one a poor little waif in search of comfort. Dear son, I am deeply grateful for your loving words. Such expressions and such acts gladden a mother's heart, though never doubting the love of our children, I could not doubt, my darling, and I do not. You, our beloved, bear so much of the image and true nobility of your beloved father, whose love you never knew, that, with the ever tender and peculiar circumstances of your early life, surely endear you to me by stronger ties than any one of our other dear children. I often think and fear you will feel I am foolish or childish in this attachment, though you are now old enough to appreciate and understand

as nearly as you can without experience. God our Father, bless you, our precious child, and ever lead us all to love Him.

Mother.

(To same, at Poughkeepsie, on not continuing college course).

Bedford, Ind., Sept. 24, 1886, Elmwood.

My Beloved Son:

Your most welcome letter received telling of your safe arrival. I cannot yet become reconciled to the thought you will give up a literary life. You are so well fitted for any one of the professions, especially the ministry. Now don't you laugh at mother's hobby as you may call it. There are others who are quite surprised and who were disappointed that you stopped your college course. I fear we did not think long enough or seriously as the occasion demanded. There is nothing of a pecuniary need I would not willingly supply—this you ought to know me well enough to believe and trust. I am sure our youngest son should enjoy all the advantages possible for his improvement and education. "Thorough and complete as it can be in this life" was a request made of me under one of the most solemn conditions it was ever, or ever will be possible for me to experience. I cannot lightly put off the responsibility, my darling boy. You cannot, in the few years of your young trusting heart, realize anything about a parent's great accountability for their dear children. But, my dear, I must not write you a sermon this glad morning. Our Heavenly Father keep you ever and always is the prayer of

Mother.

(To same upon her sixtieth birthday, when a surprise dinner and gifts were given her by all those in Bedford at the time).

Bedford, Ind., Thursday, Sept. 28, 1886.

Dearly Beloved Son:

Your congratulatory letter duly received and once again with renewed testimony of filial affection. Yes, my darling, it is true now—the weight of the allotted "three score years" is upon me, and if by reason of strength I shall attain the "ten" years more, I may, through the wearying of the flesh become burdensome to you, our beloved children. The offering of your united hearts, with the generous gifts were most beautiful and are tenderly appreciated. It is not necessary to prove your love by any act or work, but I accept with deepest gratitude to God for such beloved children as

among His best gifts to me. Oh, may I prove to you and to Him the unceasing love and trust as I draw near the end of all these anniversaries. "Nearer my God to Thee" I would be and through all the loves of earth I hope to develop the heavenly spiritual life and longing for immortality. Lovingly, Mother.

(To same, at Poughkeepsie. A snow scene at Elmwood).

Emma's Home (Bleak House), Bedford, Ind., Nov. 14, 1886.

My Darling Child:

I have longed to see your dear face so often since the loved presence is withdrawn. And how often, in these cold November days, I catch myself thinking surely he will come in, but only the shadow of yourself in picture on the mantel greets my longing. And so it must be for long weary days or months to come. We came over here last evening through snow and cold with longing thoughts of the home we left behind us. The snow began falling Thursday night but very warm and fleecy. Before morning it grew colder and the snow froze on the branches of the trees, bending them to the ground. I never saw a more beautiful sight all day Friday and at night—the sky clear and moonlight. You could feel transported to fairyland or in a paradise of constellations—so luminous and brilliant was everything—so grand and solemn too, in the stillness of the night. I so much wished we could have a photograph of that winter scene at Elmwood, but the day was cold, snow deep and all unbroken. With love, Mother.

(To same. Elmwood in springtime)

Home, Elmwood, Friday A.M., May 13, 1887.

Dearly beloved though much neglected child:

Shall expect you one week hence, whether you come alone or bring the multitude. Our dear old home never looked more lovely in its outward dress of green—of bud and blossom—so delicately fragrant. The sweetest charm of all—"the Home Sweet Home." The gates ajar—standing ready with open arms to receive and gladly welcome you. Hasten, oh, you laggard days and speed away bringing the glad hour of your coming home. God bless you, our precious child, and soon restore you to hearts who love you. Ever true and loving, Mother.

(To same. On Lillian Voris uniting with the church)

Bedford, Dec., 1887, Monday A.M.

My precious child:

Though the day is "cold and dark and dreary" with scarcely light enough to see the lines on which to write, I must pen a few lines to you this A.M., if for no other reason than to tell of another bright accession to our little church. How I had the pleasure of a warm clasp from a fair hand—so delicately clothed in a soft new kid glove. None other than Miss Lillian, who handed her letter in to our church from the church at Bennington, her home. It was after the close of service when the session convened and accepted the letter. You brother T. V. went up to her and extended his hand. I heard his remark, having not known what was the business of the session until I heard his remark, when I, too, went up to speak and welcome her. Dr. Lapsley has had one great encouragement—our congregation has increased greatly and of the best people. Much love.

Mother.

(To same. On E. B. Thornton becoming a deacon.)

Bedford, Jan. 9, 1888. After 10 o'clock.

Dear Son:

Your letter just handed me. We had a new choir—or a portion comparatively new—Miss Lillian sat in Emma's old place, with much grace, dignified the position. On election of deacons afterwards, Mr. Roberts and your brother Ed were chosen, at night ordained. The dear son will make one of the best officers in that line the church has had for "lo, these many years." And as I saw the noble young man stand up and solemnly assume the duties, I praised God in tearful joy that He had allowed me this happy privilege. Unworthy mother, unfaithful as I have been in the discharge of maternal duties to the dear, dear children committed to my love and care. In humility I sit at the Master's feet, asking in mercy, a larger portion of His spirit and grace—that anew I make consecration, the few remaining years, to His service.

"Jesus keep me near the cross,
Be my glory ever,
Till my ransomed soul shall find rest
Beyond the river."

I am saddened whenever I think of the lonely life our dear Henry leads, but I cannot know his heart or much of his life in

the city, but I *do* know he is a noble good man and have faith to believe he will not drift away beyond the reach of a loving Savior's care. All his letters to us breathe the spirit of Christ. "God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that you are able to bear." I Cor. 10-13. After 12 o'clock and I must close. Ever loving,
Mother.

(To same and bride, Mabel, enroute to Oregon).

Bedford, Ind., June 14, 1892.

Dear Children:

It is not necessary that I write to tell you how constantly my thoughts are with you in the far away absence from us and home, and how longingly I look each hour of the day for sound of familiar footsteps on our threshold or see the sweet form of another as she so often passed by. Alas, so many miles are between us now. Yet memory and thought are ever present and we annihilate space to clasp again the dear absent loved ones. I rejoice and give daily thanks that you are prospered so greatly on the journey and trust you are now enjoying to the fullest the "honeymoon" of your new life. Oh, how gladly we would welcome your return, but alas, that may not be for so, so long a time to come. But my darlings, please excuse this short note, so many noises and carrying on I cannot write more now, but hope to soon send a long letter to you. Love to all. Lovingly,
Mother.

(To Joe and wife at Baker City, Or.).

Indianapolis, Monday Morning, Aug. 1, '92.

My Dearly Beloved Children:

You will be somewhat surprised that I linger here still but I go home today. The enclosed letter will give some home news. We are rejoiced over the good health of both of you—the change has been a blessed boon. Prospered beyond all expectations in every way. How glad and grateful to the Great Giver we should be, whose love and mercy is over all. Nothing else could ever reconcile me to such separation, and how constantly we realize the truth: "We cannot drift, Beyond His love and care."

But, my darling children, I must not stop to write more now—we must start for the station. We have no plans now for the future except I take Mr. Thomas again with "Tishie" (the maid) and begin life as it is. Our Father keep you safely in His loving care. Ever your
Mother.

(To same in Oregon. On mine home there).

Indianapolis, Sept. 17, 1892.

Dear Children:

You are so very kind and thoughtful to send another good letter to your careless mother. Believe me, dearest ones, that my thoughts and heart go out to you in the far away home you have founded. So often, could it be in person, you might sometimes think an intrusion (?) though that person was mother. How appropriately named your home—"Cedar Knoll," very pretty too it sounds.

Your letter found me all in the "hurry and flurry" of putting things to rights preparatory to leaving the dear old home for a short season, or it may be a long one—none can tell. But you weary of so much. I thank you, dear Mabel, for the good insight into your little *palace* home. I am so glad you reign there, the queen in that home, and are so well physically as otherwise, to wield the scepter. My dear ones, you are enjoying a sweet experience—one that comes but once in a lifetime. Cherish these precious hours of "loves young dream"—now its blest realities. And, dearest children, remember it is not the palace that makes the home, but the dear faces we meet there. Oh, may you long be spared to each other and no dark clouds overshadow your young hearts or home. I am not sure but this is the glad anniversary of Mabel's birth. (Sept. 18). Mrs. S. has told me you were expecting to visit the city on this occasion to once more enjoy church privileges, etc. Yes indeed, my precious children, you prize the quiet Sabbath rest and should have it. With abiding faith in God and you, dear children, I am ever your loving
Mother.

(To same in Oregon. On their early expected return to Bedford, and on her sixty-sixth birthday).

Indianapolis, Ind., Thursday Morning, Oct. 8, '92.

My Beloved Son:

Your two most tender and truly "sonly" letters received a few minutes ago, having been forwarded from Bedford. Sorry, indeed, I could not have had them in due time from date, but "all is well that ends well," we are assured, and since I have survived the disappointment, will only enjoy the more because you have been so faithful. I had thought, as the 26 (of September) passed by without the usual receipt of some kindly token, that you also had forgotten the day of Mother's growing old. Thank you both for loving greet-

ings. I had only thought and planned to have dear Tom occupy the north side of house temporarily, we three the other (south side.) Come then that you have the first place in this plan. Your choice of plan I have always held most reverently. My home is only mine as shared by our dear children—and shall be, so long as I own it; a resort, a refuge where all or any one of those so dear to my heart may come if ever need be and *feel at home*. Consider, my darlings, the home is yours shared by me. You can have free control and I am content so long as God wills I need a home. I know all or any of our dear children would cheerfully give me a corner.

I am so glad you are soon to be home, can scarcely wait for the "good time coming." But how differently I had hoped to greet your home coming, but after all, a quiet welcome will be the most acceptable I know, to each of you as also to myself, and we will all assure you of a most loving glad welcome home. Have I told you Henry has his letter from church at Bedford and will unite with Emma next Sabbath—Tabernacle Church? Your devoted

Mother.

(To same in Bedford. On letters from Mabel).

. Washington, D.C., May 4, 1893, Thursday night.

My Dear Mabel and Joseph:

You are very kind in remembrances received, for which I am most truly thankful. Mabel, thanks for both your late letters. Even though they were written under difficulties, are very satisfactory. You write well, my dear, and with so much ease usually, so naturally too, is the best part of all. Do hope you may keep well. Mollie wrote me sometime ago you looked in splendid health. That you are getting through your sewing is good news. What wonder I should dream of a little boy and a pair of goats? Across the way this picture in real life is daily before my window, and in memory again I see my own beloved little boy, now happily the possessor of a more tender love than the dumb devotion of his "four footed friends." Our Heavenly Father bless, and keep us all even in His love and fear. Ever your devoted

Mother.

(Enclosed was a private note to Mabel, marked "private but Joseph may read").

(To same at Anderson, Ind., about baby Helen. Written a month before the end of her life).

Sturgis, Mich., February 12, 1895.

Dear Children:

Glad you write of Helen, of whom I so often dream. I do not weary of hearing all her cute ways. My dears, do not encourage the book loving—she is already a precocious child and it might be a serious thing to her health. Surely the place (your present abode) is healthful for all of you—the fragrant (?) fumes of natural gas conducive to that blessing doubtless. Excuse so long a letter and believe it is no want of love for you, my dear children, I have so long neglected you; it is only because of just getting at it. I will be more faithful in future. Thank you for your kind loving letter. All send love. Remember me kindly to your father. God bless you. Kiss our darling for
Mother.

Comment on these letters is unnecessary. They speak for themselves, and express their own excellence far more clearly than any words of another. In simple, graceful and often poetic language they show vividly the fine sentiments, the tender affection, the humility, the self-sacrificing spirit and the religious fervor of the writer. To the sympathetic reader, they bring at once an inspiration and a challenge which he cannot escape—which fills him with a desire to emulate the fine virtues which they so forcibly bespeak. His heart keenly responds to their warm appeal, and is deeply impressed by their beauty and sincerity. They project the uplifting influence of the writer down through the years, and in a sense, declare her immortality. Thus they exemplify the oft repeated sentiment, "Great lives do not go out—they go on."

CHAPTER X

Maternal Lines of Descent

I—THE BRAXTONS

The Braxton lineage of Mary Amanda (Braxton) Thornton has already been indicated. This chapter will consider the history of her family and its membership, also that of the Wards.

The first of the Braxton family in Indiana was Thomas Braxton I, who in early life came to the state with his wife about 1800. He came from Orange County, North Carolina, where a branch of the Braxton family in America had lived for two or more generations. Thomas vigorously opposed slavery and this antipathy was an important consideration in his desire to settle in Indiana Territory, in which the Ordinance of 1787 declared slavery should never exist. His hatred of slavery was so strong that he not only refused to associate with other members of the family who were pro slavery, but even changed the spelling of his family name when locating in the new settlement. He began spelling the last syllable "*tan*" instead of "*ton*." So runs a family legend in explaining the difference in spelling. For two or more generations in Indiana the *a* has been retained by his descendants, although in late years some members of the family have resumed use of the *o*, which is historically the correct spelling.

Thomas Braxton was born in Orange County, N. C., November 17, 1775, and died in Paoli, November 29, 1865, in his ninety-first year. His grave is in the old cemetery at Paoli. Shortly before leaving North Carolina, probably about 1799, he married Hannah Lindley, who was born in Orange County, N. C., in June 1780, and died in Paoli in June, 1845, aged sixty-five years. Her burial place is beside her husband at Paoli. Through a brother of Hannah Lindley, another branch of the family became established in Monroe County, Indiana, two members of which are now (1940) national figures in education and journalism.

