

Griffith Family Papers

Compiled by Jerry long, Owensboro, Ky., 1994

William R. Griffith (1920-1992), of Quogue, NY, was a descendant of the Griffith and Weir families of Owensboro and Daviess County, KY. Four prior generations of his family had resided and were prominent in shaping the history of Western Kentucky. Mr. Griffith upon his death left his family library and historical collection to his first cousin, Arria Griffith McGinniss. Miss McGinniss, of Kensington, MD, in 1992, donated the collection to the Daviess County Public Library, in Owensboro, KY. William R. Griffith had inherited most of the collection but had also added to it in his lifetime.

Among the items received by the Daviess County Public Library were: letters, documents, books, periodicals, newspapers, booklets, circulars, maps, prints, engravings, and photographs. The letters and documents of the Griffith and Weir families comprise the largest portion of the collection. All of these were duplicated and compiled by Jerry Long into a series of five bound volumes for the shelves of the Daviess County Public Library. Most of the documents spanning the years of 1810-1848, were the business papers of the donor's great grandfather, William Ridgely Griffith (1793-1848). A public official, land agent and speculator, he owned vast quantities of land in Daviess and surrounding counties. These documents involved many of the region's earliest pioneers and his correspondence included many prominent officials and businessmen. Letters from such famous Kentuckians as Benjamin Logan, Hubbard Taylor and Buckner Thruston are found in the collection. One letter dated 16 August 1829 was signed by James Madison, of Montpelier, VA, who 12 years earlier had served as the 4th President of the United States (a copy can be found in Vol. I, pp. 68-69 & Vol. III, pp.45-46 of the Griffith Family Papers).

The twenty-two books in the Griffith contribution dealt with that families history or with Kentucky history. Fifteen of these titles were pre-1900 publications, eight being prior to 1850, and the oldest bears the date of 1793. Another valuable gem of the collection was a portrait (2 foot 2 inches by 2 foot 7 inches) of Joshua Griffith (1764-1845), painted in 1840 by the noted Kentucky portraitist, Patrick Henry Davenport (a reproduction of this can be found in Vol. I, p.i).

Most of the William R Griffith collection was photocopied and organized into this five volume series, entitled Griffith Family Papers. All items pertaining to the Griffith and Weir families or to the Western Kentucky area were included. Pages from the books in the collection containing references to these families (or their progenitors) were also copied. A few smaller

items in the collection, such as newspapers, circulars, booklets, etc., that had no connection to the Griffith - Weir families or to Western Kentucky were not included in the bound volumes.

The 1350 pages of copies made from the Griffith collection were sorted and organized into the following volumes and chapter headings:

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Volumes I & II consist of pages pertaining to the history of the Griffith and Weir families (& their progenitors). To both of these volumes a supplement researched and compiled by Jerry Long, and not found in the original Griffith Family collection, was added. Volumes III, IV & V are comprised of the business letters and documents of William Ridgely Griffith (1793-1848). Each volume has an all name index and a separate table of contents that lists and identifies each item included.

The five volume set of the Griffith Family Papers was added to the section with family histories at the Kentucky Room of the Daviess County Public Library. They were part of a continuing series of collections of family papers copied and organized by Jerry Long. In this series are the papers of several local noted genealogists, viz: Mary Hale Dean (3 volumes), Mary Helen Denker (3 volumes), William Foster Hayes (1 volume), M. J. Kelley (3 volumes), Katharyn C. Leachman (5 volumes), Florence Thompson Lovejoy (26 volumes), Juanita H. Lyons (2 volumes), Emma Dunn Mastin (4 volumes), Bobbie H. O'Brien (10 volumes), Harold Powers (3 volumes), Finis B. Stroud & Thomas W. Westerfield (1 volume).

GRIFFITH FAMILY COLLECTION

Items in collection not included in 5-volume set of the Griffith Family Papers:

Books

A Topographical Description of the Western Territory of North America, George Imlay, second edition, Piccadilly, London: J. Debrett, Opposite Burlington-House, 1793, 415 pp.

Filson's Kentucke, a facsimile reproduction of the original Wilmington Edition of 1784, with paged Critique, Sketch of Filson's Life and Bibliography, Willard Rouse Jillson, Louisville, KY: John P. Morton & Company, Inc., 1929, 198 pp.

The History of Kentucky, In Two Volumes, Vol. I, H. Marshall, Frankfort: Geo. S. Robinson, Printer, 1824, 465 pp.

Historical Sketches of Kentucky, Lewis Collins, Maysville, KY: Lewis Collins and Cincinnati: J. A. & V. P. James, 1850, 560 pp.

History of Kentucky, From the Earliest Discoveries and Settlements to the End of the Year 1888, Z. F. Smith, Louisville, KY: The Courier-Journal Job Printing Company, 1889, 236 pp.

- The Springs of Kentucky: An Account of the Famed Watering Places of the Bluegrass State, 1800-1935, J. Winston Coleman, Jr., Lexington, KY: Winburn Press, 1955, 117 pp.
- The Life and Speeches of the Hon. Henry Clay, In Two Volumes, Volume I, Daniel Mallory, ed., New York: Van Amringe and Bixby, 1844, 634 pp.
- The Life and Speeches of the Hon. Henry Clay, In Two Volumes, Volume II, Daniel Mallory, ed., New York: Van Amringe & Bixby, 1844, 607 pp.
- The Life and Times of Henry Clay, In Two Volumes, Volume I, Calvin Colton, New York: A. S. Barnes & Co., 1846, 504 pp.
- American Statesmen: James Madison, Sydney Howard Gay, Boston & New York: The Riverside Press Cambridge, Houghton Mifflin Company, 1912, 346 pp.
- A Kentucky Cardinal:: A Story, James Lane Allen, New York: Harper & Brothers Publishers, 1895, 147 pp.
- Aftermath, Part Second of "A Kentucky Cardinal", James Lane Allen, New York: Harper & Brothers Publishers, 1896, 135 pp.
- The Kentuckians: A Knight of the Cumberland, John Fox, Jr., New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1914, 259 pp.
- English Grammar Made Easy To The Teacher and Pupil, originally compiled for the use of West-Town Boarding School, Pennsylvania, John Comly, Philadelphia: Kimber and Sharpless, 1838, 216 pp.
- Rare Kentucky Books, 1776-1926, Willard Rouse Jillson, Louisville, KY: The Standard Printing Co., Inc., 1939, 119 pp. (signed by author).
- History of Daviess County, Kentucky, Inter-State Publishing Co., Chicago, 1883, 870 pp.
- Ohio County, Kentucky, In The Olden Days, Harrison D. Taylor, Louisville, KY: John P. Morton & Company, Inc., 1926, 204 pp.
- Memoir of Col. Joshua Fry, Sometime Professor in William and Mary College, and Washington's Senior in Command of Virginia Forces, 1754, etc., with an Autobiography of His Son, Rev. Henry Fry, and a Census of Their Descendants, Rev. P. Slaughter, D.D., no date, 112 pp.[Richmond, VA: Randolph & English, 1880].
- Genealogy of the Griffith Family: The Descendants of Will and Sarah Maccubbin Griffith, R. R. Griffith, Baltimore: Press of William K. Boyle, 1892, 323 pp. [inscription: presented to W. R. Griffith, 20 Feb 1897, by the author, R. R. Griffith]

Lonzo Powers: or, The Regulators. A Romance of Kentucky. Founded on Facts, in Two Volumes, Volume I (364 pp) & Volume II (319 pp), James Weir, Philadelphia: Lippincott, Grambo & Co., 1850.

Simon Kenton: or, The Scout's Revenge. An Historical Novel, James Weir, Philadelphia.: Lippincott, Grambo & Co., 1852, 195 pp.

The Winter Lodge: or, Vow Fulfilled. An Historical Novel. The Sequel to Simon Kenton, James Weir, Philadelphia: Lippincott, Grambo and Co., 1854, 231 pp.

Phamplets & Circulars

"The Herald: A Gazette for the Country", Vol. III, No. 267, New York, 31 Dec 1796.

"First Auditors Report by the Treasurer of Kentucky for 1843".

Speech by Robert S. Todd to the Kentucky House of Representatives in opposition to the passage of the Bill to Establish the Safety Fund Bank, 1843.

Petition to the General Assembly, 4 March 1843.

Speech by Cassius H. Clay against the annexation of Texas, 30 December 1843. Whig recommendation, 29 February 1844.

Congressional Directory, 1848.

James Quincey Adams Funeral Address, 1848.

Thomas Chilton Address to Freemen of the 11th Congressional District.

Speech by C. S. Morehead on Loan Bill, 16 February 1848.

Niles National Register, 15 November 1848 & 3 January 1849.

New York Tribune, 27 September 1860.

Maps

Filson's Map of Kentucky, 1784.

1795 Map of Kentucky.

1806 Map of United States by John Cary.

1825 Map of Kentucky & Tennessee by H. S. Tanner.

Plat of Clinton Griffith Addition to Owensboro, July 1949.

