

THE HICKMAN COURIER.

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VOLUME 54—NO. 51 HICKMAN, FULTON COUNTY, KENTUCKY, THURSDAY, JUNE 3, 1909. WHOLE NO. 2450 ESTABLISHED IN THE YEAR 1859

Life of Jefferson Davis

Robert Tyler Chapter, U. D. C. together with their friends are spending this afternoon at the City cemetery, honoring with their presence, devotion and flowers, the heroes of the South—the fallen soldiers of the Confederacy—and celebrating the birthday of that illustrious man, Jefferson Davis. Had Davis lived until today, he would have been 101 years old; but fate did not will it so, and we have only the memory of the man who held first place in the hearts and affairs of the best people on earth. Perhaps there is no one in the history of our country who has received as much unjust censure and as many harsh epithets as Jefferson Davis. He has been called a traitor, a fanatic, nearly everything that hatred and prejudice could invent. But in the clouds of the Civil War have been forever swept away, both Northern and Southern can look upon his life with unbiased judgment. So, as far as our limited space well permit, we wish to give a sketch of his life, and show that instead of being a conspirator and traitor, he was a man of genius who was frank in everything he did and was a noble patriot.

He was born in Kentucky, June 3, 1808. In his infancy he was taken by his father to Mississippi where he spent his entire life. It was here that he first started preparations for his eventful career. He went to the country school and thence to Transylvania College, from which at length, he went to U. S. Military Academy at West Point. He graduated from West Point in 1828, and as a lieutenant in the regular army, he spent seven years in the middle Northwest. He played a conspicuous part in the Black Hawk war. He resigned from the regular army in 1835 and marrying the daughter of General Zachary Taylor, settled down to the life of a refined Southern gentleman.

In 1844 Mr. Davis was elected to Congress. Here he immediately made a deep impression upon the older members of the House, who predicted for him a great parliamentary career. Upon all the urgent questions of the day, and there were many, he put his voice with zeal and energy, and proved to be a statesman of great judgment and foresight. Among the many who were favorably impressed by this young orator was ex-President John Quincy Adams, who is well-known as "the old man eloquent." Certainly, he was competent to judge.

On the outbreak of the Mexican war Mr. Davis highly advocated the plan of supplying all the necessary food and equipments for the war. In 1846 he resigned his place in Congress and hastened to Vicksburg, where he was chosen as colonel of a regiment. All during the war he evinced great courage and military skill. More than once the Mexicans were routed by him and his gallant Mississippi Riflemen. At the battles of Monterey and Buena Vista he especially displayed his heroic valor and leadership. At Buena Vista by brilliant movement he snatched victory from defeat and drove Santa Anna southward with but half the force which he had before commanded. Although severely wounded Colonel Davis would not leave the field until the victory was completely won. After the battle General Zachary Taylor paid him this high compliment: "Napoleon never had a marshal who behaved more superbly than did Col. Davis today."

After returning from the war, he was offered the position of Brigadier General of Volunteers by President Polk, but he declined on a constitutional basis, holding that such an appointment inhered only in the State.

Within two months after his return from the war, Mr. Davis was appointed by the Governor to fill the place in the Senate of Senator Spraight, who recently had died. He was elected to fill the remainder of the unexpired term, all party lines and prejudices having vanished in the general desire to be represented by this brilliant young soldier and statesman. When he entered the Senate there were many eminent men there, as Calhoun, Clay, Webster, Benton, Cass, Chase, and others, with whom he was perfectly able to cope in oratory and statesmanship. A man who had great experience in the upper cham-

ber thus speaks of him: "It is but simple justice to say that in ripe scholarship, wide and accurate information on all subjects coming before the body, native ability, readiness as a debater, true honor and stainless character, Jefferson Davis stood in the very first rank, and did as much to influence legislation and leave his mark on the Senate and country as any other who served in his day."