Another family which migrated from North Carolina to Indiana Territory about the time Thomas Braxton came, but about which little is known, was that of Francis White. He married Mary — (?) in North Carolina about 1796. To them several children were born, whose names, however, are unknown. One of the older of

these children, a daughter, Martha White, became the first wife of Hiram Braxton, the second son of Thomas Braxton. She was born in North Carolina, December 20, 1798, died in Paoli July 22, 1852, in her fifty-fourth year. It is evident that from the Whites came the names Francis, Mary and Martha, which occur in both the Braxton and Thornton families. The names of the children of Thomas Braxton and Hannah Lindley are, Jonathan, Hiram, William, Marjorie, and John Lindley.

The second son, Hiram (born in Orange County, Indiana, July 15, 1802, died in Paoli, March 3, 1864) as above stated married Martha White, who was his first wife. The marriage took place in Salem, Indiana, on June 6, 1823. It will be noted that Hiram was four years younger than his bride. To them were born eight children, all of whom grew to maturity except two of the three daughters, who died in early childhood during the epidemic of cholera which swept the country about 1830. The names of these children are: Thomas Newby, Mary Amanda, Ruth Ann, Edmund More, Martha White, Homer White, Hiram Francis, and Charles Lindley. The second child, Mary Amanda, became the wife of George Abram Thornton.

Hiram Braxton's first wife, Martha, died in 1852, and he married in 1855 Mrs. Elizabeth Underwood Harmon. To this second marriage was born a daughter on December 29, 1856, Allie Braxton, now (1940) the widow of William B. Harris, now lives with a daughter in Ellettsville, Indiana. She was married to Mr. Harris in Ellettsville, March 9, 1876, and became the mother of eight children, whose names are: Carl B., Edmund B., Katie, Henry Joseph, Nellie Isabelle, Mary Elizabeth Troth, Frank B., and William B., Jr.

Most of his life, Hiram Braxton was a dry goods merchant in Paoli, operating a store located for years on the southeast corner of the public square and the New Albany pike. His home was above the store for many years. The building he thus occupied was destroyed by fire after his death. He was an active citizen of the town, and one of its most prosperous business men. He lived to see his children established in life and passed away at the age of sixty-two, full of honor and respected by his associates.

The Braxtons were a substantial and influential family in Southern Indiana—most of them constructive leaders in their communities, prosperous farmers and merchants. Many of them were consistent members of the Presbyterian church, or at least favored that denomination. They were hardy men and women and were as

strong in character as in physique. As in all families there were some "black sheep," but in the main they were industrious, keen minded and honest in all their dealings, and have left a worthy heritage warmly cherished by their descendants.

II THE WARDS

The first wife of Henry P. Thornton, and the mother of most of his children, was Martha Ward. She was born in Fayette County, Kentucky, September 20, 1787, and died in New Albany, Indiana, June 17, 1837, age fifty years. Her marriage to Mr. Thornton took place in Paris, Bourbon County, Kentucky, November 3, 1805. The writer has seen the original entry of their marriage in the official records of the county in Paris. It was apparent by this record that it was the custom to record bride's "pet names" rather than their correct Christian names. For instance Martha Ward was entered as "Patsy" Ward. Other bride's names were recorded as "Polly," "Betsy," "Rosy," "Nancy," "Lizzie," "Dolly," etc.

The Wards, as did most early settlers in Kentucky, came originally from Virginia, but many came directly from North Carolina. This was, in part, due to the fact that Kentucky was then the Western section of Virginia, as Tennessee was of North Carolina. The lands had not been definitely surveyed and early comers were often not sure whether they were settling in Kentucky or in Tennessee. This was not the case with the Wards, as their location was well above the Tennessee line in the blue grass section of Kentucky near Lexington. They were a thrifty family and were fortunate in the selection of their new settlements. As time went on, they evidently obeyed the scriptural injunction, "Be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth and subdue it," for the name "Ward" appears frequently throughout Kentucky, southern Ohio, Indiana, and other adjacent states. For the most part it has shown itself a worthy and prosperous family.

Little is known of the early life of Martha Ward. She was a native of Fayette County, Kentucky, the second child of Benjamin Ward who came to that county from Virginia. He was married in Virginia about 1783, to Elizabeth Thompson. To this marriage were born eight children, five sons and three daughters—all of whom lived to maturity. They were as follows:

1. Thompson, a lawyer, living most of his life in Greenupsburg, Ky.
2. Martha, wife of Henry P. Thornton.
3. James, operator for years of the "Little Sandy Salt Works."
4. William, died

while still a young man in New Orleans, La. 5. Abram, a printer and afterwards a merchant and manufacturer of rope. 6. Susan, married and left Kentucky. 7. Joseph, a lawyer, also a partner in the Salt Works with his brother. 8. Melinda, married and left Kentucky.

The given names of all of these children, except two, appear in later generations—some of them persisting in the names of members of the present generation (1940). Benjamin Ward, the father, died of consumption. His wife, Elizabeth, lived to an advanced age.

Of Martha Ward's five brothers, two were lawyers, two were successful business men and the other died in youth of yellow fever in New Orleans, while on a business trip to that city. The two sisters contracted fortunate marriages, but early left Kentucky and little is known about them or their later life.

Although born in Fayette County, Martha Ward was married in Bourbon County, the family probably having moved there. As stated this marriage took place in Paris, November 3, 1805. To this union nine children were born, whose names have been previously given. Martha Ward was a woman of attractive personal appearance if we may judge from a portrait made of her in oil now (1940), a cherished possession of the family. That she possessed good health is attested by the fact that she was the mother of nine children and had to assist in establishing a number of new homes as the family moved from place to place. That she was a woman of strong character and deep religious conviction is shown by the lives of her children, all of whom were active church members and made worthy contributions to their day and generation. She must have been a great help to her husband—enabling him, under difficult conditions, to attain success and prominence among the very capable lawyers then practicing in Indiana. Her death, at the early age of fifty years, was a severe blow to the family—leaving four young children besides her husband who had always found her so helpful. The children were sent to live in the families of older brothers and sisters, and the father made out the best he could alone.

Martha Ward Thornton was buried in Fairview cemetery, New Albany, Indiana. Upon this family lot were also buried, in time, her son, Thompson, her daughter Harriet, and the latter's first husband, Woodbridge Parker, and their little daughter, Cora Parker. Harriett was married a second time to Samuel Norris and lived with him in Illinois, but was buried beside her first husband and little daughter. These five graves were for many years un-

marked, although in one of the best sections of the cemetery. In 1915, while working in New Albany on public records as a state examiner of accounts, Thomas V. Thornton, brother of the writer and grandson of Martha Ward, located almost by chance these five graves. He immediately took steps, through members of the family, to have these long neglected graves suitably marked and provision made for the perpetual upkeep of the lot. Lot No. 12, Range 5, Plat No. 3. This laudable mission, for which Thomas V. Thornton deserves the chief credit, was fulfilled in 1916 and the sacred spot is now suitably marked and cared for. In a sense, this generous recognition by descendants of long deceased ancestors whom they had never personally known, is a mark of the abiding influence of the departed, and perhaps indicates that their finest traits have been inherited by those who have come after them. We are reminded of the scriptural saying, "Though dead, yet he speaketh." Martha Ward did not lead an easy life, yet she met all its responsibilities with patience, fidelity and courage. Such fine traits as these she passed on, in some measure, to her children and to her children's children, and thereby left to them a heritage beyond price.

Eight years after the death of his first wife, as previously stated, Henry P. Thornton contracted a second marriage, November 17, 1845, to a widow near his own age, Mrs. Ann Eliza Thorne (nee Collins). Mrs. Thorne, a native of New Jersey, was well connected in New Albany, but was a woman of stern characteristics. The writer, as a youngster of about ten years of age, was frequently sent on errands to her house in Bedford, and although she was the only grandparent he ever remembered, he always entered her house with considerable fear and trembling. She evidently did not appeal to her step children either, if we may judge from entries in the diary of George A. Thornton, to which reference has been made. He never speaks of her as "mother" or even as "step-mother," but always as "my father's wife," or "my father and wife." In an entry telling of an over-night stop at his father's house in New Albany, he wrote "Things went along well enough." For a number of years, Mrs. Thorne's sister "Mag" Collins made her home in the family, and was a woman of like characteristics to those of her sister, thus adding to the unpleasant atmosphere which so impressed the writer in his boyhood. "Mag" died before her sister, but after Henry P. and lies buried by the latter's side in Greenhill, Bedford. Her initials are carved on the Major's monument—the only mark of her burial place.

To Major Thornton and Mrs. Thorne, two children were born, Francis (Frankie) and Henry P. II (Harry) reference to whom has been made in a previous chapter. Mrs. Thorne, and all of this branch of the family later removed to California. So far as now (1940) known, all have died there except the two sons of Harry, Henry III and Earl.

This brief survey of the maternal ancestors of the "Family" will serve to throw some light upon their characteristics, and indicate their worthiness and something of the heritage they gave to those who followed them. Too often family history is traced through the male line only, seeming to forget that the mother's line is as important, and often more influential in determining character than that of the father. At any rate both should be considered, and this chapter is an attempt to recognize this important fact.

CHAPTER XI

MILESTONES

This chapter is written at the suggestion of several thoughtful members of the family. Its purpose is to present and thereby preserve important facts in the lives of the children of George A. and Mary A. Thornton. The source of many of these facts—most of them indeed—is the knowledge and experience of the writer. If not recorded now, before the end of the few years doubtless remaining to the writer, they will be lost sight of and never be known. Such, at least, is the thought underlying this chapter. The children of each individual considered herein will probably be informed on some of the facts relating to their own parents, but will doubtless know little about those relating to their uncles and aunts. It is reasonable to presume, moreover, that *some* day this second generation, or possibly their children or their children's children, may be interested in facts concerning lines of descent other than their own direct line. For such reasons as these, the inclusion of this chapter is thought justifiable.

This chapter, in no sense, intends to present obituaries or memorial tributes to the individuals considered. Such tributes would come best from those less closely related than the writer, and moreover, they have already been paid in eulogies published at the close of the lives herein considered. The purpose now is to state without much comment, if any, the outstanding facts—the milestones—in each life mentioned—each to be presented in the order of birth.

1. THOMAS VOLNEY THORNTON, the eldest child, was born May 21, 1848, in Paoli, Indiana, at the home of his grandfather, Hiram Braxton. Because of the limited facilities for communication of that time, his father did not learn of his birth until three days later. On May 24, the father wrote in his diary, "Start for Paoli, reach there about 8 o'clock and find I had become the father of a fine boy about 11 o'clock A.M. on Sunday the 21st."

This boy grew up in Bedford, receiving his education in the private tuition schools of the day. There were no public graded schools in Indiana till a much later date. Among his teachers were several cultured women from the east and also well educated men from local colleges. One of the former was a Miss Kittridge, after

her retirement, an esteemed citizen of Bedford for many years, vaguely remembered by the writer as "Auntie Blackwell." Another was a Miss Cowen, woman long remembered as a capable and cultured educator, although she did not long remain in Bedford. Later a leading tuition school was conducted by John M. Stalker, assisted for a time by A. C. Voris. The school was conducted in a church located where the First Methodist Church now stands on the corner of 14th and K streets.

Thomas was ready to go to Hanover College when the death of his father occurred. In a brief diary he kept at the time appears this entry, "August 29, 1864. Was going to college to-day, but will not go now until Pa gets well." On September 22, 1864, he wrote, "School has taken up but I cannot think of study. I know I ought not, but I cannot refrain from sorrowing over the loss of that beloved one who is now rejoicing in heaven." On October 31, this entry, "Monday—Started to school today to Graham; study at home through the day and recite to him in the evening after school." The next year he entered Hanover College and began a classical course which he completed in four years, being graduated in 1869. He was active in the college literary societies and was a member of the Beta Theta Pi fraternity.

After completing his college course, he entered the Law School of Indiana University at Bloomington. When finally prepared to practice law he located in Topeka, Kansas, then a town of much promise. His prospects there were as good as could be expected by a young lawyer in a new location, but his desire to marry, without further delay, the girl to whom he had been attached since boyhood, led him with the aid of her father, Dr. Martin, to accept a position in a bank in Evansville, where she then lived. He consummated his marriage, and remained in Evansville about four years, where his first two children were born. Finding little future in the Evansville position, he came to Bedford and entered the clothing business with J. W. Palmer, then a leading merchant and respected citizen of Bedford, under the firm name of Palmer & Thornton. This business proved reasonably successful and he continued in it until elected county clerk—the position his father had held years before. He served two terms or eight years, as clerk, and like his father, was one of the best clerks the county ever had.

While serving as clerk, he took much interest in developing the stone interests of Lawrence County. He was instrumental in locating and opening a large quarry of the finest stone in the Bedford district. He was also president and general manager of the oldest

quarry in the region, the "Blue Hole," which together with a mill, was owned and operated by the Chicago & Bedford Stone Co. At this time he also organized and installed the Bedford Electric Light & Power Company, when such plants were in their experimental stage and existed in but few towns in Indiana.

Through a stone quarry deal he became the owner of a large tract of meadow land in the city limits of Bedford adjoining the old city cemetery. This land which was rolling and well adapted to the purpose, he practically donated to the city as an addition to the old cemetery. He organized and provided for the financing of a perpetuating association under the title of the "Greenhill Cemetery Association"—modeled after Crown Hill Association in Indianapolis. He had the land completely platted, laid off into lots and driveways, landscaped and opened for use.

While in the clothing business, he organized and for years was secretary and treasurer of the Bedford Building & Loan Association—an institution which provided for safe and profitable savings accounts for small investors, and also provided the financing, at low costs, of home building projects. This institution prospered for many years, became one of the largest of its kind in the state, and made possible the building of a large number of homes in Bedford. It honorably closed its operations only when banks, trust companies, and other loan agencies began to exercise the functions which it and other such organizations in the state had been providing.