Portrait

An original painting (2 foot 2 inches by 2 foot 7 inches) of Joshua Griffith (1764-1845) of Daviess County, KY, by Patrick Henry Davenport (1803-1890). The artist painted the portrait in 1840:



Joshua Griffith (1764-1845)

Kentucky Ante-Bellum Portraiture, Edna Talbott Whitley, The National Society of Colonial Dames in America in the Commonwealth of Kentucky, 1956, pp.650-651:

PATRICK HENRY DAVENPORT, 1803-1890, was born at Danville, Kentucky, at the “Indian Queen Tavern”, operated by his parents, Richard and Elizabeth Tadlock Davenport. Later his father was a brigadier general in the War of 1812. Though sometimes referred to as a Pennsylvania artist, Davenport was not an academician. He may have had some lessons from Jouett. He assisted Oliver Frazer in painting the full length portrait of George Washington at the old Capitol building, Frankfort. Apparently beginning his work at the age of fifteen, he dated portraits in Madison County 1824, 1829, 1834, Garrard Co., 1829, 1837, 1838, in Nelson Co. 1820, in Danville at various dates. In 1827 he was married at Vicksburg, Miss., to Eliza Ann Bohannon, 1811-1888, a native of Georgia, and had eight children whose birth places were Sumner, Ill. 1832, Crab Orchard, Ky., 1834, Cairo, Ill. 1838, and Sumner, Ill., 1840. His portraits from 1850 to 1870 in Indiana show declining skill. He died at Sumner, Ill., where he made his

home after 1840 except for the time he spent managing the resort at Crab Orchard Springs (181). His signatures in different forms, Henry Davenport, P. Henry Davenport and occasionally P. H. Davenport usually occur on the back of his canvases with the place and date of painting. In addition to those illustrated we have learned of his work:

Benjamin Ball, (1829) 25" x 24", owner Jackson D. Guerrant, Danville; Joseph Davis, Sr., formerly owned by Miss Florence Ragland, now, in Lexington Public Library; Joel W. Embry, 1853, owned by Mrs. M. B. Arbuckle; Sarah Fisher, 1837, 30" X 26", Fisher estate, Danville; Adam Irvine, 1802-1826, son of Wm. and Elizabeth Hockaday Irvine, 1823, at "Irvineton," Richmond; David Irvine, Sr., Clerk of the Madison Court; Hugh Logan, 1777-1868, of Garrard Co., 1829, owned by Mrs. Dan Baker, Baltimore; and Mrs. Hugh Logan (Katherine Jackman) 1788-1865, 28" x ii" same date and owner: Dr. Ephraim McDowell, 21" x 27", 1820, owner the daughter of Wm. Wallace McDowell, Mrs. W. T. Chandler, Alva, Oklahoma; Stephen Thompson Mason, 1817-1844, of Garrard Co., 1838, owned by Mrs. W. F. Logan (Edna Mason) of Kingston, Pa.; Mrs. John Miller (Elizabeth Jones Goodloe) owned by Mrs. Edward Virgin, Chevy Chase, Md.; Mrs. Win. Morrow (Nancy Field) 1778-1845, (1825), owned by Mrs. Julia Vaughan Spencer, Anchorage, Ky.; Mrs. Eliza Delaney Rodes, x8a8, painted for her daughter, Sallie Harris (Mrs. Anthony Wayne Rollins) now owned by Dr. Bodes Burnam, Louisville; 2nd copy painted for her daughter, Elizabeth, (Mrs. Wallace Estill) owned by Robt. Quisenberry, Danville; 3rd copy painted for her daughter, Nancy (Mrs. Samuel Stone) owned by Miss Robert Kinkead, Lexington; 4th copy painted for her son, Clifton, owned by Judge John Bodes, Bowling Green. The illustrated copy was painted for her son, William, but given by the descendant who inherited it, to Col. James W. Caperton or his daughter, a descendant of Mrs. Bodes' daughter, Mrs. James Estill; 6th copy painted for Mary Eddings (Mrs. James Estill) now owned by Mrs. Sam Eskew, Louisville; Gov. Isaac Shelby, at Richmond Courthouse, by gift of Mrs. Elizabeth Irvine, (the copy received by his daughter Sarah Shelby upon her marriage to Dr. Ephraim McDowell in x8zo); Gov. Isaac Shelby, copy at "Irvineton;" Mrs. Isaac Shelby (Susannah Hart) on wood, painted at Danville, 1827, at Ky. Historical Society by gift of Miss Susannah Preston Shelby Grigsby, Dec. 1953; Mrs. Leonidas Brent Talbott (Mary Caperton) 1850 in rose dress with lace collar, blue mantle on nearby chair, owned by Jas. Caperton Todd, Richmond; Dr. Win. C. Taylor, 1823; Major Squire Turner (profile), 1836, Richmond Courthouse; Robert Washington, 30" X 3.6", owned by the Fisher estate, Danville. Though not signed, the portraits of Mr. and Mrs. James Harlan, parents of Justice John Harlan at the Ky. Hist. Soc. may be Davenport's work. Mrs. Harlan was his sister, Elizabeth. The compiler is inclined to attribute four illustrated works to him, Mr. and Mrs. Win. Goodloc, and Mr. and Mrs. David Perry Hart.

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Griffith Family Papers

Volume I: The Griffith Family

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Review of <u>Simon Kenton</u> , by James Weir, from <u>Kentucky In American Letters, 1784-1912</u> , John Wilson Townsend	1913	44
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Griffith Family Papers
Volume IV: Land Records of William R. Griffith (1793-1848)

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William R. Griffith contract to sell 160 Acres in Daviess Co., KY	William B. Baird 28 Jul 1837	1
James T. Barbour, et al by agent William R. Griffith contract to sell 200 acres in Daviess Co., KY	William Bassett 23 Oct 1841	3
James T. Barbour of Hardin Co., KY letter	William R. Griffith 17 Sep 1846	5
Joseph Barbour	William R. Griffith, et al	9

partnership in land	14 Apr 1837	
Joseph Barbour (Defendant) circuit court suit cross answer	Samuel Spotts heirs (Plaintiff) 7 Sep 1839	13
James D. Barry power of attorney	William R. Griffith 6 Sep 1841	19
James D. Barry of Washington, D.C. letter letter letter	William R. Griffith 31 Dec 1842 24 Oct 1843 17 Aug 1844	22
Charles Chilton division of 1250 acres Panther Creek, Daviess Co., KY	Charles Chilton's heirs 1 Aug 1817	28
Mark A. Chilton contract to sell interest in 1250 a. Panther Cr. Dav. Co., KY	William R. Griffith 5 May 1841	35
Drury Cotton power of attorney	William R. Griffith 26 Nov 1834	38
J. H. Daviess contract to sell 640 acres Panther Creek, Daviess Co., KY	John Jones 11 Nov 1875	40
Elizabeth Dorsey contract to investigate & sell land titles in KY	Archibald Dorsey & John W. Berry 18 Aug 1812	42
John W. Berry. of Baltimore, MD letter A. Dorsey letter	William R. Griffith 15 Feb 1840 William R. Griffith 30 Mar 1843	44 46
Buckner Thruston by agent William R. Griffith contract to sell 102 acres Daviess Co., KY	William Downs 18 Oct 1831	48
Pleasant Galloway contract to sell 150 acres	William Wornall 11 Mar 1835	50

Ohio River, Daviess Co., KY

William R. Griffith contract to sell 153 3/4 acres in Daviess Co., KY	William Hansford 7 Dec 1834	52
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Mary Hord, of Jessamine Co., KY letter	William R. Griffith 13 Feb 1835	63
Mary Hord receipt for land sold to John Ralph in Ohio Co., KY	William R. Griffith December 1840	65
Francis P. Hord's heirs power of attorney: Nancy & John L. Price Lucy & Henry Chapeze Mary, Francis & Elizabeth Hord Mary & Caleb T. Worley	William R. Griffith 21 Jan 1840 8 Apr 1840 January 1840 January 1840	 66 70 74 78
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William R. Griffith contract to sell 154 acres in Daviess Co., KY	John G. Slayton 10 Aug 1839	104
Richard Steele of Louisville, KY memo (concerning sale of 800 acres Otter Creek, Muhlenberg Co., KY)	William R. Griffith 26 Mar 1828	106
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Alfred Thruston by agent William R. Griffith contract to sell land in Daviess Co. KY	Benjamin B. Whitaker Jul 1839	139
William Prentiss contract to sell land in in Henderson Co., KY	John Williams 4 Feb 1830	141

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George Ashby, et al 1236 acres Panther Creek Ohio Co., KY	Thomas Barbour 6 Jan 1801	147
Bank of the Commonwealth of KY 910 acres Panther Cr. & Green River Daviess Co., KY	Benjamin J. Harrison 20 Feb 1834	149
Thomas Barbour 1200 acres Green River, Ohio Co., KY	John L. Moore 4 Dec 1807	152