The chief doctrine upon which Mr. Davis based his political career was the principle of the State sovereignty, to which he strictly adhered all of his life. It has been repeatedly charged that he caused the Civil War and that he hastened the secession of the Southern States. Nothing could be so false! Mr. Davis was so reluctant to leave the Union, and pleaded so long for some means by which the South would not be forced to do so, that some of his impatient friends almost accused him of disloyalty to his cause. The secession of the South under the existing circumstances was inevitable. This is shown by a speech by Daniel Webster at Capon Springs, Va., in 1851. Certainly this was some time before the war, but in consideration of the fact that the north did not change her attitude toward fugitive slaves, the circumstances in this respect were the same, or worse, at the beginning of the war than at the above mentioned date. Mr. Webster says: "I have not hesitated to say, and I repeat, that if the Northern States refuse, willfully and deliberately, to carry into effect that part of the Constitution which respects the restoration of fugitive slaves, and Congress provides no remedy, the South would no longer be bound to observe the compact. A bargain can not be broken on one side and still bind the other side. I

say to you, gentlemen of Virginia, as I said on the shores of Lake Erie and in the city of Boston, so, I may say again, that you of the South have as much right to receive fugitive slaves as the North has to any of its rights and privileges of navigation and commerce." Again I repeat that Jefferson Davis did not wish the South to leave the Union. The following words from his own lips bear testimony to this: "The Union is dear to me as a Union of fraternal States. It would lose its value if I had to regard it as a Union held together by physical force. I would be happy to know that every State now felt that fraternity which made this Union possible; and if that evidence could go out, if evidence satisfactory to the people of the South could be given that feeling existed in the hearts of the Northern people, you might burn your statute books and we would cling to the Union still."

We cannot give justice to as great a man in such limited time and space, so shall end this feeble attempt by saying that no man could have been more honest than Jefferson Davis; no man could have had a more tender and sympathetic nature; no man could have stood forth more boldly for that which he thought was right, and no man could have loved his country with more patriotic devotion.

When the people of future generations look back through the annals of history they will see the name of Jefferson Davis among the first of the great men of our country. For up to his death, which occurred December 6, 1889, he was working in the interests of his State and country and nobly striving to fulfill upon earth that part for which God had appointed him.

A free-for-all fight occurred last Saturday on Big Slough. A crowd of negroes were celebrating Decoration Day, fishing, when the fight started. They were fined \$11.50 and costs by Judge Naylor Tuesday.

Stealing Horses.

Saturday afternoon City Marshal Tom Noah arrested a man who gave his name as Pink Brown, 19 years old, and his home as Southern Kentucky. He is charged with trading a stolen horse to a man by the name of Davis at Mason Hall, in this county. He arrived in the city about 5 o'clock and hitched the horse and was buying a suit of clothes when taken into custody. He is charged with similar offenses in several West Tennessee counties and Southern Kentucky. Brown stole a horse and mortgaged the horse to a buggy, and then traded the horse to Davis and got \$20 to boot. It is thought he was preparing to leave the State. He is in jail. Brown was also found to be guilty of stealing a horse from J. E. Sammons near Jordan a few weeks ago.—Union City Commercial.

Eclipse June 17.

If your slumbers are disturbed by the early sunlight you get a few hours extra sleep on June 17. According to the Almanac we are to have a total eclipse of the sun on that date and it will be so dark that the chickens will go to roost. The eclipse will begin at 6 o'clock a. m. It will not be necessary to get up early to see the eclipse, for the moon will keep right along with the sun nearly all day. This will also be the day for the new moon, or the time that we see only a little bright ring, or rather a half ring. Just how the moon can hide so much of the sun at a time so little of the moon itself is visible to us will be a question for the school boys to discuss.

Ernest Hogan, well known negro ragtime song writer, died in New York last week. He was a native of Bowling Green, Ky., and was 50 years old. It is said he cleared \$50,000 from the song "All Coons Look Alike to Me," of which he was the composer.

The Railroad Situation

Figures Relating to the Last Survey:

Owner	Length of Line	Acres	Option	Value	Cost Per Acre	Remarks
J. H. Nelson	1.000	2.4	1,000	200	83	Line between street and house
J. A. Stubbs	1.170	2.2	1,000	200	87	Farmings fine grove
S. N. Sweeney	.570	1.5	1,000	200	111	Line runs near house
J. W. Ward	.650	1.5	1,000	200	120	Line runs near house
J. W. Ward	.580	1.2	1,000	200	90	Ridge land
S. N. Powell	.910	2.1	1,000	200	118	Ridge land
W. T. Barton	1.280	3.4	1,000	200	92	Ridge and bottom land
J. W. Caldwell	1.040	2.4	1,300	350	145	Line runs near house
G. N. Heim	2.570	5.8	2,000	1,000	169	Bottom land, cuts up farm badly
W. S. Ellison	.680	1.6	2,500	900	300	Nine city lots
Sam Gouzer	.300	1.1	1,000	600	450	Two city lots
Mengel Box Co.	.600	1.5	1,000	100	77	
			\$14,000	\$4,916		

