

Lyman C. Draper.
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A

HISTORY OF KENTUCKY,

EMBRACING

GLEANINGS, REMINISCENCES,

ANTIQUITIES, NATURAL CURIOSITIES, STATISTICS,

AND

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

OF

Pioneers, Soldiers, Jurists, Lawyers, Statesmen,
Divines, Mechanics, Farmers, Merchants,
and other leading men, of all
occupations and pursuits.

BY

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He was a native of Washington County, and perhaps over fifty years of age at the time of his death.

GENERAL SAMUEL HOPKINS.

General Samuel Hopkins was a man of no inconsiderable distinction in Kentucky, and is elsewhere mentioned in this history. He was a good man, of untarnished reputation, and of great popularity. He was born in Albemarle County, Virginia, and served with distinction in the Revolutionary War, having fought at Princeton, Trenton, Monmouth, Brandywine, and Germantown; and also as a lieutenant colonel of a Virginia regiment at the siege of Charleston. He removed to Kentucky in 1797, and served a number of years in the State Legislature. In the year 1812 he led, as has before been stated, two thousand troops against the Kickapoo Indians. He was a Representative in Congress from Kentucky from 1813 to 1815. He died October, 1819, at a very advanced age.

CAPTAIN WILLIAM HUBBELL.

There are but few names in the history of Kentucky more distinguished than that of Captain Wm. Hubble, not only as a soldier of the Revolution, but as a soldier of Kentucky in our early contests with the Indians. He was a native of Vermont, and served five years and a half in the war of the Revolution; first as a private, and afterward as a subordinate officer. He was engaged in many skirmishes during the war, and participated in the capture of St. John's and Montreal. Some years after the close of the Revolution he came to Kentucky and settled in Scott County, where he continued to reside until his death, which occurred many years ago, at a very advanced age. No man enjoyed in a higher degree while he lived the confidence and esteem of his fellow-citizens. In the year 1791 Captain Hubbell went to the east on business, and returning home on one of the tributary streams of the Monongahela, he procured a flat-bottomed boat, and embarked in company with Daniel Light, William Plascut, and others, destined for Limestone, now Maysville. Soon after passing Pittsburg they saw a boat aground on an island, which, doubt-

less, became a prey to the Indians, as it never arrived, and was never heard of afterward. Before Hubbell's company reached the mouth of the Great Kanawha they had, by several additions, increased their number to about twenty, consisting of men, women, and children. Constantly anticipating an attack, Captain Hubbell was appointed commander of the boat, and the poor arms of the men aboard put in the best condition possible for service. About sunset, on the 23d of March, 1791, his party overtook a fleet of six boats, but being unwilling to remain with them in consequence of the disposition manifested on their part to fiddle and frolic rather than be in readiness for battle, Hubbell and his party proceeded on their journey. Just at the dawn of day, on the succeeding morning, and before the mist had disappeared from the river, three Indian canoes were seen rapidly advancing towards them. About twenty-five Indians were in each canoe. Capt. Hubbell ordered his men not to fire until the savages approached so near as that the flash from the guns might singe their eyebrows. The savages commenced a general fire as soon as they approached within gunshot, and Tucker and Light were both badly wounded. The fire from the boat, however, small as was their effective force, soon checked in a considerable degree the confidence and fury of the Indians. The captain, after firing his own gun, took up that of one of the wounded men, and, when about to discharge it, a ball from the enemy took away the lock. Being ready for any emergency that might arise, he coolly took a brand of fire from the kettle, and, applying it to the pan, discharged the piece with effect. The captain, in the act of raising his gun a third time to shoot, received a ball through his right arm, which, for a moment, disabled him. The Indians now attempted to board the boat, and had actually seized hold of its sides with their hands; but, wounded as he was, he caught up a pair of horseman's pistols, and, rushing forward, discharged a pistol with effect at the foremost. The Indians fell back, and after firing the second pistol, being then without arms, he was compelled to retreat; not, however, until he had wounded one of them with a stick, taken from a pile of small wood which

lay in the boat. The Indians now gave way, and directed their course to the boat of Captain Greathouse, which was then in sight and descending the river. This they entered without opposition, and rowed it to the shore, where they killed the captain and a lad fourteen years old. They then placed the women in the center of their canoes, with the hope, no doubt, of deriving protection from their presence, and again pursued Captain Hubbell. There were now but four men on Captain Hubbell's boat capable of defending it. The second attempt of the Indians, however, was resisted with incredible firmness and vigor. Notwithstanding the disparity of numbers, the Indians finally despaired of success, and retired to shore with their canoes. Captain Hubbell discharged his piece at an Indian in one of the canoes just as they were departing, and, as he believed, wounded him mortally. The sparcity of hands now on Hubbell's boat could not prevent it from drifting toward shore, which, being perceived by the Indians, four of five hundred of them rushed down to the bank of the river. Ray and Plascut, the only men remaining unhurt, plied the oars, and pushed forward with the utmost practicable rapidity. While in this condition, nine balls were shot into one oar, and ten into the other. During this dreadful exposure Mr. Kilpatrick received a ball through his mouth and the back part of his head, and another through his heart, killing him instantly. The boat, providentially, was carried out into the middle of the stream and taken by the current beyond the enemies' balls, when, afflicted as they were, yet unsubdued in spirit, with an appearance of triumph they gave three hearty cheers, calling to the Indians to come on again if they were fond of the sport.

Thus ended this awful conflict, in which, out of nine men, two only escaped unhurt, and reached Limestone by twelve o'clock that night. Hubbell, from pain and fatigue, was unable to walk, and was obliged to be carried to the tavern, where his wounds were dressed, and in a few days he had sufficient strength to proceed homeward. They found a considerable force at Limestone about to march against the same Indians from whose attacks they had suffered so severely, which force,

on arriving near the scene of action, discovered several dead Indians on the shore, and the bodies of Captain Greathouse and the men, women, and children who had been on board of his boat. The boat which had been the scene of such heroism was literally filled with bullet holes. There were one hundred and twenty-two holes in the blankets which had been hung up as curtains in the stern of the boat to conceal them and the horses from the enemy. Four out of the five horses on board were killed.

GENERAL JEFFERSON DAVIS.

No two individuals, perhaps, ever lived in the United States of wider spread fame than Jefferson Davis and Abraham Lincoln, and nothing that I could say would add to or detract from either of them; but, both being natives of Kentucky, I deem it proper that I should give them at least a passing notice.

Gen. Jefferson Davis was born in Christian County, Kentucky, on the 3d day of June, 1808, but his father removed to Mississippi in his infancy. He commenced his education at the Transylvania University, Kentucky, but left it for the West Point Academy, where he graduated in 1828. He followed the fortunes of a soldier until 1835, when he became a planter. He was a cadet from 1824 to 1828; second lieutenant of infantry from 1828 to 1833; first lieutenant of dragoons from 1833 to 1835, serving in various campaigns against the Indians; was an adjutant of dragoons, and at different times served in the quartermaster's department. In 1844 he was a presidential elector; in 1845 he was elected a Representative in Congress from Mississippi for one term, but resigned in 1846 to become colonel of a volunteer regiment to serve in Mexico. In Mexico he received the appointment of Brigadier General. In 1847 he was appointed a Senator in Congress to fill a vacancy, and was elected for the term ending in 1851, but resigned in 1850; was re-elected for a term of six years, but again resigned. He was appointed Secretary of War by President Pierce, serving throughout his administration. In 1857 he again took his seat in the United States Senate for the term of six years, serving as chairman of the