Creed Burton 3 lots in New Boston, Daviess Co., KY	William R. Griffith 2 Dec 1839	156
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Robert Triplett ½ of 2563 acres Henderson Road Daviess Co., KY	William R. Griffith 21 Aug 1835	201
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Edward Worthington 200 acres Green River Daviess Co., KY	William R. Griffith 23 Jul 1836	208

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Brent, John patent: 21 Jan 1784	1000 acres Licking Creek	225
Coleman & Hord survey: November 1828	5113 acres Pup Creek Daviess Co., KY	227
Cooper, H. J. survey: 10 May 1844	43 acres Deserter Creek Daviess Co., KY	236
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Dicken, John survey: 2 Jul 1834	1000 acres Green River Daviess (now McLean) Co., KY	249
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William grant: 1 Jun 1786	5000 acres Green River Jefferson (now Daviess) Co., KY	270
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Griffith Family Papers
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Riggs, Isaac B.	5 Aug 1843	191
Triplett, Philip	1835, 1843, 1845	192
<u>Rents:</u>		
Barker, Elisha	23 Jul 1828	196
Early, James	15 Oct 1833	198
Murphy, Daniel	Nov 1835	200
<u>Wills:</u>		
Moore, John L. (Simpson County, KY)	1836	202

Addenda To The Griffith Family Papers

By Jerry Long

The originals of the enclosed twenty-seven documents from the William Ridgely Griffith (1920-1992) estate were received in May 1997. They are an addition to the collection of original documents that were donated from the estate in 1992 to the Daviess County Public Library and subsequent to Jerry Long in 1994 compiling copies of the original donation into the five-volume set, Griffith Family Papers.

Bill of H. B. & J. Griffith	3 April 1822
Letter from Benjamin J. Harrison to William R. Griffith (concerning recording a deed of release)	23 May 1835
Letter from W. L. Page, Frankfort, KY to William R. Griffith (refers to claim of Abraham Sheckles & tract of Thomas Mason heirs)	31 Aug 1846
Bill of A. Moreland	1835
Receipts of:	
J. Swigert	1836
William Pattee	17 June 1843
J. H. Westerfield	9 Nov 1842
William R. Griffith	March 1844
Receipts of:	
B. Stebbins & Co.	2 June 1842
Bank of Baltimore	9 Nov 1844
Law license of William R. Griffith	5 Apr 1815
Letter from H. W. Warfield to Dewitt Clinton Griffith	22 Jan 1857
Letter from Dewitt Clinton Griffith to his wife	16 Apr 1880
Letter from Susan C. Weir to son-in-law, Dewitt Clinton Griffith, upon birth of grandson, Dewitt Clinton, Jr.	8 Aug 1881
Letter from James Weir to wife, Susan C. Weir	13 July 1850
Letter from James Weir, Sr. to son, James Weir, Jr.	20 Dec 1848
Letter from James Weir to Miss Mildred Ann Bell	1 Feb 1842
Letter from James Weir to wife, Susan C. Weir	2 Feb 1842
Letter from James Weir to Richard C. Wintersmith	29 Sep 1841
Letter from James Weir to Richard C. Wintersmith	12 June 1841
Letter from James Weir, Sr. to wife, Anna C. Weir	8 May 1826
Lease of a tract of land to David Leaman by heirs of Thomas Mason	15 Aug 1835
Letter from Marie W. Thompson to William R. Griffith	6 June 1835

Letter from Dillis Dyer to William R. Griffith	1833
Letter from Albert Gallatin Hawes to William R. Griffith	13 Feb 1833
Settlement of account of A. Moreland	26 Nov 1832
Receipt by Warner Crow for money received from the estate of William Ridgely	Nov 1829
Letter from James D. Breckinridge to William R. Griffith	7 July 1827
Note of obligation from William Ridgely to grandson, William R. Griffith, concerning his inheritance	7 Sep 1818
Receipt of George Bell	5 May 1817
Letter from L. R. Griffith to cousin, William R. Griffith	4 Jan 1815

Griffith Family Plots At Elmwood Cemetery, Owensboro, KY

The following listings were done by Jerry Long on April 24 and May 10, 1994. They were compiled as an aid in locating their sites and also to correct errors that have been put in circulation by two prior listings. Names on same monument are listed here on consecutive lines.

Griffith - Weir Plot

Members of the family of James & Susan (Green) Weir are buried here, including the family of Dewitt Clinton & Bell (Weir) Griffith:

Location: On top of ridge in section D, about 5 rows from its west end.

Clinton Griffith	18 Oct 1828	31 Aug 1896
Bell Weir Griffith	1 Sep 1844	3 Apr 1918
Mary Frances Griffith (w/o Clinton)	died 2 May 1885	age 30 yrs. & 9 mos.
Anna Rumsey Griffith	11 Sep 1875	30 Dec 1958
James Weir Griffith	2 Jul 1874	14 Feb 1952

Harry W. McGinniss	15 Jul 1878	23 Jul 1965
Arria Griffith McGinniss	11 Sep 1879	18 Jan 1953
DeWitt Clinton Griffith	6 Aug 1881	4 Jul 1946
Mary Smith Griffith	25 Dec 1888	23 May 1971
James Weir	16 Jun 1821	31 Jan 1906
Susan C. Weir	15 Nov 1823	4 Aug 1903
John G. Weir	28 Sep 1894	30 Sep 1971
Mary E. Weir (w/o John G.)	6 Jan 1903	2 Jul 1985
James Weir, Jr., M.D.	17 Oct 1855	9 Aug 1906
Paul Weir	16 Nov 1863	8 Nov 1925
Robert S. Triplett	9 Sep 1858	30 Jan 1906
Nora W. Triplett	12 Dec 1860	17 Jul 1906
James Weir	1 Aug 1878	16 Oct 1953
Eula Bennett Weir	27 Jun 1891	27 Oct 1918
Elizabeth Griffith Weir (w/o John G.)	14 Oct 1853	9 Nov 1937
John G. Weir	13 Jan 1849	30 Apr 1912
James Weir	(no dates) aged 4 yrs. & 9 mos.	
Robert D. Weir	(no dates) aged 14 yrs. & 12 days	
William L. Weir	3 Apr 1862	20 Feb 1877
Arthur W. Weir	15 Aug 1853	15 Nov 1894
Griffith Weir	23 Feb 1875	7 Jun 1903
George Raymond Millican	19 Sep 1886	17 Jun 1930
Nora Weir Millican	11 Oct 1886	15 Mar 1961
Elizabeth Griffith Millican	16 Apr 1921	16 May 1975
Raymond Weir Millican (Colonel US Army)	7 Jan 1918	8 Aug 1980
Penelope Young Millican (w/o Raymond W.)	5 Oct 1920	
Penelope Griffith Millican (d/o R.W. & P.Y.)	25 May 1946	29 May 1946

Infant son of Raymond W. & Penelope Millican

27 Aug 1942

note: Items pertaining to this family plot can be found on pages 203-207 of the book, Griffith Family Papers, Volume I: The Griffith Family, compiled by Jerry Long, at the Daviess County Public Library.

Griffith - Todd Plot

Members of the family of Charles Stewart & Letitia (S (Todd) Griffith and Daniel Moseley & Virginia S. (Todd) Griffith are buried here, including Daniel M.'s parents, William R. & Arria (Moseley) Griffith. As a memorial, on the monument of William R. & Arria, his parents, Joshua & Elizabeth (Ridgely) Griffith, are listed, they however are not buried here.

Location: In west half of section D. Adjacent to and just east of the preceding Griffith - Weir plot.

William R. Griffith	28 Feb 1793	7 Dec 1848
"Born in Montgomery County, MD & came to KY in 1806"		
Arria Griffith (w/o Wm. R.)	died 18 Nov 1828 aged 32 yrs.	
Joshua Griffith	1764	1845
"Born in MD, came to KY in 1805, buried at Utica, KY"		
Elizabeth Ridgely Griffith (w/o Joshua)	1765	1795
"Born & died in Maryland"		
Daniel Moseley Griffith (s/o Wm. R. & Arria)	28 Feb 1826	3 Nov 1893
Virginia Shelby Griffith (d/o Charles S. & Letitia Todd)	16 Nov 1836	9 Aug 1883
Ruth Griffith (d/o D. M. & V. S.)	15 Jan 1870	10 Dec 1884
Charles Todd Griffith (s/o D. M. & V. S.)	19 Sep 1871	30 Apr 1880
Virginia Todd Griffith (d/o D. M. & V. S.)	2 Oct 1859	28 Apr 1877
Clinton Griffith	30 Aug 1873	25 Aug 1923
Mary Ridgely Griffith Ray (w/o Lee Davis Ray)	27 Mar 1876	14 Dec 1901
Dr. Samuel S. Watkins, M.D.	1862	1935
Rose Griffith Watkins	1865	1958
Rose Watkins (d/o Dr. S. S. & R. G.)	22 Jan 1888	23 Feb 1889
Sue R. W. McCulloch, Sr. (w/o W. K.)	22 Jan 1888	27 Oct 1982
Letitia Shelby Watkins (w/o Henry C.)	11 Aug 1858	27 Apr 1894
Joshua Todd Griffith	1 Apr 1861	27 Nov 1939
Jettie Rotchild Griffith	27 May 1866	11 Apr 1945

Virginia Griffith Rattray	29 Jan 1895	26 Jul 1978
Melvin Henderson Rattray	27 Feb 1897	30 Mar 1974
Melvin H. Rattray, Jr.	8 Aug 1925	19 Apr 1986
Matilda Thompson Rattray	12 Mar 1927	15 Aug 1975

Dr. Daniel M. Griffith Plot

Members of the family of Daniel Moseley & Susan (Herr) Griffith, Jr. are buried here.

