

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES FROM KENTUCKY GENEALOGY AND BIOGRAPHY
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RUSSELL COUNTY

COL. JOSEPH E. HAYS, was born in Russell County, Ky., December 6, 1822, and is a son of G. and Martha (Coffey) Hays. G. Hays was born in Virginia and came to Kentucky with his parents and settled in Adair County, now Russell County; he was born in 1792, and died in 1846, and was the son of G. Hays, Sr., who was a native of Scotland. G. Hays, Sr., came over to the American colonies and went into the war of the Revolution, arose to the position of Major, and served in that capacity until the independence was achieved. Late in life he was sheriff of Adair County, Ky., out of which Russell County was carved. Martha (Coffey) Hays, born in Adair, now Russell County, was a daughter of Cleaveland Coffey, a native of North Carolina, who was an early settler in Adair, now Russell County, Ky.; he was a farmer and stock-trader, and a son of Joel Coffey, also a native of North Carolina, whose father, Joel Coffey, Sr., was of English parentage. Joseph E. Hays is of Scotch descent on his father's side and of English on the mother's. He is the eldest of four living children, viz: Joseph E., Dr. L.G., of Bates County, Mo.; Mrs. E.J. Grimes, and Mrs. Lucy Breeding. Mr. Hays was of poor parentage, his father was a life-long invalid, and he is self-educated. In youth he was generally hired out as a menial servant, but on Sundays, nights and leisure times was very studious. When seventeen years of age he was deputy county surveyor under Hiram Rowe, and about the age of nineteen he began teaching school, which occupation he followed about five years. At the age of twenty-one he was elected a militia captain, and arose to the position of Colonel of the militia of his county. He then read law with Gen. Rice Maxey, and in the fall of 1846 was admitted to the bar. He soon reached the front rank in his profession, and in 1852 was elected to the office of county attorney for Russell County, and was re-elected by the voters of his county at the close of his first term. October 19, 1848, he married S.M. Saufley, of Virginia, daughter of Adam Saufley. She died March 14, 1853, a member of the Presbyterian Church. March 20, 1854, Mr Hays married Mary A. Coffey, of Russell County, Ky., a daughter of Elias Coffey. Four children bless this union, viz: Mrs. S. M. Stone, now the wife of Judge W.S. Stone; Hiram Rowe, Mary A. and Rosa L. When the Civil War between the States broke out, Mr. Hays having been a life-long Democrat, and being the largest slaveholder in his county, sympathized with the South, and was broken up by the war and the destruction of slavery. At the close of the war he again resumed the practice of his profession with increased energy. He was appointed by the late Judge F.T. Fox, master commissioner of the Russell Circuit Court, and served in that office ten or twelve years. May 24, 1869, Col. Hays' second wife died. August 8, 1874, he married Miss C.E. Young, of Wayne County, Ky., daughter of Major G.W. and Margaret Pemberton Young. After the war Col. Hays had a leading practice in many counties and soon accumulated another fortune for his locality, and is still vigorous, efficient and leading in his profession. His son Hiram Rowe, was born December 7, 1858, and was educated in the Christian College of Columbia, Ky. He read law with his father, and was admitted to the bar at the age of seventeen years and six months. He taught the public school in Jamestown, Ky., when only fourteen years old. He was one year in the State of Texas, and when twenty years old returned home, and located in Monticello, Wayne County, Ky., to practice his profession. About the following year he was elected county attorney of Wayne County, and at the close of that term was re-elected and served out a second term. He married Miss Eva, daughter of S.R. Owens, a distinguished physician of Pulaski County, Ky. Hiram R. Hays was a man of more than ordinary ability, and of rare personal popularity, and but for the failure of his health, would soon have reached the head of his profession, as well as distinguished political preferment. After his marriage, one daughter, Mary Owen Hays, was born of the union, and he fell into pulmonary consumption, and died at Dr. Owens' January 14, 1888, and was interred with the departed members of the family of his bereaved wife. He was an honored Freemason, of high degree, and left many friends who mourn his loss. In the fall of 1882 he was a candidate for Congress, with good prospects, and while on the canvass was seized with hemorrhage of the lungs, at Munfordville, in Hart County, and compelled to withdraw from the field. Col. Joseph E. Hays and all his family save the first wife, are members of the Christian Church, and he for nearly twenty years was an elder in his congregation. He and his son were always firm democrats.