Shortly after retiring from the clerk's office, Thomas removed to Indianapolis for better business opportunities and for the more thorough treatment of his eldest son who had become a confirmed invalid. He engaged in several lines of business in Indianapolis, none of them, however, proving profitable. Like his grandfather, Henry P., he was too generous and trustful in his business deals, although he was an expert in accounting, and in legal forms and in matters involving the organization of corporations. In his late years until his health failed, he served successfully as a state examiner of public accounts.

During his life time he shared the common fate of all men in meeting deep sorrows. While living in Bedford he lost his youngest child, Mary, who died in July, 1886, at the age of nine years. A still greater bereavement came to him in Indianapolis in the loss of his wife, who passed away in July, 1919. Five years later, he suffered the loss of his only grandchild, Thornton Swain Thomas, a splendid youth of 22 years—who died in August 1921, after a

brief illness. Added to these sorrows was the ever present burden of the incurable illness of his first born, Claude. The latter, however, survived him six years, dying in August, 1931. All these bereavements, of course, bore heavily upon him, but he met them all with Christian faith and fortitude.

During his early boyhood, Thomas, as the oldest son, was closely associated, personally and in a business way, with his father, and doubtless knew the latter better than any of the other children. This is evidenced by notes he made during 1864 while but a boy of 16. February 2, 1864, he wrote, "Pa started to Paoli today and left me in the office." Monday, March 8, 1864, "Grandpa Braxton died this evening at six o'clock, age about sixty-one years. Ma and I were in Paoli at the time of his death." Tuesday, March 9, "Grandpa was buried this evening at three o'clock in the old Quaker burying ground about three miles from Paoli." Monday, March 28, "Pa and I planted a bed of potatoes this morning." April 12, "Pa, Ma, Uncle Frank, Mary, Eddie, and Emma left this morning for Paoli, the object of their trip to attend the sale of Grandpa's property, which comes off on Thursday next."

The final summons came to Thomas Thornton in August, 1925, in his seventy-eighth year, while he was making his home with his daughter, Charlotte, and her husband, Prof. Charles Swain Thomas, in West Newton, Mass. Weakened by work and sorrow, he had been in poor health for several years, and his passing was not unexpected, although it came suddenly. He was out riding with the family on the afternoon of the day upon which he died, and passed away about midnight. The remains were brought to Indianapolis by Mr. Thomas (Charlotte's health not permitting her to make the journey), and the funeral was held at the home of his son George, with burial in Crown Hill. Besides his relatives in Indiana, the funeral was attended by many of his business associates and members of the Irvington Prebyterian Church, whose pastor conducted the services. Thus was ended a long, constructive, and Christian life, which contributed greatly to the betterment of the world, and spread everywhere a spirit of loving kindness.

2. MARTHA CLORINDA THORNTON, the second child, was born in Bedford on March 8, 1850, and died in childhood when but five years of age, on April 3, 1855. While a nervous child, her short life brought joy to her devoted parents, and her passing left a sorrow in their hearts which was never forgotten.

3. HENRY CLARK THORNTON, the third child was born in Bedford in the first home ever owned by his parents — the cottage,

plastered outside as well as inside, and located on what is now 14th street, midway between K and L streets, on the south side of 14th street. The date of his birth was November 8th, 1851. He was a lively and alert child, given to harmless pranks during boyhood, but never departing far from the high standards of his parents. At one time in his life, he was sent to live for a time in the family of his uncle, Jefferson C. Thornton, a Presbyterian minister, then residing in Lawrenceville, Ill. His early schooling was like that of his elder brother—in the private tuition schools of Bedford, then the only school in the town. He was preparing to enter the preparatory department of Hanover College at the time of his father's death. This event delayed for a year the departure of both Thomas and Henry for Hanover. He spent five years in Hanover, passing the summer vacations at his home at "Elmwood" in Bedford. The first recollections of these two older brothers which the writer has were as students in Hanover. He remembers confusing the name "Hanover" with the command "stan over" given by the colored servant to the horses at Elmwood.

After completing successfully his college course at Hanover, from which he was graduated in 1871, he entered the drug business as a clerk in the leading drug store in Bedford. While in college, he became acquainted and later engaged to Miss Nannie Speer, a daughter of Dr. Speer, a prominent physician of Hanover, and a member of one of the leading families of southern Indiana. As she was three or four years older than he, the marriage was consummated shortly after he was 21 years of age, viz. on June 12, 1873, and while he was a drug clerk. A short time after his marriage, he purchased, with his brother Edmund, a well established dry goods and grocery store in Bedford, and operated it under the firm name of Thornton Bros. Edmund, however, was then county school superintendent, and did not take an active part in running the store, and soon sold his interest to Henry. The store was fairly successful and increased in size and patronage.

His wife, Nannie, inherited tuberculosis, and soon after the birth of their daughter, Nellie Speer Thornton, on April 27, 1874, she became a confirmed invalid. Although always cheerful, and even witty, she gradually grew worse, and it was finally decided to remove to Madison, Indiana, near her own family relatives. Accordingly the Bedford store was sold and Henry secured a position as traveling salesman for a shade and curtain fixture firm in Madison. After a few years in Madison, Nannie died on July 23, 1883, and was buried in the Hanover cemetery. Over her grave, in

after years when he had attained greater prosperity, Henry erected a suitable monument.

This prosperity he achieved after several years profitable connection, first as a traveling salesman out of Indianapolis, for Levey, Baker & Co., blank book printers and stationers, and later as owner with Mr. Baker of their own business along the same lines, under the firm name of Baker & Thornton. This business was conducted with marked success the rest of his life. He early bought the interest of Mr. Baker and took into the firm Marshall Levey, a son of Will Levey, head of the firm for whom Henry formerly traveled, the new firm being styled the Thornton-Levey Co. This business for years was very prosperous, and with wise investments in securities of various kinds, Henry amassed considerable wealth. He erected the business block on North Illinois street, Indianapolis, now (1940) occupied by the business. The prolonged depression of the 1930's affected this business as it did all others, and after Henry's death in December, 1930, it was sold by his son, Henry C., Jr., and his widow, to Marshall Levey, the remaining partner. Henry's most profitable investment, outside of his main business, was his interest in the Ottawa Silica Co., a glass sand producing concern near Ottawa, Illinois. This concern was opened, organized, and owned almost entirely by Edmund B. Thornton, and was operated by him with large profits, until it finally became one of the largest industries of its kind in the country, and is still operating profitably. Henry also had important blocks of stocks in Indianapolis banks from time to time, and served on their boards of directors.

In his family life in spite of its early sorrows and burdens in the long illness and death of his first wife, Nannie, Henry was fortunate. After the death of her mother, Nellie, his daughter, then in her tenth year, came to make her home with her grandmother and the writer at Elmwood. There she lived for eight years, until her father had married again and had established a new home in Indianapolis in 1891. The second wife was Miss Harriet Emma Hall, a native of Pennsylvania, belonging to a well known and respected family of that state. The Halls had located in Indianapolis as the center of the district covered by Mr. Hall as a salesman. Through his association "on the road" with Mr. Hall, Henry became acquainted with the daughter, Emma. She was a bright, happy hearted young woman, and displayed that gracious cordiality, generosity and hospitality which marked her whole life.

The home thus established soon became one of modest elegance and refinement, extending such a liberal hospitality to all comers, that for more than forty years it was a center of good cheer—a Mecca to which, from time to time, came all members of the family as well as hosts of friends. Into this home, on September 1, 1897, was born a son, Henry C. Thornton, Jr., who, under the wise tutelage and a training in unselfishness by his parents, has grown up to a capable and worthy manhood, and is now (1940) an efficient official in the Ottawa plant. But this home was not without a great sorrow. On May 3, 1905, after a long and painful illness, the daughter, Nellie, passed away in her thirty-first year, a bereavement which bore heavily upon her father.

In addition to his energetic and successful pursuit of business, Henry was active in the affairs of the Tabernacle Presbyterian Church of Indianapolis, serving successively as deacon, elder, and trustee. He gave liberally to the current expenses of the church and when the new structure at 34th Street and Central Avenue was erected, he was one of the largest contributors to the building fund, giving always without ostentation. In his later years he was also active in Masonry, filling all positions in his lodge, finally serving as one of its most efficient masters.

In the fall of 1929 a serious illness overtook him from which, however, he recovered sufficiently to resume his business activities for a while. Some months later, however, a relapse came and after a prolonged and painful attack, he passed away at his home on December 29, 1930, nearly two months after his seventy-ninth birthday. The funeral was held at the home and conducted by the pastor of the Tabernacle Church, with burial in Crown Hill on the family lot beside his daughter. His faith in immortality seemed firm to the last. Several days before the end, all the while enduring his suffering bravely, he said to the writer as he sat by his bedside, "I hold by the hand my mother's God. He is my refuge and my strength. I wish all my loved ones might know Him." The esteem in which he was held in the community where he spent most of his life is indicated by the following editorial from an Indianapolis paper under date of December 30, 1930: "A wide circle of friends in various walks of life will mourn the death of Henry C. Thornton. Many who knew him but slightly were probably surprised to note that he had passed the seventy-ninth milestone, for his activity ranged far beyond the average for that advanced age. Although ill several months, Mr. Thornton never lost his intense interest in the affairs of a busy life.

"As president of the Thornton-Levey Printing Company, he had been an important factor in that industry since 1884. He was prominent in the affairs of the Tabernacle Presbyterian Church and for many years was president of its board of trustees and member of the board of elders. He had been equally prominent in Masonic circles, having served as worshipful master of the Mystic Tie Lodge and most wise master of the Indianapolis chapter of Rose Croix, one of the Scottish Rite bodies. He also was active in local banking circles.

"A certain characteristic crispness of expression and dignity of manner could not mask the genial camaraderie which marked the relationship with a host of friends and acquaintances. Mr. Thornton was a warm supporter of every movement involving community uplift. In all of his various contacts with Indianapolis life he was an ideal citizen."

4. MARY CAROLINE THORNTON was the fourth child and the second daughter in the family. She was born February 15, 1854, in the plastered cottage at Bedford. As did her brothers she first attended the tuition schools in Bedford which preceded the graded system of schools. She later attended what was then called "The Western Female Seminary" at Oxford, Ohio. Here, however, so much domestic work was required, such as dish washing, scrubbing, laundry work, etc., which she had never done at home, that both she and her mother disliking such requirements, decided upon her withdrawal from the Seminary, and she did not complete the course.

She was a home-loving girl and was always of great help and comfort to her mother. Although always gracious and friendly, she was never particularly interested in social life in Bedford. She was active in the affairs of the Presbyterian Church and it is not surprising, therefore, that she attracted the attention and friendship of the young minister, Robert P. Shaw, then serving the church as pastor. This friendship shortly led to her marriage to the young minister, Robert Shaw, on December 11, 1873, about two months before her twentieth birthday. Mr. Shaw had just accepted a call to the First Presbyterian Church in Saginaw, Michigan, and there the young couple began their married life. After a number of years of successful ministry in Saginaw, Mr. Shaw was called to Sturgis, Michigan, where, with marked success he spent the remainder of his active service in the ministry, and where most of his children were born.

Meanwhile he had made profitable investments in Tacoma, Washington, and following the death of Mary's mother in 1895, the family removed to Tacoma. Here Mr. Shaw continued preaching for a time, but not as a regular pastor, as his eyesight had begun to fail. Here they erected a spacious residence and once more established a delightful family life. Here their youngest son, Robert, was born and here, in a few years their daughter and their son were married and established homes of their own, the sons, meanwhile, having entered into successful business and professional careers.

Thus left alone, as in the usual lot of man, the parents lived a comfortable life for many years, until the mother was stricken with paralysis in her right side. Although this affliction was very distressing to one of her eager and active interest, she bore it with fortitude, adjusting her activities, even her handwriting, with remarkable success. As throughout life, she continued to be the devoted and gracious wife and mother—widening her affections to include an increasing number of grandchildren. For more than fifty years, she had been an ideal minister's wife, thrifty, affectionate, and resourceful in rearing a large family on a limited income, and giving freely of her time and energy and thought in promoting the best interests of the churches which her husband served.

The final summons came to her much as it did to the brother, Thomas, while visiting the home of her daughter in Everett, Washington. She accompanied the family on an afternoon drive to the home of her youngest son, Robert. She retired that night, apparently as well as usual, but the next morning her daughter discovered that the end had come, probably early in the morning, while she lay in bed reading; a book was in her hand and her eye-glasses were on. The date was November 6, 1930, seventy-six years and eight months after her birth. Her brother Henry, was at the point of death at his home in Indianapolis, and he never knew of the passing of his sister. Burial in Mountain View Cemetery, Tacoma, was private, her sons acting as pall bearers.

A bulletin issued by her church on the Sunday after her death expressed in the following words something of the esteem with which she was regarded by the public.

"This morning our thoughts linger between Heaven and Earth. But yesterday, Mary Thornton Shaw was part of this congregation; today she is part of the host that has crossed the flood; she has joined the choir invisible and swells the praises of our dear Redeemer's name. For many years Mrs. Shaw was a tower of

strength in all missionary activities of the women, both Presbyterian and in Immanuel Church. Indomitable energy and enthusiasm characterized her work. Strength and honor were her clothing. Complaining had no place in her speech. During the years just passed she had been a miracle of cheerfulness. And now, with that resurrection body, what radiance of spirit may we contemplate as we, too, anticipate a body raised in glory, in power, in incorruption a spiritual body."