Location: On south side of section D, near its center, under large red-leaf tree. In row (north-south) that is in a straight line from driveway between sections A & E. Five rows east of Griffith - Todd plot.

Dr. Daniel Moseley Griffith (s/o Daniel N. & Virginia Todd Griffith)	19 Sep 1867	9 Oct 1959
Susan Herr Griffith (w/o Dr. D. M.) (d/o Henry Clay & Mildred Taylor Herr)	4 Apr 1871	30 Jan 1957
Mary Ridgely Griffith (d/o Dr. D. M. & Susan)	6 Mar 1903	24 Nov 1924
Mildred Taylor Griffith (d/o Dr. D. M. & Susan)	22 Dec 1899	14 Mar 1981
Daniel Moseley Griffith, III (s/o Dr. D. M. & Susan Herr Griffith)	26 Aug 1906	14 May 1973

William H. Griffith Plot

Members of the family of William Henry & Margaret (Calhoon) Griffith are buried here.

Location; On north side of section D. In same (north-south) row as Dr. Daniel M. Griffith plot, but on opposite side of ridge. Five rows east of Griffith - Todd plot and about five rows from section C, at point where rows change from running north-south to east-west.

William H. Griffith (s/o Arria & William R.)	1 Apr 1825	27 Mar 1848
William H. Griffith (s/o Margaret & Wm. H.)	31 Jul 1848	12 Feb 1876
Margaret Griffith (w/o Wm. H.)	27 Oct 1825	14 Jan 1894

Griffith - Hickman Plot

William R. Griffith, son of Dewitt Clinton & Mary Frances (Crawford) Griffith, his wife, Aurelia Hickman, and her mother. Susan L. (Suit) Hickman, are buried here, her father, William Hickman, was buried in Springfield, IL.

Location: Near southeast end of section C, seven rows from driveway between sections B & C.

William Ridgely Griffith	1857	1929
Aurelia Hickman Griffith	1862	1928
Susan L. Hickman	9 Oct 1824	9 Jul 1909

Triplett - Hopkins Plot

Martha Cary Hopkins, second wife of William R. Griffith, is buried in the plot of her sister's family, Phillip & Eliza (Hopkins) Triplett.

Location: Near northeast end of section E. At driveway between sections D & E walk back (east-west) row from monument of Mary Ellen Hart, about 50 feet from east fence of cemetery. Gravestone of Martha Cary Griffith is lying horizontal in ground, next to monument of Lucy Hopkins, wife of A. T. Craycroft.

Martha Cary Griffith (w/o Wm. R.) (aged 30 yrs., 8 mos. & 21 days)	7 May 1811	28 Dec 1844
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Griffith Family Biographies

AN ILLUSTRATED HISTORICAL ATLAS MAP OF DAVIESS COUNTY, KY., Leo McDonough & Co., c.1876, p.33:

WILLIAM R. GRIFFITH, (Deceased.)

It is difficult to say to what other man so much credit could be given for advancing the interests of Daviess County as to William R. Griffith, now deceased. His father was one of the earliest settlers of the County. He himself was known for many years as a business man of enterprise, liberality, honor, and high standing. He was frequently called upon to serve both in the Upper and Lower Houses of the Legislature, and represented his constituents with ability and integrity. His social qualities were as attractive, and his personal relations as pleasant as his business career and public life were honorable and useful.

The Griffith family is of Welsh descent. The first to come to America was William Griffith, who landed in Maryland about the year 1655. He left three children, Charles, William, and Orlando, the last of whom settled on the Patuxent River, in Maryland, married Catherine Howard, and had eight children, of whom one was Henry. This latter was the father of eleven children. The next to the youngest was Joshua Griffith, born in Montgomery County, Maryland, not far from the city of Baltimore on the 25th of March, 1764. He was consequently eleven years of age at the time of the breaking out of the Revolutionary War. His older brothers took part in

that struggle and served in the Continental Army. The year 1805 is the date of his emigration from Maryland to Kentucky. He had been married in Maryland and at the time of leaving that State, had a family of several children. On coming to Kentucky, he came directly to what was then Ohio County. Stopping for one season to make a crop near Hartford, the same summer he put up a log house, for the accommodation of his family at what is now Lewis Station, where he proposed making a permanent settlement. The following year, 1806, he brought his family to this locality. The house which Joshua Griffith occupied as his home is still standing, though its sides have been weather-boarded, and its appearance somewhat changed. It is now in all probability the oldest structure in existence in Daviess County. The family of Joshua Griffith were pioneers in the section of country where they settled. Adam Shoemaker, Captain Ben Field, an old Revolutionary soldier, and the McFarland family were the only neighbors living in the vicinity. One or two rudely constructed log cabins occupied the sites or the present town of Owensboro, twelve miles away, and the country was a wilderness for miles around.

Such were the circumstances under which Joshua Griffith and his family came to Daviess County. The oldest son was Remus Griffith, who was about fifteen on the coming of the family to Kentucky. He was liberally educated, a farmer, and largely concerned in the real estate business. He died in 1845, near Calhoon, then still included in Daviess County. Of the daughters, Elizabeth became the wife of John H. McFarland; another, Mary married William Hansford, Lydia married Warner Crow, and Ruth, Moses Cummins. All these daughters left families, and many of their descendants are still residents of the County. The youngest son was William R. Griffith, born in Maryland, February 28th, 1794.

The character of Joshua Griffith was a rare one even for the times in which he lived. By his energetic disposition he attained a position of considerable influence in the community. His old neighbors declared him to be the most liberal man they ever knew, and for his charity he was celebrated throughout the whole country. Some times a scarcity of meat would be felt throughout the settlement, and bacon would advance to a high price. In such a case Joshua Griffith was frequently known to refuse to sell to persons who came to him with the cash, offering a good price for his entire stock, telling them if they had money there was no danger of their starving, but it was his duty to provide for his poor neighbors around him, who had not the means wherewith to buy. Among his other acquirements, he had gained a knowledge of medicine, and his skill was in use in this direction in the families of the neighbors for a distance of several miles. He never charged for his services. No man was more truthful. If he was ever guilty of a mean action it was never known. His general kindness and charity made him popular and beloved everywhere in the community, and he was one of the few men in the County who died without an enemy. He had reached the ripe age of nearly eighty-two years, when death ended his career.

William R. Griffith has been mentioned as the youngest son of Joshua Griffith, born in Maryland, six years before the close of the last century, and therefore about eleven years of age when he accompanied his father's family to Kentucky. The newness of the settlement, where his father located, and the wildness of the country, made anything like good schools an impossibility. His primary education he consequently received at Hartford, then as now the County Seat of Ohio County. He subsequently attended St. Joseph's College, at Bardstown, where facilities were at command for pursuing a more advanced course of study. He was a soldier in the war of 1812-1814. During the latter part of the war, he enlisted in a company raised in Ohio County, but was present at no engagement, the struggle drawing to a close as the troops took the field. On the organization of Daviess County and the formation of the County Court,

Mr. Griffith received the appointment as County Clerk, and was the first to fill that office. He afterward studied law and was admitted to the bar, when for several years he was engaged in successful practice. About 1821, his marriage occurred to Aria Mosely, the daughter of Captain Thomas Mosely, a prominent and early settler of the County from Virginia. His first wife died in 1828, and in 1841 his second marriage took place to Miss Martha Hopkins, the daughter of General Edmond Hopkins, of Henderson County. The one child by this marriage died in infancy. But it was chiefly in connection with his real estate transactions that Mr. Griffith was of benefit to Daviess County. Much of the land within the limits of the county was taken up by large claims, in regard to the sale of which to actual settlers much difficulty existed. It was impossible in many cases to obtain clear titles to property, said the general feeling of uncertainty and suspicion did much to retard the growth of the population and the improvement of the lands. Mr. Griffith became agent for several of these claims. His plan was to buy up all the claims possible, and to dispose of them to actual settlers. His partner in some portions of this business was Philip Triplett, one of the earliest lawyers of Daviess County as he was also one of the most able and brilliant. Mr. Griffith was actively engaged in this business for several years. Titles for larger amounts of land passed through his hands than through those of any other man who ever lived in Daviess County, and he was instrumental in securing the settlement of numerous families in various parts of the County. These lands were disposed of on very favorable terms, at low rates and long credit. Immigration was thus induced, and the result was, rapid development of the resources of the County.