J.W. BRONSON, a merchant of Jamestown, Russell County, Ky., is a native of Casey County, Ky., and the youngest of three living children born to William S. and Lucinda (Adams) Bronson, viz: Mary J., Elizabeth and J.W. William S. Bronson was a blacksmith by trade, and a son of John L. Bronson, a native of Virginia. Lucinda (Adams) Bronson, a native of Casey County, is a daughter of Abram Adams. J.W. Bronson received his education at the common schools, and at the age of seventeen learned the carpenter's trade, at which he worked until 1881, when he commenced clerking in a store at Liberty, Ky., where he was engaged three years. In 1884 he went to Russell Springs where he opened a general store and remained until 1886. He then located in Jamestown and engaged in merchandising. November 9, 1873, he married Alice Sweeney, of Casey County, Ky., a daughter of Maj. C.W. Sweeney. Mrs. Bronson, who was a member of the Christian Church, died November 29, 1881, leaving two children, Cora and Eddie T. January 20, 1885, Mr. Bronson married Cordelia Sweeney, of Casey County, a daughter of Moses Sweeney. They are the parents of one child, Marion. Mrs. Bronson is a member of the Baptist Church, while Mr. Bronson is a member of the Christian Church. Politically he is a Republican.

JOHN T. HAZELRIGG was born in Sharpsburgh, Bath County, Ky., July 7, 1831, and was educated in the common schools of the county. He is a lineal descendant of Sir Arthur Hazelrigg, who was governor of Tynemouth Castle on the Tyne, under the Protectorate; came to this country after the death of Cromwell and settled in Pennsylvania. John T. Hazelrigg read law in the office of John B. Houston, a distinguished Kentucky politician and jurist, and was admitted to the bar in 1857. He located at West Liberty, Morgan County, Ky., and at once took front rank in his profession. He had held the offices of county and circuit court clerk, as well as county attorney for Morgan County. He is a Democrat in politics, and takes an active part in all political affairs. In 1877, in connection with his son, C.S. Hazelrigg, he founded the LICKING CALLEY SCORCHER, a red-hot Democratic newspaper, and a popular journal in eastern Kentucky. In 1887 Mr. Hazelrigg was a candidate for lieutenant-governor of Kentucky, subject to the action of the Democratic party, and was defeated by Hon. J.W. Bryan at Louisville, by a small majority, May 3, 1887; in his contest Mr. Hazelrigg carried every county in eastern Kentucky.

JAMES H. HAZELRIGG, attorney at law at Mount Sterling, Ky., was born in Montgomery County, Ky., December 6, 1848. His father, George Hazelrigg, was born in Bourbon County, Ky., in 1822. He followed farming successfully all his life, and was for many years a magistrate in Montgomery County. He was a son of Dillard Hazelrigg, a native of Virginia, who came to Kentucky at an early date, settled in Bourbon County, and afterward moved to Montgomery County, where he died. George Hazelrigg was married about 1845 to Miss Elizabeth Green, who was born in Montgomery County. James H. Hazelrigg was brought up on the farm and in early life attended the common schools. At the age of fifteen he joined the Confederate army as a private in the Third Kentucky Mounted Infantry, under command of Col. Giltner and served until the close of the war in April 1865, when he was paroled at Mount Sterling, Ky. At the close of the war he entered the Lexington University and graduated with high honors from that institution in 1871. In 1872 he began the study of law with Mesard, Apperson & Reed, was admitted to the bar in Mount Sterling in 1875, and has been practicing his profession ever since, having attained more than an ordinary degree of success. He is a man of unusual abilities and is regarded as one of the most able practitioners of his profession in eastern Kentucky. In 1874 he was elected to city attorney of Mount Sterling, and was re-elected annually until 1882, when he was appointed county judge to fill the unexpired term of Judge E.E. Garrett, and was elected county judge by the people in 1884, serving one term. November 5, 1872 he married Mattie Lauderman, a daughter of James H. and Martha (Montague) Lauderman, of Lexington, and to this union have born five children: Mary H., Lizzie G., Emily D., Dike L. and Hattie A. Mr. Hazelrigg has for several years been chairman of the Democratic County Committee. He is an Odd Fellow, and a member of the Christian Church, as is also his wife.