5. EDMUND BRAXTON THORNTON was the fifth child and the third son born into the family—an event which occurred January 11, 1856, at the plastered cottage on 14th street, Bedford. Like his older brothers and sisters, his elementary education was in the tuition schools, then the nearest approach to the free graded schools. One of the buildings in which he attended the district schools still stands (1940) on the north side of 18th street, midway between L and M streets—a one room frame building now used probably as an out building for a residence on the lot. The graded school system was adopted and opened in Bedford about 1870. By that time Edmund was ready for high school, and after the usual course in such schools at that time, he was graduated in 1874, the only boy in his class—the first graduating class of the school. He made a fine record as a student and won the admiration and friendship of Prof. James H. Madden, Superintendent, and of his wife Florence Madden, High School Principal, a friendship which continued throughout life. The writer well remembers with what great pride he saw his elder brother, Edmund, give a lecture on physics with demonstrations and experiments on the class day program.

Completing the high school with such great honor, Edmund was urged to go to the Normal School at Medina, Ohio, from which the Maddens had been graduated. These normal schools covered an eleven months course of study, and were common in the central states at that time, and took the place of a greatly abridged college course. Returning to Bedford after completing the course at Medina, Edmund taught in the upper grades of the Bedford schools under Prof. Madden. Following this work, he was twice elected County Superintendent of Schools.

During this period he was associated, but not actively, with his brother Henry in the grocery business in Bedford under the firm name of Thornton Bros. He soon retired from this venture, selling his interests to his brother. In the meantime, on October 16, 1878, he had married Miss Mollie Carlton, a member of one of Bedford's

first families, and for a time one of the writer's teachers in the Bedford schools. To this union five children were born (See Chart IV), three daughters and two sons. All except the eldest, Carrie, have grown to worthy maturity, and are now (1940) estimable men and women, each with his own home of refinement and culture.

A short time after completing his term as county superintendent of public schools, Edmund engaged in the lumber business, for a time with his brother Thomas, first operating a saw mill at Springville, Lawrence County, and later at Bedford. Gaining more experience than money in this venture, he accepted an appointment as superintendent for the Long Lumber Company, and went to eastern Kentucky to operate the industry in that mountainous section. Here his work was responsible and hard. He lived with his wife and child, Carrie, in rude surroundings. This the writer saw when he visited him in one of his locations in the mountains of eastern Kentucky, where he served as postmaster as well as manager of the lumber company. After two or more years living and laboring under such conditions, he was offered and accepted the superintendency of a stone quarry in the Dark Hollow district near Bedford, when the stone industry was beginning that rapid and successful development which made it one of the greatest of its kind in the United States. His family lived in Bedford and he "commuted" on the "stone train" each day, leaving home about five o'clock in the morning and returning about six at night. Through that tireless energy and shrewd intelligence which characterized his whole life, he was soon able, while still holding his quarry position, to launch a business of his own and organized and operated profitably in Bedford for years the "Bedford Steam Stone Works." To this business he gave his evenings after a long, hard day as quarry superintendent. After a few years of such strenuous work, he retired from the quarry position and devoted himself to the stone works, and other stone interests which he developed for himself. He opened and operated a successful quarry north of Bedford which he carried on in connection with his stone works. Under his tireless and wise management these ventures proved unusually profitable. Few men devote such great energy and so much time and intelligence to their business ventures as did he. Those who envied the great success which crowned his later life (and there were a few such) might well turn to this period of his life and learn the secret of his successes.

One of these secrets was the untiring care with which he looked after the details of everything for which he was responsible. The

writer once attended and acted as toast master at a dinner given by the alumni of the Bedford High School. Edmund was president of the association at the time and had appointed a number of committees to assist him. During the afternoon preceding the dinner, although many business demands had to be met, and the day was rainy and disagreeable, he made it a point to see personally every chairman of these committees. The writer, who accompanied him in making these calls, suggested that the chairmen were responsible and capable, and that it ought not to be necessary to see them. His reply was quick and incisive, "Yes, I must know with certainty that every detail has been attended to."

Seeking new fields for investment, he inspected the sand deposits near Ottawa, Illinois, which had been called to his attention. Keenly perceiving the possibilities in this sand industry, he organized and developed the "Ottawa Silica Company." For some years after entering this field, he continued operation of his stone interests in Bedford. With a tireless energy and shrewd management much like that which characterized his father's business career, he directed all his interests with great success, and in a comparatively few years, especially through his Ottawa investment, he amassed a large fortune. Wisely noting that the stone business had reached its peak, he disposed of his interests therein, and devoted himself to other investments. Although he had acquired through inheritance and purchase much real estate in Bedford, he foresaw with a vision which was almost uncanny, that such property was proving less and less profitable, and disposed of most of his holdings as soon as possible without sacrificing values. At one time, in conversation with the writer concerning the purchase of a farm which had been offered the latter, his quick and decisive reply was, "A farm! Why do you consider a farm? Nothing but expense." He and his sister Mary had inherited a large tract of land lying between Lincoln Avenue and what was then known as the "Breckenridge Road," and extending from 7th street to the neighborhood of the Dive School district. This he laid off into low priced lots and sold all of them as soon as they could be profitably disposed of. He had purchased from the heirs after his mother's death in 1895, all of the Elmwood Addition not already sold, and soon disposed of all lots therein except the home place and his own residence property next door. He had also acquired several business blocks in Bedford and these he disposed of also. A tract of land in west Bedford, now known as "Thornton Park," which had once been owned by his father, he had acquired and donated it to the city of Bedford

as a recreation park. This ground he partially equipped, and since his death his children have caused to be erected, and properly inscribed a community building on this ground. Outside of his industrial interests, his investments were made more and more in stocks and bonds and similar securities. He was a stockholder in several concerns but took little part in their management.

He was a director and, at the time of his death, was president of the Citizens' National Bank of Bedford. The building it now (1940) owns and occupies was erected largely under his supervision. He was also a director of the Citizens' Trust Company of Bedford. He was an active promoter and a large stockholder in the "Greystone Hotel"—a hostelry greatly needed in Bedford.

As a citizen he was active in promoting the best interests of his community. He at one time served on the School Board, and for some years was a member of the Bedford Library Board. For many years he was a director and practically the manager as well as secretary-treasurer of Green Hill Cemetery Association which his brother Thomas had organized. He was a charter member of several business men's clubs, and was an active supporter of the temperance cause in Lawrence County. All his life, as was his father before him, he was a faithful member of the Presbyterian Church, for years teaching a class in the Sunday School, and until his death serving as an elder, and as secretary of the session. His minutes of session meetings are models of accuracy and neatness. All his church duties, like all of his other activities, were performed with the utmost fidelity and efficiency. While visiting the home of the writer, he was urged to remain over Sunday. He courteously but firmly declined, saying he must not be absent from his class. When it was suggested that he could secure a substitute teacher for once at least, he replied immediately, "No, I must be there myself and set the example of regular attendance." He was liberal in the use of his means, making substantial contributions to his church and other such organizations, as well as aiding his business associates and friends and relatives in addition to the members of his immediate family.

It is not surprising that his continuous activities and his energetic pursuit of business should take its toll from his physical strength. In his late years he was afflicted with heart trouble, finally making it necessary for him to all but retire. His keen interests prevented his complete retirement, however, and the last day of his life he attended the meetings of three boards of directors to which he belonged—keenly alive as always to his responsibility.

Returning home in the afternoon, he was unable to reach his bedroom without assistance, and although with his usual energy he tried to overcome the attack, his waning resistance became less and less, and before midnight of June 28th, 1929, he had passed away. The funeral was held in the Presbyterian Church at 2:30 P.M., Monday, July 1, and burial was on the family lot in Green Hill Cemetery.

The following brief statement published at the time of his death suggests something of the regard for him held by his associates and his fellow citizens:

"To write in full detail the account of all the interesting happenings in Mr. Thornton's life would require an immense volume. He was ever interested in the religious and civic affairs of his home city, and in recent years gave liberally of his means in the effort to benefit his church and city."

6. EMMA SICKLES THORNTON was the sixth child and the third daughter in the family. She was the last child born in the plastered cottage on 14th street, Bedford, the birth occurring on March 4, 1858. When the graded system of schools was opened in Bedford, she was still in the so-called "grammar" grades, from which she was graduated in a year or two and entered high school. She finished the four year course in the high school, a member of the fourth graduating class of 1877. As she possessed a splendid alto voice she gave much time to its cultivation, finally spending a year in the Conservatory of Music in Cincinnati. After a year's work there, she returned home and gave her time to home duties and participation in musical events in Bedford. For a number of years, even after her marriage, she was active in the choir of the Presbyterian Church and its Sunday School. Her musical interests brought her in contact with Albert Davis, a well known man of Bedford who had a fine tenor voice. Young Davis was a member of an old and respected family of Bedford—his father, Col. Henry Davis, having been an officer in the Mexican war, and at the time here referred to, was postmaster at Bedford. The acquaintanceship with young Davis soon led to their marriage, an event which occurred on April 22, 1880.

At the time, Albert was Asst. Postmaster under his father. The couple first went to housekeeping in the old home, Elmwood, but soon moved to a house of their own in west Bedford. A little later, Albert went into the hardware business with his brother Gus in Mitchell, Indiana, and moved there with his little family. After some years in Mitchell, Albert became deputy county clerk under

his brother-in-law, Thomas V. Thornton, and returned to Bedford, again occupying a part of the old home. He retired from this position to accept a civil service appointment in the Pension Department at Washington, D. C., and moved to that city. Here the family spent the remainder of their lives. Here the family grew in size, although they lost an infant son, Henry. Here, finally, the children grew to maturity, married and established homes of their own. Before Albert had served long enough to retire on the maximum pension, he met with a serious accident, which made him a cripple the remainder of his life, and finally caused his death.

Through all these changes, trials, and sorrows, Emma retained her faith and cheerfulness, and was a good wife and mother. She and her husband had purchased a comfortable and attractive home and several acres of ground in Takoma Park, a suburb of Washington, D. C., and there they spent their declining years, and there both finally passed away. Emma survived her husband several years, living in their home with a granddaughter for companionship. Her death, preceded by several months' of illness, occurred on July 30, 1937. Interment was in Washington City Cemetery, beside her husband and infant son.

7. GEORGE ABRAM THORNTON, II, was the seventh child and fourth son in the family. His birth, which occurred on December 23, 1859, was the first in the spacious new home, afterwards called "Elmwood." After completing a year or two in the grades, he entered the high school from which he was graduated in the fifth class in 1878. The following year with practically the entire class, he spent in Valparaiso Normal School, graduating there in August, 1879. The next year, (1879-1880) he taught a district school in Lawrence County, in the Leesville neighborhood. During the following summer, he read law in a local office, and was admitted to the bar in Lawrence County. Led by his strong spirit of patriotism, he joined the Bedford Militia company at this time. In the fall of 1880 he entered the law school in Indianapolis. Here, as in all his career, his standing was high. He applied himself so faithfully, indeed, that he undermined his health. He spent the Christmas holidays at home, but in less than three months after his return to his studies, he was stricken down with cerebro spinal meningitis and died in Indianapolis on March 24, 1881, almost before his mother could reach his bedside. His funeral was conducted by Rev. Dr. Martin from the old home with burial in the family lot in Greenhill Cemetery, Bedford.

Throughout his life George was high-minded and pure in heart. Even in boyhood he was a leader in right ways among his fellows—always standing for fair play and clean morals. To this, the writer can well testify as he was closely associated in all boyish exploits with his brother George and his companions. George taught his younger brother, almost five years his junior, all the cherished accomplishments of boyhood: how to swim, how to skate, how to make bows and arrows, and bird traps, and how to accomplish many other boyhood feats. No wonder that his death touched the younger brother more deeply than any that had preceded it within his memory.

Resolutions expressing the high regard felt for him were passed by the Law School, by the Lawrence County Bar Association and by the Bedford Light Guards. Of all the eulogies passed upon him, perhaps the most significant is that which came from those who but a few months before had been entire strangers to him as expressed in the Commencement address of the President of the Law School. He said, "The pleasant landscape over which we have journeyed together has been darkened by the passing of the angel of death. Your hearts are yet tender with grief for the departure of the gifted and generous Thornton. He was a faithful student and a gentleman. He had a patent of nobility from nature.

He, the young and strong, who cherished
Noble longings for the strife,
By the wayside fell and perished
Weary with the march of life.

"When you closed up the gap in your ranks by his fall, you came very close to each other. We will remember his pure life to emulate his virtues, and his sudden departure from unfinished work will long remind us of the uncertainty of the tenure by which we hold our estate."

8. The youngest child in the family and the fifth son, was JOSEPH FRANCIS THORNTON. He was born at Elmwood on September 6, 1864, just eight days before the death of his father. He thus never knew his father, and only learned about him as the years passed, through his mother and his older brothers and sisters. His first impressions about his father were that he was in heaven, and he thought the opening words of the Lord's prayer meant literally "Our father who art in heaven." His birth is thus recorded in the diary of his brother, Thomas, then a lad of a little over sixteen

years of age. "Tuesday, September 6, 1864: A little brother born to us this morning."

Under the tutelage of a faithful and devoted mother, and the companionship of affectionate brothers and sisters, he spent a happy childhood at Elmwood. So happy, indeed, that he did not want to enter school until he was about ten years old. The graded schools were in full operation, although interrupted by the burning of the first building. At the time of his entry, the various grades were being held in rented buildings scattered over the town. The primary room where he first attended, was located in a one room frame structure on the Borland property on the west side of the alley midway between J and K streets. The play ground was the street and a small area about fifty by fifty feet on the west side of the building in the Borland yard. Advancing through the grades, he and two or three of his classmates were twice given "double promotions" as they were then called. Thus it happened that he finished the public school course, including four years in high school, in ten years, and was graduated in 1884 in the ninth class.