As a business man, William R. Griffith was gifted with superior qualifications. He was exact in his business transactions, but liberal in his dealings, especially to those whose means were limited. He was a man of strict honor and integrity. Although his business relations were extensive, there is not the slightest circumstance to show that he ever took unfair advantage of any one, or transcended the limits of honest and upright dealing. His instructions to the surveyors were always to throw in five, or ten acres rather than the purchaser should find his tract to fall short a quarter. The people had full confidence in the soundness of their titles when they purchased land of William R. Griffith, and were unwilling, if it could be avoided, to buy at any other hands. He took a prominent part in the politics of the day. He was a Whig in his party affiliations. He enjoyed the confidence of the people to an unusual degree, and was frequently elected a member of the more popular branch of the State Legislature, and three or four times to the Senate. No man ever discharged his duties more conscientiously, or with more regard to the interests of his constituents. In stature he was nearly six feet in height, and of heavy build. He was cheerful in his disposition, with an inexhaustible fund of humor. He died in December, 1848, in the fifty-fourth year of his age.

Two children survive. The oldest, Daniel M. Griffith, was born February 28th, 1826. Receiving his primary education at Owensboro, he attended successively Centre College, at Danville, and Transylvania University, at Lexington, graduating from the latter institution in 1847. October 1857 he was married to Virginia Shelby, the daughter of the late Col. Charles S. Todd, and the granddaughter of Governor Isaac Shelby. His business has largely been in the same line in which his father was so prominently engaged.

Clinton Griffith, was born in October, 1828, and was educated at Transylvania University. He has occupied the old homestead farm of nearly fourteen hundred acres. His first wife whom he married in 1852 was Mary Crawford. He was married the second time in November, 1869, to Anna Bell, the daughter of James Weir. Esq.

THE BIOGRAPHICAL ENCLOPAEDIA OF KENTUCKY, Cincinnati, OH, J. M. Armstrong & Co., c1878, p153:

GRIFFITH, WILLIAM R., was born February 28, 1794, in Maryland. William Griffith came from Wales, and settled in Maryland in 1655. Some of the family figured prominently in the Revolutionary War. Joshua Griffith came to Kentucky in 1805, and first located in what was then Ohio County. The house which he first occupied, with his family, is the oldest structure of its kind standing in Daviess County. He was a man of great influence, in his day, and was possessed of many admirable qualities; was of great value to the people of the new country; was universally esteemed; accumulated a large estate; and died at the ripe age of eighty-two. His youngest son was William R. Griffith, the subject of this sketch, who obtained a fine education, at Hartford, Ohio County, and at St. Joseph's College, Bardstown, Kentucky. He was a soldier in the war of 1812. On the organization of Daviess County, was appointed Clerk of the County Court; afterwards studied law, was admitted to the bar, and practiced successfully for several years. He engaged largely in real estate transactions, and was one of the most extensive land-owners in the county. He served in the Lower House of the Legislature, from 1829 to 1831, and was again elected in 1835; from 1831 to 1835, and from 1840 to 1844, was a member of the State Senate, and acquired a high reputation, for his devotion to the interests of his people, and his undoubted integrity of character. He was a man of fine business capacity, of great strength of mind, of admirable personal build; and was one of the most widely known and useful men in his section of the State. He died in 1848. Mr. Griffith was married, about 1821, to the daughter of Capt. Mosley. She died in 1828. In 1841, he was married to Miss Martha Hopkins, daughter of Gen. Edward Hopkins, of Henderson County. His son, Daniel M. Griffith, was born in 1826; was educated at Centre College and Transylvania University, graduating at the latter, in 1847; has been engaged, chiefly, as a farmer and land-trader; has been a member of the Legislature, and, in 1857, was married to Virginia Shelby, daughter of the late Isaac Shelby. His other surviving son, Clinton Griffith, was born in 1828; educated at Transylvania University; is an extensive farmer; has also served in the Legislature; was married, in 1852, to Mary Crawford; and, was again married, in 1869, to the daughter of James Weir, a prominent lawyer of Owensboro.

HISTORY OF DAVIESS COUNTY, KENTUCKY, Chicago, Inter-State Publishing Co., c1883, pp124-125:

William R. Griffith, deceased, was born Feb. 28, 1794, in Maryland, and was brought, by emigration of the family, to Ohio County in 1805. He was the first County Clerk of Daviess, which office he held for many years; and he was widely esteemed for his many excellent traits, and possessed abilities of no common character. He recorded the first deed ever made in the county, which transfer was made June 12, 1815, of 100 acres of land, by Adam Jourdan to Moses Gwyn, for the consideration of \$350. This tract of land is said to be still in cultivation, but has not enhanced much in value. He afterward studied law and was admitted to the bar. His practice was successful and his business, largely consisting in land claims, was straightforward and reliable. In some portions of the latter business he was in partnership with Phil Triplett. Mr. G. was a Whig in his party affiliations. He died in December, 1848; two of his children survive – Daniel M. and Clinton, both well-known citizens of Owensboro.

HISTORY OF DAVIESS COUNTY, KENTUCKY, Chicago, Inter-State Publishing Co., c1883, pp868-869:

Hon. Clinton Griffith, of Owensboro, born one and a half miles southwest of Owensboro, Daviess County, Oct. 18, 1832, is a son of Wm. R. and Arrie (Moseley) Griffith. His father was a native of Maryland and came to Hartford, Ky., about 1800, with his father, Joshua Griffith, when a child. He came to Daviess County and settled near Lewis Station, before Daviess County was cut off from Ohio. His mother was born in Virginia, a daughter of Captain Tom Moseley, a very old settler of Daviess County. He was one of the first settlers of Owensboro, and his old residence is still standing on Main street, in the upper part of town, a part of the Dunlap plow property. The house is a two-story frame, and is in a good state of preservation. This is about the oldest house in town, and when first built was in the woods. Mrs. Moseley was a Miss Watkins, cousin of General Watkins, of Missouri. Mr. Ridgely Griffith, father of the subject of our sketch, was elected several times as a Representative from Daviess County to the Senate and Lower House. He died in December, 1848. Mrs. Griffith died in 1832. They had four sons, two living – Daniel M., real estate agent, and Clinton. Clinton attended the Hartford schools until sixteen, when he entered college at Lexington, and graduated at the Transylvania College in 1849. He was elected as Director of the old Southern Bank before twenty-one years of age. In August, 1869, he was elected a Representative to the Lower House of the Kentucky Legislature; re-elected August, 1871, and elected Senator in August, 1877. He is an extensive land owner and resides on the old homestead of his father, one and a half miles southwest of town. He married in November, 1853, Mary Crawford, a daughter of James Crawford. She died in 1865. They had three children, two now living – Elizabeth S., wife of John G. Weir, and Wm. R., attorney of Owensboro. Mr. Griffith married Miss Anna Belle Weir, in November, 1868. She was the daughter of James and Susan (Green) Weir. Mr. and Mrs. Griffith have five children – Susan, James W., Allen, Arria and Clinton J. Mrs. Griffith is a member of the Old School Presbyterian church. The family is of Welsh and English descent. The first Griffith settled in Baltimore, prior to the Revolutionary war. He had three sons; one settled in North Carolina, one in Baltimore and one in Philadelphia. The first Griffith settled in Baltimore when quite young, leaving, as he supposed, a barren waste, which afterward became very valuable in coal and minerals, and is now supposed to be in the possession of Welsh claimants, the American Griffiths having made no attempt to recover it, through the advice of John J. Crittenden, who was U.S. Senator from Kentucky.

HISTORY OF DAVIESS COUNTY, KENTUCKY, Chicago, Inter-State Publishing Co., c1883, p459:

Daniel M. Griffith, oldest son of William R. Griffith, who came to Daviess County in an early day, was identified closely with the county's development. At the organization of the county he was appointed to fill the office of County Clerk. Was admitted to the bar and practiced law successfully for many years, and dealt extensively in real estate. The Griffith family is of Welsh descent. The first to come to America was William Griffith, who arrived as early as 1655, settling in Maryland. The Griffiths came to Kentucky at the beginning of this century. Joshua Griffith came to Lewis Station in 1805, and in the following year built a cabin and moved his family there. The house is still standing, though somewhat remodeled, and is probably the oldest house in the county. Daniel M. Griffith was born Feb. 28, 1826. Receiving his primary education

at Owensboro, he attended, successively, Centre College at Danville, and Transylvania University at Lexington, graduating from the latter institution in 1847. October, 1857, he was married to Virginia Shelby, daughter of the late Colonel Charles S. Todd, and granddaughter of Governor Isaac Shelby. Mr. Griffith is engaged in dealing in real estate.