The "Father of Waters" is slowly but surely undermining the roadbed of the N. C. & St. L. railroad along the north side of this city, and it cannot be many weeks at most before the company will be compelled to abandon this track; thus cutting themselves off from the depot and Old Hickman. Anticipating the worst, the railroad company has caused a survey to be made around the south part of town, which is the only way they can reach their West Hickman tracks and the depot, and an effort is being made to secure a right-of-way.

Whether this will be done or not remains to be seen.

An option has been secured on the property covered by the survey at figures as shown above. This option expires this month, and owing to the extreme high prices asked for some of this property, it is more than likely the proposition to go around will fail. If it does, the result will be that the trains will again be stopped in East Hickman, on the old depot site.

The result of such a move by the railroad as affecting the town's interests is at once apparent.

There's nothing in the argument to the effect that the road can be compelled to go to West Hickman. Their charter, we understand, calls

for the "corporate limits of Hickman" only, and they will comply with these conditions when they stop in East Hickman. So this "big stick" is merely a straw.

So far as the business of our factories is concerned, it might not be sufficient inducement to cause them to make an investment of \$25,000 to take care of it. This particular class of freight is handled on a very narrow margin, owing to river competition. The passenger and local freight business undoubtedly pays the best dividend—and this they will continue to hold regardless of where they may locate the depot. What they lose on this will be counterbalanced by the saving of interest on the investment of \$25,000 and the permanent cost of maintenance, mileage, etc. When figuring on these propositions, the railroad company always puts the tail in with the hide.

Should the depot be located in East Hickman, as intimated by the management in a personal letter to a non-interested person of this city because of excessive demands of the property owners, it will cripple our business interests to a large extent. It doesn't necessarily mean that our factories would pull out—though this is an unknown quantity—because the Mengel Box Co. has a direct river route for their shipments. But in short, the town will feel the effects of it in more ways than one. It would not only be a waste of space, but superfluous to enter a discussion of this point. Any thinking man will foresee the manifold disadvantages resulting from it.

Gen. H. A. Tyler, who is a representative citizen, always looking after the town's interests, and at the same time a man experienced in corporation management, has been asked by the railroad to assist in removing the "straw that breaks the camel's back" by soliciting some concession in the price of these options. The figures above will show that the price per acre asked for the grounds in question is approximately \$500 per. Therefore it would seem that the damage sustained is four times greater than the value of the land. The land could doubtless be condemned and gotten for about two-thirds less, but the road is disinclined to go into the courts with the matter.

We want it understood that we are for our home folks—first, last and all the time—but we believe the city's interests are at stake and that the matter should have the serious consideration of its citizens if we likely to lose the road from the business and factory districts. In this case the old adage might be appropriately applied "A stitch in time will save nine."

YOU'LL win before you start if you get into one of our good suits made especially for you and us by



Hart Schaffner & Marx

There are some extremely snappy sack suit models in the line this season, and the new colors and patterns are more attractive than ever. Almost any idea you can suggest has been successfully carried out in new styles; and we're sure of suiting the taste, and the purse of every man who comes to us.

Suits, fancy or blue, \$18 to \$25.
Good values, made up-to-date \$12.50 to \$15.00

This Store is the home of Hart Schaffner & Marx Clothes

SMITH & AMBERC

Special Notice.

Pastor M. L. Blaney will give his popular lecture, The "Divine Fatherhood," (which is the closing lecture of the course advertised some time ago, but on account of the rain was not given) at the Christian church, next Sunday evening at 7:30. Free to all. Miss Ellen Young, of Henderson, Ky., will lead the singing and favor the audience with one of her choir solos.

A number of our citizens are showing very little pride in the keeping of their premises. They weeds are about to "take them." The city dads ought to inject a little civic pride into the hides of some residents.

WANTED—at once; to employ some one with a good, small saw mill to cut the timber on 200 acres of land this season.—Sam Salmon, Hickman, Ky. 1p

The Courier and the weekly Commercial-Appeal one year for \$1.25.