In September, 1884, he entered the state university at Bloomington, completing the course there, majoring in languages, in 1888. His college course was temporarily interrupted by a business course in Eastman Business College, Poughkeepsie, N. Y., during his Junior year. This interruption was due to two causes: (a) his patrimony was about exhausted; (b) he was offered by his brother Thomas, a position in the stone business if he would qualify himself for a business career. Fortunately he himself saw before it was too late, that such a plan was not wise, and returning to college, and making up the credits he had lost, he was able to graduate with his class in 1888. While in college he was undecided whether to enter the legal profession or to select teaching as his life work. Just at that time under Dr. David Starr Jordan, President of the University, much emphasis was being placed upon education as a career, an emphasis which appealed to Joseph and was a large factor in bringing him to a decision to become an educator. Accordingly, upon graduation, he secured a position as high school principal, and by mid year as superintendent of the Mitchell schools in his home county. This was followed by the principalship of the Bedford high school for two years, until he resigned to become secretary of the Chicago & Bedford Stone Co. in Bedford. While in this position he joined his brother Thomas in organizing the Bedford Electric Light & Power Co.

In 1892 he married one of his high school pupils, Miss Mabel Smith, whose family had just located in Bedford, coming from St. Catherines, Canada. With his bride he went to Oregon to represent a gold mining company which had been promoted in Bedford largely by his two brothers, Thomas and Edmund. This venture proving unsuccessful, and the depression of 1893 coming up, he decided to re-enter the educational field, accepting the position of ward principal in the Anderson, Indiana, schools. This was followed within two years by appointment as superintendent of the Rockville, Indiana, schools, which was preceded by a temporary appointment as teacher of Latin in the State Normal at Terre Haute.

While living in Anderson, he met with the greatest bereavement as yet experienced in his life in the death of his mother—an event which occurred on March 18, 1895, in Sturgis, Michigan, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Shaw. For more than thirty years she had been a constant and congenial companion to him, the only parent he had ever known—and the passing left its mark on all his subsequent life.

Locating in Rockville in September, 1896, he remained there six years, until 1902, when he was given an appointment in the Indianapolis schools as supervising principal, a position equivalent to that of district superintendent. His Rockville experience was successful and happy. When he first located there, his family consisted, besides the parents, of two children, Helen, aged three years and Maurice, aged three months. On October 2, 1899, a third child was born, Mary Esther. After seven years in Indianapolis, he was granted a year's leave of absence to take post-graduate work in education in Columbia University, New York. With his family he spent a profitable and pleasant year in New York, receiving his A.M. degree in June, 1910.

In a few years he was advanced to District Superintendent, then to Assistant Superintendent, and finally for a short period to Acting Superintendent in the Indianapolis Schools. As the school board was dominated at that time by the Klan—an organization which he did not accept, he with all his associates in the school office, was transferred to the high schools when a new superintendent of Klan affiliations was appointed. His appointment took him to the social science department in Shortridge high school. Although such work was not that for which he had been prepared, both by training and experience, it was not unpleasant and was carried out to the satisfaction of the principal and his other associates in Shortridge. In June, 1935, he retired permanently from the Indianapolis schools.

Meanwhile, in August, 1927, the mother of his children passed away at the age of fifty-four years, after thirty-five years of perfect married life. For the next ten years he lived with his children in the two apartments into which the home had been made. In June, 1937, he married Miss Lillian Voris, a close friend of his youth, whose family had long been associated with his own in Bedford. He is now (1940) living in the lower apartment, his daughters occupying the upper apartment of the remodeled home—almost as one family. In quiet retirement, with an income small but sure, he spends his time in reading, writing, auto trips, caring for his house and grounds and similar activities. As the last living member of his father's family, and now approaching four score years, he knows *his* final summons can not be remote. He only hopes he may meet it in the spirit described in the last few lines of his favorite poem, Bryant's *Thanatopsis*.

This chapter cannot be closed by words more fitting than those so tenderly expressed by Thomas Thornton in a note to his brothers shortly before he passed away.

Saturday, June 13, 1925.

DEAR BROTHERS: All three:

This must be my last farewell, and in the old familiar song, I would say "farewell, then still forever, fare thee well."

Our journey has been long and pleasant. We have had our various vicissitudes, misfortunes as well as fortunate experiences, good and bad—the common fortune of man. But whatever these experiences have been, may they finally result in final good for us all, and may we, at last, again meet in our eternal home, if not here, is the sincere wish of your brother,

Tom.

With love to all your dear ones.

CHAPTER XII

SURVEY OF FAMILY HISTORY

This survey of family history, however incomplete and imperfect, offers an organized and unified statement of facts which will be of interest to members of the family so long as there exists among them a desire for information about their forebears, or an appreciation of their inheritance from worthy ancestors. It is hoped and expected that such desire and appreciation may be abiding and will help in succeeding generations to sustain the ambition to avoid the pitfalls and to emulate the virtues of those who have preceded them in the pathways of life. Those with sympathy and understanding will rightly appraise the conditions of the past through which these pathways have wended, and will thereby be enabled to appreciate better both the failures and the achievements of this devious past.

There will always be a pride in family history, but if it is a complacent pride—one which says, “The glory of my ancestors has been enough for us all, I will simply bask in the warmth and light they have shed and take things easy”—if it is a pride like this, it is more harmful than helpful. Such pride will not only be unjustified, but will condemn itself and will refute all claims to a really worthy heritage—strongly suggesting that the glory of ancestral achievements has been, in fact, accidental, and not the result of sincere accomplishment. No one has the right to be boastful of his ancestors unless one knows and understands what their accomplishments have involved, and is determined to emulate their best achievements. Otherwise one will be an unworthy member of his clan and will belie the very claims which he asserts.

To youthful readers, if there are any, these annals will probably be read to satisfy curiosity, and they may be even boresome, for, “To youth, there is no life but the future, dangling with promise before their eager sight.” Older readers, however, who have reached those years when they begin to wonder what life is all about, and what lies back of their own experiences, will be more inclined to find a peculiar interest in their family’s history. It is then they begin to take some account of their past, and to ascertain so far as possible, what have been the facts and conditions therein

which doubtless have had some influence upon their own failures and achievements. They will be interested in the lives of those who have preceded them in a past which now seems to them short indeed.

Clarence Darrow, the well known lawyer, thus aptly expressed the thoughts which will likely come to the minds of retrospective readers: "What a difference between the length of the way when first one stands expectant with his life before him, and when, nearing the end, he dreamily looks back over the now familiar path. How endless the unexplored road appeared to be, and how very short the foot-worn trail seems now. There are so many other ways for measuring distance besides miles. It is really meted out in emotions and sensations."

So it is hoped that these annals may do more than satisfy idle curiosity, that they may inspire readers to cherish the memory of those who have laid the foundations of their lives, and so pass on to future generations the best they find in a worthy past.

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Benjamin T. Thornton

b 1785 N.C.

- m. Elizabeth See

1) dau.

2) Martha Harriet
(Patsey)

m. - Jonas Myers
21 Sept. 1837
Wash Co Ind.

m. George R. Coombs
28 July 1853^{7p}

- ⁽²⁾ m. Mary Dougherty

3) Benjamin Franklin
b. 18 Sept. 1833 Ky.
m. Mary Ann Boling

4) Joseph Henry b. 1837
m. Louisa Boling

CHART I

Beginning with Thomas Thornton and Elizabeth Robertson

THOMAS THORNTON—B. Ireland about 1755. D. Bourbon Co., Ky., about 1840.
M. in Virginia about 1782 to

- ELIZABETH ROBERTSON—B. Brunswick Co., Va., 1758; D. Bourbon Co., Ky., 1825.
1. Henry Presley Thornton—B. Salisbury, N.C., 3-3-1783. D. Bedford, Ind., 6-6-1865.
M. I—Paris, Ky., 11-3-1805, to Martha Ward—B. Fayette Co., Ky., 9-20-1787;
D. New Albany, Ind., 6-17-1837.
M. II—Ann Eliza Thorne (nee Collins), 1845. B. Burlington, N.J., 1804; D. California (?).
 2. Benjamin Thornton—B. Salisbury, N.C., 1785; D. Bourbon Co., Ky. (?).
M. I—Paris, Ky., 9-1804, to Elizabeth See. Two daughters moved to Missouri.
M. II—Mary Dougherty. No further record.
 3. Margaret Thornton—B. Salisbury, N.C., 1787; D. Bourbon Co., Ky. (?).
M. Paris, Ky. (?) to Geo. See (brother of Elizabeth See). Six sons, three daughters. Heirs still (1940) live in Bourbon County.

CHART II

BY MARRIAGE I

1. Caroline Theresa—B. Bourbon Co., Ky., 8-3-1806; D. Louisville, Ky., 11-6-1845;
grave Louisville, Cave Hill.
M. Samuel Woolfolk, 1822, 8 children, 4 died in infancy.
2. Harriett Martha—B. Bourbon Co., 10-8-1808; D. Belleville, Ill., 12-7-1848; grave
Fairview N. A.
M. I—Woodbridge Parker, 1828—seven children, one died early.
M. II—Daniel Norris—two children.
3. Thomas Volney—B. Bourbon Co., Ky., 10-10-1810; D. N. Albany, Ind., 4-23-1849;
G. in Paoli, Ind.
M. Clorinda Coffin—two children died in infancy.
4. Benjamin Thompson Ward—B. Bourbon Co., 1-22-1813; D. N. Albany, 11-8-1837;
Unmarried.
G. Fairview, N. Albany.
5. Susan Malinda—B. Bourbon Co., 11-15-1815; D. Salem, Ind. 7-1833; G. Salem.
Unmarried.
6. Joseph Henry—B. Madison, Ind., 7-28-1818; D. Wyoming, O., 4-27-1892; G. Spring
Grove.
M. Lydia Isabelle Leavenworth, Leavenworth, Ind., 4-5-1849—four children, two
died early.
7. George Abram—B. Lexington, Ind., 10-16-1821; D. Bedford, Ind., 9-14-1864; grave,
Greenhill.
M. Mary Amanda Braxton, Paoli, Ind., 7-13-1847—eight children, one died early
in life (see Chart IV).
8. Elizabeth Margaret—B. Lexington, Ind., 2-20-1824; D. Mitchell, Ind., 1-29-1877;
grave, Mitchell.
M. Dr. James C. Pearson, 1853—six children.
9. Jefferson Clay—B. Salem, Ind., 1-9-1827; D. Warrensburg, Mo., 7-24-1895; grave,
Warrensburg.
M. Katherine Ruth Bird, 11-29-1855—11 children, eight died in infancy.

BY MARRIAGE II

10. Henry Presley II—B. New Albany, 9-4-1846; D. California about 1920.
M. Louise Hobson, 8-25-1871—four children.
11. Mary Frances—B. 10-25-1850; D. California about 1925.
M. Henry Thornton Templeton, 3-23-1869—no children.

CHART III

Beginning with Benjamin Ward and Elizabeth Thompson

BENJAMIN WARD—B. in Virginia; D. in Kentucky in middle life.

Married in Virginia about 1783 to

ELIZABETH THOMPSON—B. in Virginia; D. in Kentucky in old age.

1. Thompson Ward—a lawyer lived in Greenupsburg, Ky.

Married in Ky. to Sallie Kooner, a sister of Mrs. Templeton, whose son, M. Frances Thornton d. H. P. T.

2. Martha Ward—B. Fayette Co., Ky., 9-17-1787; D. New Albany, Ind., 6-17-1837. M. Henry P. Thornton in Paris, Ky., on 11-3-1805—eight children (see Chart II).

3. James Ward—merchant—"Little Sandy Salt Works."

M. Betsey Lewis in Ky.—two sons.

4. William Ward—died while a youth of yellow fever in New Orleans. Unmarried.

5. Abram Ward—a printer, a manufactuerr of rope; died in early life.

M. Susan (?) in Paris, Ky—one son, Benjamin Ward, lived for years in Boonsville, Ky.

6. Susan Ward.

M. Benedict Brown, an officer in war of 1812.

7. Joseph Ward—lawyer, clerk of court Louisa Co., Ky.; later in Salt Works with brother James.

M. Adelia Lewis, a step daughter of his brother James—several children, names not known.

8. Malinda Ward.

M. John Norris—two children—son died New Orleans; daughter married and lived in Illinois.

(Note—Children of Martha Ward Thornton, wife of Henry P. Thornton, bear names from those listed above, viz., Martha, Benjamin Thompson Ward, Susan Malinda, Joseph, and Abram.)

CHART IV

Beginning with George Abram Thornton and Mary Amanda Braxton

GEORGE ABRAM THORNTON—B. Lexington, Ind., 10-16-1821; D. Bedford, Ind., 9-14-1864; Buried Greenhill, Bedford; Named for George See, his brother-in-law, and his mother's brother, Abram W.

M. 7-13-1847 Paoli, Ind., in brother Volney's home to

MARY AMANDA BRAXTON—B. Paoli, Ind., 9-26-1826; D. Sturgis, Mich., 3-18-1895; Buried, Greenhill, Bedford; Name "Mary" from mother's mother, Mary White.

1. Thomas Volney II—B. Paoli, Ind., 5-21-1848; D. W. Newton, Mass., 8-1925; buried Indianapolis, Ind., Crown Hill.

M. 3-21-1872, Evansville, Ind, to Annie Nantz Martin— B.(?) 9-12-1848; D. Indianapolis, 3-1916; buried Indianapolis, Crown Hill.

(1) Claude Martin—B. Evansville, Ind., 2-26-1873; D. Indianapolis, Ind., 8-20-1931; Named for mother's father. Unmarried.

(2) George Douglas—B. Evansville, Ind., 7-24-1874; named for father's father and mother's mother. Married 5-27-1908, Indianapolis, to Florence Baxter—B. 1-19-1879.

a. Alice—B. 1-17-1916; D. 1-1916.

(3) Charlotte—B. Bedford, Ind., 4-24-1876; named for mother's mother. Married Bedford, Ind., 7-23-1896, to Charles Swain Thomas—B. Pendleton, Ind., 12-29-1868.

a. Thornton Swain Thomas—B. Indianapolis, 7-12-1899; D. Indianapolis. 8-1921; buried Crown Hill. Unmarried.