A HISTORY OF KENTUCKY AND KENTUCKIANS, E. Polk Johnson, The Lewis Publishing Company, c1912, pp1117-1118:

Daniel M. Griffith, M.D. – There has been on dissipation but rather a definite and emphatic concentration of technical and administrative forces in the career of Dr. Griffith, who has thus gained in his profession concrete results of worth and magnitude and who has attained a definite position as one of the representative physicians and surgeons of his native state. He has realized the value of specializing in his profession and his practice is confined exclusively to the treatment of the diseases of the eye, ear, nose and throat. He maintains his residence and his professional headquarters in the city of Owensboro, the capital and metropolis of Daviess county, but his reputation in his chosen calling far transcends local limitations.

Dr. Griffith was born on a farm in Daviess county, this state, on the 19th of September, 1867, and is a son of Daniel M. and Virginia (Todd) Griffith. Authentic data determine that the founder of the family in America was William Griffith, who was born and reared in Wales and who emigrated to America about the year 1655. He established his home in Maryland and there passed the residue of his life. He had three sons, the youngest of whom, Orlando, settled on the Patuxent river in Montgomery county, Maryland, where he accumulated a valuable landed estate and where both he and his wife, whose maiden name was Catherine Howard, passed the residue of their lives. Of their eight children the one in line of direct descent to Dr. Griffith was Henry Griffith, who continued to reside in Montgomery county, Maryland, until the close of his life. He likewise was identified with the great basic industry of agriculture, under whose influences was reared his son Joshua, great-grandfather of him whose name initiates this review. Joshua Griffith was born in Montgomery county, Maryland, on the 25th of March, 1754, and in that state he was reared to maturity. He finally removed to Kentucky and became one of the early settlers of what is now Daviess county, which continued to be his home throughout the remainder of his life. Concerning the family history more specific mention is made in the sketch of the career of Joshua T. Griffith, on other pages of this work, and to the article in question reference may be made for special information. The father of Dr. Griffith was numbered among the honored and influential citizens of Daviess county, where he became seized of an extensive landed estate and where the major portion of his active career was given to diversified agriculture and stock-growing, in connection with which he achieved definite success. He was a Democrat in his political proclivities and held membership in the Catholic church. His wife was a member of the Episcopal church. The father died November 3, 1893, and the mother, in 1883.

Dr. Daniel M. Griffith was afforded the advantages of the public schools of Owensboro, where he was graduated in the high school as a member of the class of 1885. He then took up the study of medicine, under the able preceptorship of Dr. O.H. Todd, and finally he was matriculated in the medical department of Tulane University, in the city of New Orleans, in which he completed the prescribed course and was graduated in the class of 1888, duly receiving his well earned degree of Doctor of Medicine. He forthwith engaged in the general practice of his profession at Owensboro, where his professional popularity and admirable technical equipment enabled him soon to build up a successful business. At the expiration of three years, however, in order to

prepare himself more effectively for the exacting work of his profession he went to England and passed one year as clinical assistant in the Royal Westminster Ophthalmic Hospital and the same length of time in the London Throat, Nose and Ear Hospital. In these great institutions he gained most valuable clinical experience and in the meanwhile he devoted particular study to the diseases of the eye, ear, nose and throat. After remaining abroad for two years he returned to Owensboro, where he has since given his attention to the treatment of the diseases just noted. In this line he has gained wide reputation and is recognized as an authority, so that his practice is now drawn from many sources outside of the territory normally tributary to Owensboro. The Doctor has continued to be a close student of the best in the standard and periodical literature of his profession and he has made many valuable contributions to medical literature along the lines of his special field of practice. He is a valued and appreciative member of the Owensboro Medical Society, the Daviess County Medical Society, the Kentucky State Medical Society, the Ohio Valley Medical Society (which embraces the states of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky, Tennessee and West Virginia), and the American Medical Association. In 1905 he was elected president of the Ohio Valley Medical Society and in the following year he was further honored by his professional confreres by his election to the presidency of the Kentucky State Medical Society. It is worthy of special note in this connection that he was the first to serve a second term in this organization and apropos of this distinction the following extract from the Louisville Courier-Journal of October 18, 1907, is worthy of reproduction at this point.

“Signal distinction was given Dr. D.M. Griffith of Owensboro by the members of the Kentucky association yesterday, when they asked him to continue in office as president another year. This is an honor never before enjoyed by any president of the organization in its entire history of fifty-two years. It has always been the custom to elect the officers annually but in appreciation of his services during the last year the delegates to the convention decided that Dr. Griffith is too valuable a man to leave the executive chair at the present and succeeded in inducing him to remain. In order to confer this honor upon the ‘medic’ from Owensboro it was necessary to amend the by-laws of the association so that the incoming president would not be installed until the coming year.”

Dr. Griffith is noted as one of the best public speakers on academic subjects in the profession. At all medical congregations he is called upon, and his response to the toast of “The Doctor” was one of the most eloquent ever delivered before any medical society and was rightly called a classic by some of the most eminent physicians in the state. Reared in the faith of the Democratic party Dr. Griffith has never wavered in his allegiance thereto and while he is intrinsically loyal, liberal and progressive as a citizen, he has found the demands of his profession such as to call for an undivided allegiance so that he has had naught of aspiration for public office of any order. He is affiliated with Owensboro Lodge, No. 130, Free & Accepted Masons, and Owensboro Lodge, No. 144, Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks.

In the year 1895 was celebrated the marriage of Dr. Griffith to Miss Susan Herr, who was born and reared in Owensboro and who is a daughter of Henry and Mildred (Taylor) Herr. Her paternal grandfather, John Herr, was numbered among the representative pioneer settlers of Jefferson county, this state. Dr. and Mrs. Griffith are popular factors in connection with the best social life of their home city and they have three children – Mildred Taylor, May Ridgeley and Daniel M., Jr.

BIOGRAPHICAL CYCLOPEDIA OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY. John M. Gresham Company, Chicago, Philadelphia, 1896, pp160-162:

Joshua T. Griffith, Clerk of the Daviess County Court, Owensboro, son of Daniel M. and Virginia Shelby (Todd) Griffith, was born in Owensboro, April 1, 1861, and received his education in the schools of that city. During President Cleveland's first administration he was deputy collector of Internal Revenue under Hunter Wood, collector of the Second district. He was elected clerk of the Daviess County Court, and is now serving his second term in that office, in which his faithful attention to business and gentlemanly demeanor have won for him a popularity which few men in the county enjoy. He was married June 11, 1891, to Jettie Rothchild, and has one child, Virginia Griffith, born January 29, 1895.

Mr. Griffith is a descendant of a long line of ancestry on both sides of the family, who figured conspicuously in the early history of the Republic, state and county; and he reveres the names and deeds of his noble ancestry, whose lives were unblemished by word or act, while he cherishes the laudable ambition to emulate their good works and to preserve their name unspotted before the world, as becomes the scion of a noble ancestry.

William Griffith, the first of the name to come to America, arrived from London, England, in June, 1675, and settled on the Severn River in Anne Arundel County, Maryland.

He was married to Sarah Maccubbin, daughter of John and Elinor Maccubbin, and had the following children, viz.: Orlando, born October 17, 1688; Sophia, born April 27, 1691; Charles, born January 20, 1693; William, born April 15, 1697. William Griffith died 1699, leaving a will, proved at Annapolis, Maryland, October 23, 1699.

Sarah Griffith, his widow, married Thomas Reynolds, sheriff of Anne Arundel County, Maryland, and died April 22, 1716. Orlando Griffith, born October 17, 1688, eldest son of William and Sarah, married June 6, 1717, at Annapolis, Maryland, Katherine Howard, daughter of John and Mrs. Katherine Greenberry Ridgely, and had the following children, viz.: Sarah, born May 13, 1718; Nicholas, died in infancy; Henry, born February 14, 1720; Greenberry, born December 31, 1727; Joshua, born January 25, 1730; Benjamin, born November 22, 1732; Lucretia, born February 5, 1739; Orlando, Jr., born April 27, 1741; Charles Greenberry, born May 17, 1744.

Orlando Griffith died March, 1757, leaving a will dated April 8, 1753; proved April 25, 1757, at Annapolis, Maryland. His wife, Katherine Howard Griffith, died February, 1783.

Henry Griffith, born February 14, 1720, son of Orlando, married second time—June 4, 1751—Ruth Hammond, daughter of John and Ann Hammond, and had the following children, viz.: Samuel, born May 7, 1752; John H., born April 20, 1754; Philemon, born August 29, 1756; Charles, born December 16, 1758; Ann, born February 24, 1762; Joshua, born March 25, 1764; Eleanor, born March 9, 1766; Elizabeth, born December 16, 1768, and Ruth. Henry Griffith died September 28, 1794. His will was probated at Rockville, Maryland, October 10, 1794. Ruth, his wife, died January 27, 1782.