HON. A.P. SIMPSON was born in Adair County, Ky., September 18, 1834, and is the fourth of seven living children born to Samuel and Sallie (Davis) Simpson, viz: Mary, Nancy J., Doma M., Josia H., Jalopa, Isabelle and A.P. Samuel Simpson, his father, is a native of County Down, Ireland (for over forty years a preacher of the Christian Church), where he was born in 1796, and the same year emigrated with his parents to the United States and settled in South Carolina, where he remained one year and then removed to Lincoln County, Ky. His (Samuel's) father, was Joseph Simpson. Sallie (Davis) Simpson, his mother, is a native of Kentucky, a daughter of William Davis of Tennessee, who was a millwright by trade, she is also a neice of Ben Selby, who was once State Auditor of Kentucky. A.P. Simpson received a good common-school education, and in 1857 commenced clerking in a general store, becoming a partner two years later, he continued in the business until 1862. The following year he opened a general store in Jamestown, where he sold goods until 1868, when he was elected circuit clerk, which position he filled twelve years, serving also as county clerk ten years of the time. In 1878 he was appointed master commissioner, in which capacity he served until May, 1887. In August, 1885, he was appointed special deputy collector of internal revenue, which office he held a short time and was then appointed United States gauger, holding the latter office until July, 1887. He was then appointed special deputy collector, which position he now holds. In 1883-84 he represented Russell and Casey Counties in the Legislature. In December, 1862 he married Miss Lou Jones, of Jamestown, a daughter of Abner and Elizabeth (Jackson) Jones. Seven children have blessed thier union: Sam A., Adelle, Lizzie, Wallace, Asa, Kate and Hunter Wood. Mr. Simpson and wife are members of the Christian Church, in which church Mr. Simpson is an elder. He is a Royal Arch Mason and a Democrat.

W.S. STONE, county clerk of Russell County, Ky., was born in Wayne County, Ky., January 28, 1843, and is the eldest of four children born to N.B. and Amanda (Owsley) Stone, viz: W.S., James B., John B. and George E. N.B. Stone, also a native of Wayne County, is a lawyer by profession, and represented Russell and Casey Counties in the Legislature one term. He is a son of James Stone, who was born in Virginia, and was an early settler of Wayne County, Ky., of which county he was sheriff for a number of years. Amanda (Owsley) Stone was born in Russell County, Ky. and is a daughter of Bryan Y. Owsley, a native of Lincoln County, who was a lawyer, and was a Congressman one term from what is now the Eighth District; he was also Register of Deeds at the Land Office, Frankfort, for a number of years. W.S. Stone received a common-school education. In the spring of 1861 he enlisted in the Confederate army, Sixth Kentucky Cavalry, under command of Gen. Morgan; he was taken prisoner at Buffington Island, Ohio and carried to Camp Douglas, Chicago, Ill., where he remained nineteen months, and was then exchanged. He surrendered April 9, 1865, and returned to Russell County, Ky., where he read law with J.E. Hays, and in 1867 he was admitted to the bar. He was elected county attorney, and held the office five years, when he was elected county judge, which position he filled seven years, and in August, 1887 was elected county clerk of Russell County. December 31, 1868, he married Sophia M. Hays, of Jamestown, Ky., a daughter of J.E. and Mary A. (Coffey) Hays. They have three children, Lula A., E.O. and J.H. Judge Stone and wife are members of the Christian Church. He is a Master Mason and a Democrat.

W.D. WOLFORD, M.D., druggist and Postmaster of Jamestown, Russell County, Ky., was born December 28, 1838, and is the eldest of five living children born to James L. and Julisa (Lapsley) Wolford, viz: W.D., Martha E., Mary A., Richard G. and Margaret M. James L. Wolford, a native of Kentucky, was born in 1809 and is a prominent farmer in Russell County. He is a son of John Wolford, who was born in Virginia and was a surveyor. Julisa (Lapsley) Wolford, a native of Russell County, is a daughter of James Lapsley. W.D. Wolford was educated at the common schools and engaged in teaching one term. He read medicine with Dr. John M. Wolford and began practice in Russell County in 1860. In 1863 he entered the Federal army as Second Lieutenant of Company K, Thirteenth Kentucky Cavalry, and was mustered out January 10, 1865. He then returned to Russell County, where he followed his profession and also carried on farming. In 1884 he moved to Jamestown and opened a drug store. He was appointed Postmaster of Jamestown in 1885. January 1, 1860, he married Sarah E. Barger, of Russell County, Ky., a daughter of D.B. and Mary A. (Jones) Barger. Of the four children born to their union, three are living, viz: Florence C., Albert E. and James C. The Doctor and his wife are members of the Baptist Church. In politics he is a Democrat.