(4) Marie—B. Bedford, Ind., 3-20-1878; D. Bedford, Ind., 7-13-1886; buried Greenhill, Bedford, Ind. Unmarried.

2. Martha Clorinda—B. Bedford, Ind., 3-8-1850; D. Bedford, Ind., 4-3-1855; buried Greenhill, Bedford. Named for mother's mother and wife of Uncle Volney. Unmarried.

3. Henry Clark—B. Bedford, Ind., 11-8-1851; D. Indianapolis, 12-29-1930; buried Crown Hill. Named for father's father and Gustavus Clark.

- M. I—6-12-1873, Hanover, Ind., to Nancy Speer—B. Hanover, 12-16-1846; D. Madison, Ind., 7-23-1883; buried, Hanover, Ind.-
- (1) Nellie Speer Thornton—B. Bedford, Ind., 4-27-1874; D. Indianapolis, Ind., 5-3-1905; buried Crown Hill. Unmarried.
- M. II—4-18-1890, Indianapolis, to Harriett Emma Hall—B. Kenneth Square, Penn., 11-2-1865; D. Indianapolis, 9-7-1938; buried Crown Hill.
- (2) Henry Clark Thornton, Jr.—B. Indianapolis, Ind., 9-1-1897.
M. I—Indianapolis, to Zelda Clevenger. No children.
M. II—3-15-1937, Chicago, Ill., to Mary Hogan. (1) Nancy.
4. Mary Caroline—B. Bedford, Ind., 2-15-1854; D. Everet, Wash., 11-6-1930; buried Tacoma, Wash. Named for mother and father's sister.
- M. 12-11-1873, Bedford, Ind., to Robert P. Shaw—B. Belfountain, O., 5-27-1844; D. Tacoma, Wash., 3-24-1935; buried Tacoma, Wash.
- (1) Ethelwyne Shaw—B. Saginaw, Mich., 11-22-1874.
M. 10-15-1902, Tacoma, Wash., to Edmund A. Poyneer—B. Sturgis, Mich., 1-3-1874.
- a. Almeda Marie Poyneer—B. Everett, Wash., 12-6-1903.
b. Paul Amidon—B. Everett, Wash., 7-12-1905. M. Enola Alliman, Olympia, 4-4-'35. Children—Thomas Edmund, B. 5-31-'36; Robert David, B. 5-3-'39.
c. Kenneth Amidon—B. Everett, Wash., 6-23-1907. M. Jessie M. Lane, Tacoma, 11-27-'36.
d. Mary Ethelwyne—B. Everett, Wash., 5-3-1914.
- (2) Paul Thornton Shaw—B. Saginaw, Mich., 11-9-1877. M. Portland, Ore., 9-31-1904, to Narcissa Callvert—B. 11-16-1872.
- a. Dorothy Narcissa—B. 7-23-1905. M. Portland, Ore., 12-2-1901, to John S. Wildrige. Child, Jacqueline, 10-15-'35.
b. Lawrence Callvert—B. 10-28-1906. M. Portland, Ore., 7-6-1935, to Anne Kistner.
c. Stedman Berger—B. 12-24-1908. M. Portland, 4-20-1933, to Elaine M. Barthwick. Susan—B. 6-5-'35; Sara A., Stedman Jr. (twins)—B. 8-23-'38.
d. Pauline Thornton—B. 9-5-1919.
e. Paul Thornton—B. 7-19-1922.
- (3) Henry George Shaw—B. Sturgis, Mich., 10-9-1879. M. Sturgis, Mich., 9-2-1908, to Margaret Knight—B. 4-22-1885.
- a. Thornton Knight—B. 7-29-1910. M. 3-5-1938, Tacoma, Wash., to Lucia Carruthers.
b. Mary Alice—B. 5-3-1914; D. 10-19-1934.
c. Margaret Lillian—B. 6-9-1922.
- (4) Frederick Joseph Shaw—B. Sturgis, Mich., 8-21-1883.
M. I—9-6-1911, Tacoma, Wash., to Frances Bligh—B. 12-21-1886.
- a. Barbara Helen—B. 1-6-1914. M. 11-1937, Tacoma, to Walter Bjorklund. Child, John Frederick, 10-30-1939.
M. II, 4-18-1930, to Belle Gardner.-
- (5) Stanley Thornton Shaw—B. 4-24-1886, Sturgis, Mich.
M. 5-20-1913, Tacoma, Wash., to Clara Junk—B. 5-26-1889.
- a. Malcolm Douglas—B. 2-25-1917.
b. Evelyn—B. 10-31-1918.
c. Donald Lincoln—B. 2-12-1922.
d. Genevieve—B. 3-25-1924.
e. Maxine—B. 12-30-1928.
- (6) Ernest Thornton Shaw—B. 5-7-1889, Sturgis, Mich.
M. 7-18-1918, N. Tonawanda, N.Y., to Elizabeth Hall.
- a. Eleanor—B. 12-1921, China.
b. Stephen—B. 10-1923, China.
- (7) Robert Braxton Shaw—B. Tacoma, Wash. M. 6-15-'23, to Ruth Howe, Shanghai, China.
- a. Philip Alan Shaw—B. 9-10-'30.
b. Stuart Robert—B. 12-4-1932.
5. Edmund Braxton—B. 1-11-1856; D. 6-28-1929, Bedford, Ind. Named for mother's brother. Buried Greenhill, Bedford.
- M. 10-10-1878, Bedford, Ind., to Mary Louise Carlton—B. 3-19-1857; D. 1-1936 Bedford, Ind.; buried Greenhill, Bedford.
- (1) Caroline—B. 6-3-1880, Bedford, Ind.; D. 3-28-1886, Bedford; buried Greenhill, Bedford.

- (2) Mary Louise—B. 5-30-1882. Named for mother.
M. 10-15-1913, Bedford, Ind., to Phillip S. McDougall—B. 11-21-1882.
a. Phyllis—B. 8-7-1914, Buffalo, N.Y. M. 10-15-1938, William Herbert Woodward—B. 12-22-1911, Ottawa, Ill.—One son, 1939.
- (3) James Carlton—B. 7-11-1884, Bedford, Ind. Named for mother's father.
M. 6-4-1919, Plainfield, N.J., Lilan Mary King—B. 2-25-1889.
- (4) Eddie Elizabeth—B. 12-31-1894, Bedford, Ind. First name for her father.
M. 9-20-1927, Ottawa, Ill., Lester Yates Baylis—B. 1-11-1895, Brooklyn, N.Y.
- (5) George Abram III—B. 3-1-1898, Bedford, Ind. M. 6-15-1927, Ottawa, Ill.,
Suzanne Martha Woodward—B. 2-18-1901, Ottawa, Ill.
a. Edmund Braxtan—B. 3-9-1930, Ottawa, Ill.
b. James Woodward—B. 1-30-1933, Ottawa, Ill.
6. Emma Sickels—B. 3-4-1858, Bedford, Ind.; D. 7-30-1937, Takoma Pk., Wash., D.C.;
buried Washington, D.C. Named for wife of Rev. Sickels, Presbyterian minister
of Bedford.
M. 4-22-1880, Bedford, Ind., Albert H. Davis—B. 4-7-1854; D. about 1925, Takoma
Park; buried Washington, D.C.
- (1) Ruth—B. 2-15-1885, Bedford, Ind. M. 12-14-1905, Rev. James Kerr—B. 8-29-
1880, Baltimore, Md.
a. Lois Thornton Kerr—B. 5-1-1907, Baltimore, Md.
b. Anna Ruth—B. 6-15-1908, Baltimore, Md.
c. James Patterson, Jr. (M.D.)—B. 1-24-1913, Baltimore, Md.
- (2) Nina—B. 2-14-1885, Bedford, Ind. M. 2-12-1907, John Joseph Heck, M.D.—
B. 5-28-1880, Baltimore, Md.
a. John Conrad Heck (D.D.S.)—B. 12-11-1907, Baltimore, Md. M. 12-16-1939,
Virginia L. Baker—B. 10-10-1915, Winchester, Va.
b. Nina Thornton Heck—B. 10-3-1910, Baltimore, Md.
- (3) Emma Thornton—B. 6-22-1887, Bedford, Ind. M. 3-18-1909, Harry Roy
Weakley—B. 5-5-1885, Sweet Air, Md.
a. Thornton Davis Weakley—B. 11-26-1909, Wash., D.C. M. 3-3-1936, Nona
Wilson—B. 3-10-1908, Chancellor, Ala.
(a) Thornton D. Weakley, Jr.—B. 4-12-1939, Wash., D.C.
b. Harry Roy Weakley, Jr.—B. 11-25-1914, Wash., D.C.
c. Emma Jane Weakley—B. 8-12-1922, Bowie, Md.
- (4) Henry Thornton—B. 2-20-1893, Washington, D.C.; D. 5-8-1894, Wash., D.C.
- (5) Mary Frances—B. 4-1-1895, Wash., D.C.
M. I—4-11-1920, John Lurman DeLawder—B. 6-28-1898, McHenry, Md.; D.
6-15-1924.
M. II—8-21-1936, Nicholas L. Dallant—B. 1885.
a. Ruth Whittlesey Dallant—B. 1-1-1938, Wash., D.C.
- (6) George Easton—B. 1-26-1897, Wash., D.C. M. 10-9-1920, Edythe Dorothy
Quinn—B. 4-28-1900, Philadelphia, Pa.
a. Robert Nelson Davis—B. 1-3-1923, Washington, D.C.
b. John Delawder Davis—B. 11-1-1924, Washington, D.C.
- (7) Winifred Braxton—B. 6-7-1899, Wash., D.C. M. 4-10-1920, Albert McDougal
Christian—B. 11-7-1896, Greenville, Ky.
a. Albert M. Christian, Jr.—B. 1-8-1921, Gary, Ind.
b. Margaret Ann Christian—B. 1-25-1925, Graham, Ky.
7. George Abram Thornton, II—B. 12-23-1859, Bedford, Ind., Elmwood; D. 3-24-1881,
Indianapolis; buried Greenhill, Bedford, Ind. Named for father. Unmarried.
8. Joseph Francis Thornton—B. 9-6-1864, Bedford, Ind., Elmwood. Named for
father's brother and mother's brother, both Union officers.
I M. 6-8-1892, Bedford, Ind., at home, Mabel E. Smith—B. 9-18-1873, St. Cather-
ines, Can.; D. 8-30-1927, Indianapolis, Ind.; buried Crown Hill.
(1) Helen—B. 6-19-1893, Bedford, Ind., Elmwood. Unmarried.
(2) Maurice Emerson—B. 6-5-1896, Terre Haute, Ind. M. 11-25-1920, Helene
Biederman—B. 10-25-1895, Mobile, Alabama.
a. Richard Joseph Thornton—B. 12-24-1922, Indianapolis, Ind. Named for
his two grandfathers.
(3) Mary Esther Thornton—B. 10-2-1899, Rockville, Ind., Coble House. Named
"Mary" for father's mother. Unmarried.
II M. 6-29-1937, Asheville, N.C., at home, Lillian A. Voris—B. 3-10-1867, Benning-
ton, Switzerland Co., Indiana.

CHART V—THE BRAXTONS

- A. THOMAS BRAXTON—B. 11-17-1775, Orange Co., N.C.; D. 11-29-1865, Paoli Ind. First of name in Indiana.
 M. North Carolina about 1799, Hannah Lindley—B. 6-1780, Or. Co., N.C.; D. 6-1845, Paoli, Ind.
- Jonathan Braxton.
 - Hiram Braxton—B. 7-15-1802; D. 3-3-1864, Paoli, Ind.
 - William Braxton.
 - Marjorie Braxton.
 - John Lindley Braxton.

- A. FRANCIS WHITE. M. Mary (?) in North Carolina about 1796.
- Martha White—B. 12-20-1798, in North Carolina; D. 7-22-1853, Paoli, Indiana.
 There were other children but names are not known.

Hiram Braxton (see above).

- M. I 6-6-1823, Salem, Ind., Martha White (see above).
- Thomas Newby Braxton—B. 1-8-1824, Paoli, Ind.; D. 4-25-1907, Paoli, Ind.
 M. I—4-1849, Salem, Ind., Martha Parker, granddaughter of Henry P. Thornton—B. 2-5-1833; D. 4-1850, Salem, Ind.
 - George Braxton—D. at birth in 1850.
 - M. II, about 1852, S. Emily Campbell—B. 12-22-1821; D. 3-25-1854.
 - Edmund Braxton—B. 8-1853, Paoli, Ind. M. Anna Sears.
 - Emma Braxton—B. 2-1854, Paoli, Ind. M. Thomas Brown.
 - M. III, Ruth Addie Vance—B. 3-11-1838, Corydon, Ind.; D. 4-21-1915, Paoli, Ind.
 - Robert—B. 9-21-1859, Paoli; D. 7-21-1909 Paoli. Unmarried.
 - Francis A.—B. 3-12-1862. M. Paoli, Ind., Nannie L. Patton—B. 9-9-1870, Paoli, Ind.
 - Louise—B. 6-9-1890, Paoli.
 - Vance—B. 10-17-1893, Paoli.
 - Ruth and Arthur—B. 4-17-1896, Paoli.
 - Samuel Hiram Braxton—B. 10-14-1864, Paoli. M. Dora B. Padgett, B. 11-13-1869, Livonia, Ind.
 - Cecelia—B. 6-24-1900, Louisville, Ky.
 - Juanita—B. 2-19-1903, Paoli, Ind.
 - Samuel Hiram, Jr.—B. 2-20-1906, Paoli.
 - Robert Edmund—B. 4-26-1909, Paoli.
 - Cora Braxton—B. 12-11-1866, Paoli, Ind. Unmarried.
 - Thomas Newby Braxton, Jr.—B. 11-2-1876, Paoli, Ind. M. Mary Stout—B. 8-29-1880, Paoli, Ind.
 - Helen, B. 9-1908; b. John, 9-1910; c. Mary, 1916; d. Rachel, 5-15-1918.
 - Mary Amanda Braxton. M. 7-13-1847, George Abram Thornton (see Chart IV).
 - Ruth Anna Braxton—B. 10-1827; D. in early childhood with cholera, Paoli.
 - Edmund More Braxton—B. 8-7-1829, Paoli, Ind.; D. 3-7-1883, Haysville, Ind.
 M. Beatrice Clendening—B. 8-8-1839; D. 12-28-1860.
 - Harry Clendening—B. 6-24-1859; D. 2-17-1877. Unmarried.
 - Martha White Braxton—B. 12-23-1832; D. in early life with cholera.
 - Homer White Braxton—B. 3-25-1834, Paoli; D. about 1800, Paoli. M. Mollie Haynes.
 - Mattie; (2) Eva; (3) Belle; (4) Florence; (5 & 6) Alice & Sadie; (7) Haynes.
 - Hiram Francis Braxton—B. 10-1-1836, Paoli, Ind.; D. 3-4-1881, Ellettsville, Ind.
 M. about 1863, Julia Munson.
 - Louise, B. 10-1864; (2) George, B. about 1866; (3) Thomas, B. about 1870; (4 and 5) two little girls, both dying in infancy.
 - Charles Lindley Braxton—B. 1-29-1839; D. 2-22-1922, Phoenix, Ariz. M. about 1864, Bedford, Lide Rariden—D. Phoenix, Ariz., about 1928.
 - Ralph Rariden, B. about 1866; (2) Henry Howland, B. about 1870.
- Hiram Braxton—2nd Marriage—Mrs. Elizabeth Harmon Doan
- Allie Braxton—B. 12-29-1856, Paoli. M. 3-9-1876, William B. Harris—B. 3-5-1856, Ellettsville; D. 11-9-1939, Ellettsville.
 - Carl Harris, deceased; (2) Ed B.; (3) Kate, dec.; (4) Henry Joseph; (5) Nellie Isabelle; (6) Mary Elizabeth (Troth); (7) Frank B., dec.; (8) William B., Jr.