Joshua Griffith (great-grandfather) of Maryland, born March 25, 1764, was twice married: first in 1783 to Elizabeth Ridgely of Anne Arundel County, Maryland. She was born in 1765 and died in 1797. His second wife's name, county and state were the same as that of his first wife. She was born in 1769; married Joshua Griffith in 1798 and died in 1803. By the first marriage there were three children: Lydia, married in 1808 to Warner Crow; Remus, born 1786, married in 1809 to Sallie Handley, died 1845; and Ruth, married Moses Cummins. By the second marriage there was one child: William (grandfather), who was first married to Aria Mosely, in 1822; and again to Martha Hopkins, in 1848, and one child of this union, Carey, died in infancy. His children by his first wife (Aria Mosely) were Ridgely, born in 1823, died in 1841; William

Henry, born in 1825, married Margaret Calhoun in 1845, died in 1848; and Daniel M. (father), born February 28, 1826, married Virginia Shelby Todd in October, 1857, died November 3, 1893.

Joshua Griffith (great-grandfather) was one of the most charitable men of his day. The following instance of his love and generosity towards his neighbors is remembered: At a time when there was a great scarcity of provisions in the county, a number of men came to him wanting to buy his large stock of provisions, but he positively declined to sell, saying, if they had money to buy provisions with they would not suffer, and he must care for his neighbors and supply the wants of those who had neither money or meat. He had some knowledge of medicine and, although he was not an educated physician, his medical advice was sought by his neighbors for miles around. He cheerfully rendered what service he could to ameliorate the sufferings of others, but he never charged one cent for such services. He was one of the few men who lived and died in the county without an enemy. His useful life, so helpful to others, was spared until he reached a ripe old age, being eighty-two years old when he died.

William Griffith (grandfather) was born in Maryland, and died in 1845. He was eleven years of age when he came to Kentucky and, owing to the primitive condition of the country, schools were impossible, but he received a fair education in schools at Hartford and at St. Joseph College. He was a soldier in the War of 1812-14; and, upon the organization of Daviess County and the opening of the County Court, he was appointed the first clerk of the court. He was afterward admitted to the bar and practiced law for several years. In 1822 he married Aria Mosely, daughter of Captain Thomas Mosely, an early settler in Kentucky, who came from Virginia. She died in 1828; and, in 1841, he married Martha Hopkins, daughter of General Edmund Hopkins of Henderson County. He became largely interested in real estate, owning at different times many thousands of acres of land. Titles for larger landed possessions passed through his hands than were ever given by any other individual in Daviess County, unless by his son, who succeeded him. He encouraged and secured the settlement of a great number of families in different parts of the county, selling land at low prices and on favorable terms. He was gifted with superior business qualifications and was generous to a fault. He would say to the surveyors of the land which he proposed to sell to throw in five or ten acres rather than make it short by a rood. He was prominent in the development of the county and was a popular leader in every movement for the public weal. He served his county in the legislature for a number of terms and his district in the senate three or four terms, and in this he served his constituents industriously and conscientiously.

The excellent name of his honored father was kept in remembrance by the noble deeds of the son, whose life was full of charitable deeds, generous consideration for others and whose public spirited enthusiasm and enterprise did so much to make his county one of the best in the Ohio Valley.

Daniel M. Griffith (father) was the eldest son of William Griffith. He received a collegiate education at Centre College and at old Transylvania, graduating from the latter in the class of 1847. He studied law and was duly admitted to the bar, but abandoned the active practice of his profession in order to attend to the large landed estate of his father; and became quite as extensively interested in real estate as his father had been. His legal training served him well in this business, as he was especially well versed in the intricate laws relative to titles and conveyances. His personal knowledge of almost every acre of land in the county, together with an unerring judgment as to its value, gave him great advantage in the purchase and sale of

property, and he was the owner of or the agent for thousands of acres of land in Daviess and adjacent counties.

Business reverses, such as are liable to all men of large enterprises, came to Mr. Griffith and he virtually had to begin at the bottom again and rebuild his fortune; and, by patient perseverance, business tact and large experience, he fully recovered his losses and owned a larger estate at the time of his death than he had ever owned before. Like his father and his grandfather, he was in his day the most widely known and popular citizen in the county. He was a man of unimpeachable character; few men could have been concerned in as many real estate transactions, large and small, without incurring the displeasure of some of the parties to such transactions. His honesty and integrity were never questioned. He never deceived anyone to gain a personal advantage. Only those who knew him personally and intimately could appreciate the true nobility of his character, his kindness and gentleness toward all, his generosity and liberality to those who needed assistance, his fidelity to his friends, and above all, his sacred devotion to his family. Always calm and self-possessed, he never deviated from the courtesy which he held was due to every man, whether prince or pauper. There was no harshness in his nature and the humblest menial could approach him with the assurance that he would be kindly received. By his uprightness and straightforwardness he won friends from among all classes. He left the impress of his strong personality upon the community in which he was a prominent figure, and his death was looked upon as a public calamity. Popular as he was and qualified as few men are for public service, he never aspired to office and only once, in 1847, did he yield to the solicitation of friends, who elected him to the legislature. Some few years before his death, which occurred November 3, 1893, he adopted the faith of the Catholic religion, having contemplated that step for many years.

Daniel M. Griffith was married in October, 1857, to Virginia Shelby Todd, daughter of Charles S. Todd and granddaughter of Governor Isaac Shelby. Her father was minister plenipotentiary to Russia under President Harrison's administration. The maternal ancestry of Joshua T. Griffith were prominent in the early history of the state and nation, and their lives and deeds having become a matter of history a repetition is uncalled for in this volume. The names of the children of Daniel M. and Virginia Shelby Todd Griffith were as follows: Letitia, born in 1858, married H. C. Watkins in 1880, and died in 1894, leaving two children—Virginia, born in 1883, and Shelton, born in 1888; Virginia, born in 1859, died in 1877; Joshua T., born April 1, 1861, married June II, 1891, to Jettie Rothchild, has one child, Virginia, born January 29, 1895; Florence, born 1863, married H. A. Miller, now living in Asheville, North Carolina, her children are Amelia, born in 1886; Virginia, born in 1888; Griffith, born in 1889, died 1890; Daniel M., born September 19, 1867, married Susan M. Herr, November 7, 189s; Rose, born 1865, married Dr. E. S. Watkins in 1887 and had three children: Sue R. and Rose Yandell (twins), born in 1888, Rose Yandell died 1884; Ruth, born 1870, died 1884; Todd, born 1871, died 1880; Clinton, born 1873; Mary Ridgeley, born 1876.

Biographies of James Weir (1821-1906)

HISTORY OF KENTUCKY, Lewis Collins, revised and enlarged by Richard H. Collins, Collins & Co., Covington, Ky., c1874, p154:

James Weir was born at Greenville, Ky., June 21, 1821; graduated at Centre College, Danville, 1840, and at the Transylvania law school, Lexington; entered upon a successful practice of the law, at Owensboro, where he still lives (1873); has never engaged in politics, and never ran for office. About 1849-50, he wrote three novels ("Lonz Powers, or the Regulators," "Simon Kenton," and "Winter Lodge,") which, abounding in beautiful and thrilling passages, attracted considerable attention in their day; they were published in Philadelphia, and the scenes located in the early West. In 1869, at its organization, Mr. Weir was elected president of the Owensboro and Russellville railroad which – (in March, 1873) was running regular trains to Stroud City, Muhlenburg co., 36 miles; had the grading nearly completed to the Tennessee state line, at Adairville, Logan co., 86 miles; and was confident of extension, in 1874, to Nashville, Tenn., 120 miles – forming part of a great through route from that city to St. Louis, Chicago, and Cincinnati.

AN ILLUSTRATED HISTORICAL ATLAS MAP OF DAVIESS COUNTY, KY., Leo McDonough & Co., c1876, p.33:

James Weir, now one of the oldest members of the Daviess County bar and a prominent business man of Owensboro was born at Greenville, Kentucky, on the sixteenth of June, 1821. His father was James Weir, and his mother's name before marriage was Annie Ramsey. His father was born near Charleston, South Carolina, and belonged to a Presbyterian family of Scotch-Irish descent, which emigrated to America from the north of Ireland. His mother was a member of a family tracing its descent back to the Ramseys of Scotland. She was born in Virginia and was the niece of James Ramsey, who is justly entitled to the claim of being the first to apply steam as a means of propulsion to boats.

Mr. Weir's father came to Kentucky toward the close of the last century when very young. On reaching manhood he first adopted the business of a surveyor, and afterward exchanged this for a mercantile career. He became a noted and successful merchant, and his business scattered over a wide extent of territory. He carried on, and managed under his own personal supervision, at the same time, stores at Equality and Shawneetown, in Illinois; at Henderson. Morganfield. Madisonville. Greenville, Lewisburg, Hopkinsville, and Russellville, in Kentucky; and at Gallatin, Tennessee. Although a large amount of capital was necessarily involved in this extensive and widespread business, it was his boast that he never borrowed a dollar, nor ever failed to meet a debt at its maturity.