THE ANNALS OF A FAMILY

APPENDIX

EXCERPTS FROM ADDRESSES OF SPECIAL INTEREST DELIVERED BY
HENRY P. THORNTON

In the Indiana Constitutional Convention of 1850.

A. On the death of Col. Richard M. Johnson of Kentucky.

Monday, November 25, 1850.

Mr. Thornton rose and said:

I rise, sir, for the purpose of asking a suspension of the order of business, to enable me to lay before the Convention a preamble and set of resolutions, expressive of the sense of this Convention in relation to the death of the late Col. Richard M. Johnson. It will be remembered that this matter was suggested to the Convention on Friday last by my friend from Wayne, (Mr. Rariden) but who, since that time, at the suggestion of another friend, from Ohio, (Col. Pepper) has, in consideration of the relation I bore Col. Johnson, as having been engaged in the service with him as an officer in his regiment, deferred to me the performance of that melancholy and interesting duty. Whilst disclaiming any wish to seek any prominence on this occasion, I did not feel at liberty to decline the call thus made upon me by those two friends, and, in accordance with their suggestion, I have prepared a preamble and set of resolutions, which I herewith submit.

In presenting these resolutions, I will not attempt anything like an eulogy on the deceased. This is not the time, nor is it a fitting occasion so to do. Besides, Mr. President, I feel not only my inability to do justice to the merits of the distinguished dead, but I furthermore feel as if I were obtruding myself upon forbidden ground—that I should be undertaking the performance of a task which could be much more ably and appropriately performed by others. It is well known that Col. Johnson and myself, though ever warm personal friends, were opposed in politics. He, as a member of the democratic party, and one of its most prominent leaders for a long series of years, is a circumstance which confers upon his political friends the right to take into their exclusive charge and keeping, the care and guardianship of his political fame and reputation. I shall leave to his friends the performance of that duty. All I shall essay will be toward the memory of an esteemed friend and fellow-soldier that tribute which is justly due to it as such. In the beautiful and expressive language of Mark Anthony, I may well say, "*I come to bury Caesar, not to praise him.*"

The relation between Col. Johnson and myself commenced in the year 1812. Col. Johnson was at that time, and had been for some years, an active member of the House of Representatives in Congress, from one of the districts in Kentucky. War had just been declared by the United States against Great Britain, and the Colonel, as a member of that body, had given to the declaration a warm and zealous support; and as an indication of his devotion to the cause, had procured from the General Government authority to raise a regiment of mounted men to serve for six months. It was to consist of ten companies of one hundred men each, to be under officers of its own selection. The Colonel having left the halls of Congress to attend to raising and equipping said regiment, I, then a resident of Bourbon County, Kentucky, for the first time became acquainted with him, having been introduced to him by his father, the venerable Robert Johnson, and his brother, Col. James Johnson, with both of whom I was at the time associated as members of the Legislature of Kentucky, they being from Scott, and I from Bourbon. The Colonel selected me as one of his intended officers, giving me authority to raise a company to constitute a part of his regiment. This was in the spring of 1813, and we were directed to be ready for service by the middle of June or the first of July. In pursuance of the authority conferred, I proceeded to raise the company and succeeded in so doing, and we prepared ourselves to be ready to march by the time designated. An unexpected event transpired, however, which rendered it necessary for us to march sooner than was expected. The disaster of the 5th of May, 1813, which resulted in the defeat of Col. Dudley's regiment at Fort Meigs, induced Col. Johnson to call on us immediately, and accordingly we were ordered to rendezvous at the Great Crossings, Scott County, Ken-

tucky, on the 20th of May, 1813, in order to go to relieve Fort Meigs, which was infested by the British and Indians. In consequence of this, only about one-half of the men engaged could, without great sacrifices at the season of the year, leave home. The result was, companies had to be consolidated, and my half company was attached to that of Capt. Combs. This rendered it necessary for him and myself to draw lots for the command of the company, which he having won was commissioned Captain, and myself First Lieutenant.

We went into the service accordingly, and continued in it for the six months, during which time we traversed a considerable part of Ohio and northern Indiana. I was with Col. Johnson at the celebrated battle of the Thames, and charged along side of him in the onset upon the Indians, although we soon became separated, and I did not see him again until after the battle was over. He was in his tent, having been wounded in several places, was bleeding, as it were, at every pore, and though suffering intensely from his numerous wounds, he bore it without a murmur, and with unexampled fortitude and patience. It is unnecessary for me to advert to the manner in which the Colonel bore himself on that perilous occasion. There is higher and better testimony than mine. In the eloquent language of his commander, the lamented Harrison, "His numerous wounds proved his was the post of danger." His conduct on that occasion, as well as on every other when put to the test, establishes his reputation as a man of the most daring courage.

Mr. President, I have said that Col. Johnson and myself belonged to different parties. It is due to truth to say that there was a time when we belonged to the same political party, and remained so for years. During the war of 1812, we were both advocates of it. There was then a party whom we called the Federalists, though not a very apt name, which was opposed to going to war with Great Britain, insisting that we had no cause of grievance against her, whilst we contended that the numerous outrages inflicted upon us in the imprisonment of our seamen, of instigating the savages to murder our helpless women and children, was just cause of war. To sustain this cause, the Colonel and myself had yielded our most hearty support, both in the councils of our country and in the field. We continued to be of the same party; and when Colonel Johnson was so bitterly assailed and persecuted for his vote in favor of the celebrated "Compensation Bill," I, at his call, left my own district and went into his, and gave him all the support that was within my humble means. He succeeded, but it was a hard race, and nothing but his scars saved him from defeat. In 1824, we both warmly supported Mr. Clay for the Presidency; but in 1828 we for the first time parted, he supporting General Jackson, and I Mr. Adams. In 1836, when the alternative was presented to me, either to vote for Mr. Van Buren, with whom Colonel Johnson was associated on the same ticket, or for my old beloved General Harrison, the hero of Tippecanoe, I unhesitatingly chose the latter. Again, in 1840, when the same parties were presented, I made a similar choice. How far either of us was right or wrong in the course we took as to that matter, should not be made here a matter of inquiry.

As a representative in Congress, Colonel Johnson was persevering and indefatigable in the discharge of his public duties. He never once flagged in his efforts to carry out any measure he undertook. This was most eminently tested by his long continued and unceasing efforts to wipe from the escutcheon of our country that odious relic of a barbarous age, imprisonment for debt. His exertions were, happily for the great cause of humanity, successful, and entitles him to the thanks of every friend of oppressed humanity throughout the civilized world. His celebrated Sunday Mail report, too, as indicating consummate ability and containing sound political doctrines, stands unrivaled as a State paper.

It is not pretended, however, that Col. Johnson possessed talents of a brilliant order. He was not one of those who aimed to shine as a political star. His were of the plain, practical, and useful character. When taking a retrospect of his public life, few of our public men have left behind them as many enduring evidences of usefulness to their country. In his private relations his unostentatious bearing and child-like simplicity of manner, made him ever accessible to the humblest and endeared him to all with whom he was brought into association. But, although thus mild, amiable, and unassuming in his manner, he still possessed firmness, and was unswerving in his purposes, and everything he engaged in he pursued with unabated zeal and determination. He was generous and liberal

to a fault, and no one, however humble, ever appealed to his generosity and benevolence in vain. He possessed courage even to daring, and no man ever entered the field of danger with less fearlessness of consequences. In fact to sum up all, as was once well said of another, "he was a man, which take him all in all, whose like I fear we ne'er shall look upon again."

Mr. President, I now submit the preamble and resolutions and move their adoption:

WHEREAS, This Convention has just learned with profound sensibility that the Honorable Richard M. Johnson, of Kentucky, late Vice-President of the United States, has recently, and whilst engaged in the service of his native State, as a member of the General Assembly thereof, departed this life, and

WHEREAS, the numerous long-continued public services of that distinguished patriot and soldier, as well in the councils of his country as in the tented field, constitute him the common property of our whole country, and justly entitle his memory to the grateful notice of the people of this State, in common with the rest of his fellow-citizens of the Union, and more especially, when it is remembered that a part of the services rendered by him, whilst engaged in the defense of his country in the war of 1812, against Great Britain and her savage allies, were performed upon the soil of Indiana, when an infant, defenseless territory, in defending our helpless women and children against the relentless tomahawk and scalping-knife of the ruthless savage:

RESOLVED, That we recognize in Col. Johnson the gallant soldier, the devoted patriot, and sound, able statesman: that among the long list of his public acts, whilst engaged in the National Councils, his zealous efforts in favor of abolishing imprisonment for debt, together with his masterly "Sunday Mail Report," will remain as imperishable monuments of his profound statesmanship so long as the sufferings of the oppressed and down-trodden debtor finds sympathy in the human bosom, or the cause of liberal principles has an advocate.

RESOLVED, That whilst cherishing a just sense of gratitude towards this distinguished citizen for his many important public services, rendered in behalf of his country during the course of a long public life, as the able, faithful statesman and brave soldier, we most sincerely condole with his numerous friends and relatives in the irreparable bereavement they have sustained in the loss of an affectionate and devoted friend; and with our sister State, Kentucky, in being thus deprived of his valuable services in her public councils.

RESOLVED, That ——— be appointed a committee, on the part of this Convention, to tender to the relatives of Col. Johnson the expression of our heartfelt condolence on the melancholy occasion, and that the Secretary of this Convention transmit to the Executive of the State of Kentucky a copy of the foregoing preamble and resolutions.

RESOLVED, That the editors of the several newspapers in this State be requested to publish the foregoing in their papers respectively.

REPLY TO RESOLUTION ON DEATH OF COL. R. M. JOHNSON

MR. THORNTON:

Mr. Thornton, from the select committee appointed to communicate to the family of the late Col. R. M. Johnson, the condolences of this Convention, reported that the committee had performed that duty; and had received from the Rev. J. T. Johnson, brother of the Hon. Richard M. Johnson, the following letter in reply:

Georgetown, December 4, 1850.

MESSRS. THORNTON, PEPPER, AND RARIDEN:

Gentlemen: Your esteemed letter of condolence and sympathy, communicating the resolutions of the Constitutional Convention of the State of Indiana, in reference to the death of my beloved brother, R. M. Johnson, came to hand this morning. I cannot give utterance to the feelings inspired by so touching an incident—a proceeding so honoring to one to whom I owe so much of the little education with which I am blessed, and the influence I enjoy amongst my fellow citizens.

The deep fountains of the heart have been broken up, by remembrances like yours, from every quarter of our beloved country; and the gushings of the heart afford us relief. He was greatly beloved by us all, and he was made doubly dear, by his continual anxiety and efforts to render his relations honorable, and to make them a blessing to our race.

Inasmuch as you have selected me as the honored medium of communicating these resolutions, so highly prized, to the relatives of the deceased, permit me, in their name, to make a return of their profound gratitude. They receive it as a movement more enduring than marble, and the richest reward that a nation can bestow.

The friends of the deceased, wherever found, will be pleased to accept this as the best tribute of grateful hearts.

Accept for yourselves, and for the distinguished Convention of which you are the honored organs, the most grateful emotions of your friend and fellow-citizen,

J. T. JOHNSON,
Elder of the Christian Church, Georgetown, Ky.

On motion, by Mr. Thornton, the letter was ordered to be spread upon the journals of the Convention.

PROPOSED ARTICLE ON THE JUDICIARY

B.—On an Article on the Judiciary which he proposed to the Convention, much of which was adopted.

The following is his argument in favor of one of the fourteen Sections, viz: Section XIII, which reads as follows:

"Section 13.—The exercise of jurisdiction by the several courts in this state in matters of civil nature shall be without regard to any distinction between law and equity or of the different actions at law, except so far as the same are distinguishable into cases founded on contract from those arising out of torts and all fictions of law are hereby abolished."

Now, sir, I come to a provision that has some degree of novelty about it.

(Here Mr. Thornton read section 13 of his proposition).

By this section is proposed to abolish all distinctions between equity and law, also all distinctions between common law actions and fictions of law, and in lieu of such unmeaning and senseless absurdities to substitute a plain, direct, rational, and common sense system of procedure. ("Consent.") I want to see something put into the Constitution that will enable Indiana to march in the line of progress which is indicated by several of our sister States. I am pained to see that she is now so much behind other States in this respect. The great Empire State of New York has set the example by abrogating the old technical system that has so long clogged and rendered the administration of justice odious in that State.

Even England, from whom we have derived the greater part of our technical forms in law proceedings, has determined to get ahead of us in the way of reforms. This proposition will dispense with those distinctions between actions which have heretofore been so troublesome, as well as the distinctions between the equity forum and the common law forms. If there be anything that has deservedly met with the decided disapprobation of the people of this country, it is that the Court shall not decide the equity as well as the law of the case.

I ask that the article be re-committed with instructions to substitute the proposition that I have read. Or if that form of proceeding could be dispensed with, I should prefer that the matter should be discussed and determined now.

I repeat, I cannot vote for the plan proposed by my friend over the way, for the reason that I know the people will not be satisfied with it. I have no desire to be troublesome, or to press my opinions with unyielding tenacity—I am always willing to defer to the judgment of others; but in this case I claim to have enjoyed the opportunity of acquiring some experience. I have been upwards of thirty years at the bar, and a good part of that period actively engaged in the business of my profession. So far as the practice of law is concerned, I may say, as Aeneas to Queen Dido, "All of which I saw, and part of which I was."

One word further. After we reform the Judiciary, as we propose, we shall not have so much necessity for revising the cases determined by the inferior courts.

I ask gentlemen to consider how many cases are brought up for revision, upon mere technicality. Such a system, I say, the people disapprove of, and will inevitably be wholly repudiated by them.

With the indulgence of the Convention I will relate an anecdote which occurs to my mind, in connection with this subject. A certain gentleman, who is now no more, and who, while he lived, was an ornament to the State and to the legal profession; of which he was a distinguished member, whilst practicing at the bar,

brought an action upon a promissory note, in favor of a tight, hard-fisted, old Gripus, and happened to bring a wrong action. A demur was interposed, and the case was lost. His client afterwards met him. "Why, Colonel," says he, "it appears that judgment has gone against us, and I have lost my debt and have the costs to pay. I thought we had a good case; it was a plain note of hand." "Why," says the Colonel, "the confounded note did not fit the declaration." Such cases often happen. I wish to see no more of them. I do most sincerely hope that we shall adopt such a system of reform that all the revising court will have to do then will be to decide the merits of the case, free from technicalities. If so, there will be very few cases sent up for revision.

If the Convention think that my proposition should not go to the committee, I am content; but I will remind the Convention—but will not undertake to say to it, like my young friend from Posey, over the way, that I warn them—I will not undertake to lecture the Convention, but I must remind them, that unless we adopt a proper system in reference to the Judiciary, the Constitution that we are making will either be rejected, or the Legislature will create a tribunal in order to meet the wants of the people, and we shall be compelled to go back to the same miserably defective old system with which the country has been cursed for years, against which such loud complaints have been uttered by everyone, and which we have so generally decided against, and unanimously agreed to discard in committee. I admit the subject is incumbered with difficulty. The only thing that seemed difficult to me, was to provide the means to pay the judges' salaries. But I think the matter that I have submitted will be sufficient to meet the object.

My desire is to promote economy, as well as to insure the establishment of good and competent tribunals to administer justice at the very doors of the people, as nearly as such a thing is practicable. I do not want to compel people to travel fifty or sixty miles to have their cases decided, which they must do, unless we adopt some such system as this. I thank the Convention for their indulgence.

MR. THORNTON:

On reflection, if I suffer this matter to pass, I shall perhaps be precluded from proposing my substitute, unless upon a reconsideration, in order to get at the section. I now move that the section be re-committed, with instructions to substitute what I have proposed; and this will test the question. If the Convention are disposed to sustain the views which I have had the honor to submit, they will substitute my plan for the article proposed by the committee.

The question was taken on the motion of the gentleman from Floyd to re-commit with instructions; and it was, upon a division—ayes 46, noes 40—decided in the affirmative.

So the section was re-committed.

TRIBUNALS OF CONCILIATION

- C. On a proposal before the Convention which he strongly advocated, which provided for the arbitration of cases before formal trial—a proposal which was not adopted, but which is now (1940) being urged by the Indiana State Bar Association, in principle if not in form.

MR. THORNTON said:

Mr. President, I do not pretend to be able to urge anything in favor of tribunals of the character under consideration from any experimental knowledge possessed by me, as they have not been in use in this State. I feel disposed to oppose the motion to indefinitely postpone the article, especially for the reasons urged by the mover. I do not understand the language of the article as he does. He argues and labors to establish the conclusion that after a case would be submitted to such tribunal by parties and a decision had, they would not be bound to abide by it if they chose to refuse. I understand the voluntary submission spoken of in the section, to have reference to the action of the parties in the first instance when agreeing to submit any matter to such Court, and not particularly to any action after decision. It is fairly inferable that if parties voluntarily agree to submit any matter in dispute to such tribunal and to abide the judgment which may be rendered, it would be binding on them. The section, however, provides that the course of proceeding is to be prescribed by law, and certainly the General Assembly may make the necessary provisions for rendering the course of proceeding binding on the parties. It would be idle and more than useless to suppose

it would do otherwise. I understand the words "or assent thereto in the presence of such tribunal or Court," not to embrace a case where the disputants had in the first instance "voluntarily submitted any matters in difference and agreed to abide the judgment," etc., but to have reference to a case simply submitted, without any previous agreement to abide the judgment, and after judgment or award given to assent to it in the presence of the Court. It might also embrace a case where the parties had agreed upon the judgment to be rendered, and upon being rendered then to assent thereto in the presence of the Court. This is the only rational construction which can be given. To sustain any other, or least such as contended for by the gentleman moving the postponement, would render the whole plan of such a peace-making tribunal abortive. The details of proceeding must of course be settled by the Legislature, and I have no doubt would be settled properly and so as to carry out the salutary object to be accomplished by the creation of such Courts.

I cannot but think such a tribunal as this would afford great facilities for adjusting matters of difference arising between friends, relations, and members of the same society. A principle somewhat similar obtains in that numerous and respectable body of Christians, the Methodists. I had occasion not long since to be present when a matter involving a large amount in value was in dispute between a brother-in-law and sister-in-law, having been called on as a witness between the parties. I then witnessed the salutary working of the rule of discipline adopted by the church. The matter was satisfactorily adjusted, without expense to the parties. If this had not been done a vexatious and most unpleasant lawsuit must have taken place, which would have involved a heavy amount of costs, and created heart-burnings and an irritated state of feeling which might never have been healed or reconciled, and would no doubt have resulted injuriously to both of the parties.

Another consideration commends this kind of tribunal to my humble judgment. It is one of the boasted favorite maxims of the law, that there should be an end of litigation. The creation of a Court of this description, would conduce to that desirable end by affording facilities for adjusting matters of difference between parties, who might be compelled to resort to the ordinary course of litigation to enforce what they might deem their just rights.

I have been indebted to an esteemed friend and fellow-member (Mr. Chapman) for an article on this subject, which he has just handed me, which purports to be an extract from one of the New York journals, to which I would respectfully call the attention of the Convention. It appears that this description of Court has been in use for a long time in some of the European governments, and especially that of Denmark; and the article has reference to the course of proceeding established by the Danish government in her West India Islands, particularly St. Croix.

(The reading of the extract being loudly called for Mr. Thornton read it as follows:

Article on "Courts of Conciliation" written for the Albany Weekly Journal.

WOODBIDGE PARKER

From "History of Freemasonry in Indiana, from 1806 to 1898."

By Daniel McDonald, 1898.

Woodbridge Parker, of Salem, was elected Grand Master October 3, 1832, and served one term of one year. He was born in Essex County, Mass., on the 12th day of July, 1796. He was trained to the business of a boot and shoe maker, and removed to Indiana soon after attaining his majority. He first settled in Charlestown, Indiana, but afterwards removed to Salem, where he was engaged in the mercantile pursuits for many years. While a resident there he was elected Grand Master. Subsequently he removed to New Albany, where he died March 5, 1842.

He was married to the second daughter (Harriet Martha) of H. P. Thornton, a delegate to the convention which organized the Grand Lodge and first Grand Secretary elected after its organization.

He was at one time a member of the Indiana Legislature. In all the walks of life he was a most worthy man and Mason. He is said to have been a fine ritualist and distinguished as a Masonic lecturer.

Pages 344 and 345.

H. P. THORNTON

and the Organization of the Grand Lodge of Masonry in Indiana.
from same authority as foregoing.

Masonry was legally established in Indiana by the issuing of a dispensation to the brethren at Vincennes, dated August 27, 1807. After that date, prior to 1817, several other lodges had been organized, and as in 1816 the Territory had been admitted to the Union as a state, the brethren deemed it advisable to take steps looking to the formation of a Grand Lodge. Accordingly, a convention of the representatives of the following lodges—all there were in the State at that time—met in Corydon, December 3, 1817, for the purpose of taking the preliminary steps for such organization: "lodges" at Vincennes, Lawrenceburg, Vevey, Rising Sun, Madison, Charlestown, Brookville, Salem, and Corydon. (Henry P. Thornton represented the Madison lodge at this meeting). The preliminary arrangements having been completed, the following resolution was introduced (and passed).

Resolved, That it is expedient and advisable that a Grand Lodge should be at this time formed in the State of Indiana. (Page 17). A number of members of subordinate lodges working in Indiana, agreeable to a resolution of the convention held at Corydon, December 3, 1817, met in the town of Madison, Indiana, on January 12, 1818, whereupon Alexander A. Meek, being the oldest Past Master present, was called to the chair, and William C. Keen, of Vevey, was appointed Secretary. Alexander Buekner, of Charlestown, Jeremiah Sullivan, of Madison and Henry P. Thornton, of Madison, were appointed a committee to inspect the credentials of the several delegates, who subsequently reported as entitled to represent their several lodges: (Here follows the representatives of the several lodges mentioned above, those from the Madison lodge being Alexander A. Meek, Jeremiah Sullivan and Henry P. Thornton. Following the proper steps, the Grand Lodge of Indiana was declared ready for the transaction of business, and the following resolution was adopted):

Resolved, That this Grand Lodge do now immediately proceed to elect Grand Officers, to serve until the next Grand Communication.

After agreeing that voting should be by written ballots, the full complement of officers for the Grand Lodge was elected. Among these officers, Alexander Buekner, of Charlestown, was made Grand Master, Alexander A. Meek, Deputy Grand Master and Henry P. Thornton was made Grand Secretary; both of the last two being from the Madison Lodge.

The several lodges herein represented then surrendered their charters and were granted new charters by the "Grand Lodge of Indiana." Pages 17-20-21.

Later Henry P. Thornton with Thomas Douglas was appointed a committee to arrange with the subordinate lodges of the State a uniform course of lectures.

The following incident shows the attitude of Henry P. Thornton toward certain features of Masonry:

A meeting of the Grand Lodge was being held on June 24, 1818, to celebrate the anniversary of St. John the Baptist. A procession agreeable to the ancient manner, marched to the meeting house, when, after hearing an eloquent and appropriate discourse, then repaired to the house of Messrs. Banham & Step, partook of an elegant repast provided for the occasion, thence to the lodge room at 5 o'clock P.M.

Out of this celebration, the first that had taken place after the organization of the Grand Lodge, grew a little unpleasantness that was, however, finally amicably settled. At the next regular meeting a committee was appointed to examine and ascertain as to the truth of a report that Brother Henry P. Thornton had spoken words derogatory to Masonry on that occasion. The committee subsequently reported as follows:

"We have ascertained to our satisfaction that Brother Henry P. Thornton did on that day, in the presence of Colonel Paul and John Sering, at the door of the counting house of the bank of Madison, and just as the procession was moving towards the meeting house, observe that he was opposed to such parades, and that it was d—d nonsense, and that it was done to gull the world, or that it served to gull the world (or words to that effect), and thereby creating an unjust and invidious censure on such members of the society as were endeavoring in a devout and becoming manner to celebrate the sacred festival."

Brother Thornton was cited to appear at the next meeting. He was present, and the lodge, after hearing the explanation of Brother Thornton, adopted the following resolution:

Resolved, That Brother Thornton having been charged with speaking and publishing words derogatory to the honor of Masonry, and on the same being investigated and explained by him, it is the opinion of this lodge that the offense is not so great but that, on his making an apology and acknowledging his imprudence, that he be acquitted from all charges exhibited against him in this behalf."

Brother Thornton made the apology and acknowledgment required, and was acquitted accordingly. This was the first Masonic trial the lodge engaged in. Pages 48-49.

PERSONAL APPEARANCE OF H. P. THORNTON

75 Audubon Road, Indianapolis, Ind., Dec. 12, 1924.

Dear Bro. Joe:

Charlotte writes me that I promised to tell you when I saw you about Grandfather's shape, size and appearance. You see I knew him better than any of you.

He was tall, about 6 feet 1 inch or more. Of course as he aged he became only slightly stooped, but he was a strong and vigorous man in his prime, and was never short and heavy as some have thought.

Have you a copy of the picture of mother and us children on the vestibule steps? You were only a kid then—about four or five years old. If you have the picture, and it is dated, please furnish the date of its taking. I think it must have been about 1868 or 1870 or thereabouts. I remember Josie Goodlet was peeping out of the side window—not seen of course, but other members of the family perhaps will remember the event, and it was spoken of to me. It was taken at a time when Miss Kate Cavins used to visit mother so often, as they were always good friends, and on this occasion she brought Josie out with her to see mother, as Mrs. Goodlet was always a special friend of mother's. She it was who took so much care of mother after her injury from a runaway when I was the baby in her arms.

Your aff. brother,

T. V. THORNTON.