James Weir, the subject of this sketch, was educated at Centre College, at Danville, Kentucky, one of the olden educational institutions of the State. Graduating here, he entered the law school of Transylvania University, at Lexington. where he prepared for the legal profession. On the first of March. 1842 he was married to Mint Susan C. Green, the daughter of Judge John Green, of Danville. Mr. Weir first became a resident of Owensboro in the month of August, 1843, and devoted himself to the practice of law, gaining a high standing at the bar as a chancery lawyer. He found time, however, to give to literary pursuits, and in 1849 and 50 three novels appeared of which he was the author. These were "Lonz Powers, or the Regulators," "Simon Kenton" and the "Winter Lodge." These books were published in Philadelphia. The scenes were located in Kentucky, and the stories founded on incidents which transpired in the early history of the State. During his residence in Owensboro, Mr. Weir had developed business qualities of no ordinary character, and when the Deposit Bank was organized in 1859, he was chosen its

President, and still continues in that position. To his management is chiefly due its present high standing among the banking institutions of Kentucky. He was the first president of the Owensboro and Russellville, now the Evansville, Owensboro and Nashville railroad. This office he retained from 1869 till the latter part of the year 1873. It is not a little complimentary to Mr. Weir, that though not one of those enthusiastic about building the road, nevertheless after its construction was definitely decided upon, he was selected as President by the friends of the enterprise.

Mr. Weir has never mingled in politics, nor has ever been a candidate for any public office. He has attended strictly to his professional business, and since 1850 has had little time to indulge his inclination for light literature, or at least to no greater extent than to be the author of some fugitive pieces which have appeared from time to time in the popular magazines of the day. Mr. Weir's ample means have not had the effect of making him selfish or illiberal. He is a man of public spirit, and has taken a leading part in every public enterprise which promised to be of benefit to the community at large. His charities have been wide, but unostentatious. While his abilities as a financier have been of service in building up his own fortune, they have also been exerted for the promotion of the interests of the city and county of which he is a resident.

HISTORY OF DAVIESS COUNTY, KENTUCKY, Chicago, Inter-State Publishing Co., c1883, pp207-209:

Authors and Artists - James Weir.

One of the oldest members of the Daviess County bar, and a prominent business man of Owensboro, was born in Greenville, Ky., June 16, 1821. His father, James Weir, was born near Charleston, S.C., and belonged to a Presbyterian family of Scotch-Irish descent, that emigrated to America from the north of Ireland. His mother, Anna Ramsey, was born in Virginia, and was a niece of James Ramsey, who is justly entitled to the claim of being the first to apply steam as a means of propelling boats. His father came to Kentucky toward the close of the last century. He first adopted the business of surveyor, and afterward exchanged this for a mercantile career, and his business extended over a wide extent of territory. He carried on, and managed, under his own supervision at the same time, stores at Equality and Shawneetown in Illinois; at Henderson, Morganfield, Madisonville, Greenville, Lewisburg, Hopkinsville and Russellville, in Kentucky, and at Gallatin, in Tennessee. Although a large amount of capital was necessarily involved in this extensive and wide-spread business, it was his boast that he never borrowed a dollar, nor failed to meet a debt at its maturity.

James Weir, the subject of this sketch, was educated at Centre College, at Danville, Ky., one of the oldest institutions of the State. After graduating here he entered the law school of Transylvania University, in Lexington, where he prepared for the legal profession. March 1, 1842, he married Miss Susan C. Green, daughter of Judge John Green, of Danville. Mr. Weir settled in Owensboro in 1848, and devoted himself to the practice of law, gaining a high standing at the bar as a chancery lawyer. He found time, however, to give to literary pursuits, and in 1849-'50 three novels appeared, of which he was the author.

During his residence in Owensboro, Mr. Weir developed business qualities of no ordinary character, and when the Deposit Bank was organized in 1859, he was chosen its President, and still continues in that position. To his management is chiefly due its present high standing among the banking institutions of Kentucky. He was the first President of the Owensboro & Russellville

(now the Evansville, Owensboro & Nashville) Railroad. This office he retained from 1869 till the latter part of 1878.

Mr. Weir has never mingled in politics, nor has he ever been a candidate for any public office. He has attended strictly to his professional business, and since 1850 has had little time to indulge his inclination for light literature, or at least to no greater extent than to be the author of some fugitive pieces which have appeared from time to time in the popular magazines of the day. His ample means have not had the effect of making him selfish or illiberal. He has taken part in every public enterprise which promised to be of benefit to the community. In 1880 he opened a large factory for the manufacture of carriage material, a more full account of which is given in the history of Owensboro. Mr. Weir's charities have been wide, but unostentatious. While his abilities as a financier have been of service in building up his own fortune, they have also exerted for the promotion of the interests of the city and county of which he is a resident.

Mr. Weir's residence is one of the most magnificently frescoed buildings in this part of the world. The work cost over \$12,000, and was done by an ex-officer of the Confederate army, of foreign birth and education. The elegant historic paintings on the ceiling of the library, in the groupings and combinations, are a constant source of study and pleasure.

Mr. Weir demonstrated his capacity as a literateur when comparatively young. Before he was thirty years of age he wrote and published three stories, which were bound in book form and supplied to the regular trade by the chief publishing house of Philadelphia, Lippincott, Grambo & Co. The works are the following.

1. Simon Kenton. This is a novel in which it is designed to give a sketch of the habits and striking characteristics of the population of the western portion of North Carolina immediately following the war for independence, and in it to introduce Simon Kenton, the great scout and Indian fighter, and also his constant opponent and enemy, Simon Girty, the tory and renegade. In this volume the character in which Kenton was interested and connected came off victorious.

2. The Winter Lodge is a sequel to Simon Kenton, and transports all the characters to Kentucky in an early day when first settled; and in it are introduced many of the most striking characters of that period, and many incidents in the early history of Kentucky, with sketches of scenery, the Mammoth Cave, etc., and also the battles in which Simon Kenton and Simon Girty were engaged, and the habits and marked characters of the early pioneers. The name "Winter Lodge" is derived from the name of a cabin erected by Kenton for the hero and heroine of these two volumes, and ornamented with carpets of buffalo hides, lined with fur. Mr. Weir intended in his younger days to write a sequel to this volume, running down to the War of 1812, and the death of Kenton and Girty, but increasing business on his hands prevented him. In Collins' History of Kentucky there is a sketch of the life and times of Kenton, and Girty was a desperado who figured largely among the pioneers of Kentucky and Indiana.

3. Lonz Powers; or, the Regulators: A romance of Kentucky, based on scenes and incidents in this State. This interesting story was published in two duodecimo volumes, 319 and 364 pages, in the year 1850, by Lippincott, Grambo & Co., Philadelphia.

BIOGRAPHICAL CYCLOPEDIA OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY, John M. Gresham Company, Chicago, Philadelphia, c1896, pp230-232:

James Weir, lawyer, author and banker and pre-eminently one of the first citizens of Owensboro, is a son of James and Anna (Rumsey) Weir, and was born in Greenville, Kentucky, June 16, 1821.

His father, James Weir, was of Scotch-Irish parentage and was born near Charleston, South Carolina. He came to Kentucky about the close of the last century, or one hundred years ago.

He was a man of excellent education, and was employed as a surveyor or civil engineer for some time, but eventually engaged quite extensively in mercantile pursuits, his business extending over a vast territory. He owned stores in Shawneetown and Equality in Illinois, Henderson, Morganfield, Madisonville, Greenville, Lewisburg, Hopkinsville and Russellville in Kentucky, and Gallatin, Tennessee. He had a very large and profitable trade with the Spaniards in New Orleans and in Cuba, and this at a time when all freight between New Orleans and Kentucky was carried on flatboats. Mr. Weir's business, being scattered over so much territory, required him to travel extensively, as an instance of which he often told his son that he had made the journey from New Orleans to Philadelphia and return on horseback not less than twenty-five times, with no other companion but Titus, his faithful old negro servant. He was eminently successful in his many business ventures and left a valuable estate.

James Weir's paternal grandfather was a resident of Charleston, South Carolina, and a soldier in the Revolutionary war, serving from the beginning to the end of the war under General Sumter. The only compensation he received for his faithful and patriotic service was a little negro girl who had been confiscated from the estate of a Tory. His son David, also a soldier, was killed at Sumter's defeat.

Anna Rumsey Weir (mother) was a lineal descendant of Charles Rumsey, who came to the United States from Wales in 1665 and settled in Maryland. Her uncle, James Rumsey, was the inventor of the application of steam to boats and other vessels, whose son, James, upon proof that his father had run the first vessel by steam in the United States, received a gold medal from Congress as an appreciation of his father's valuable invention. The inventor, James Rumsey, dropped dead while delivering a lecture before the Philosophical Society in London.

James Weir received a collegiate education in Centre College, Danville, Kentucky, from which he graduated in the class of 1840. Very few, if any, of his classmates are now as actively engaged in business as is Mr. Weir. He studied law at the Lexington law school when Judges Robinson, Wooley and Marshall were professors in that grand old institution, and graduated in the winter of 1841. In the following year he began the practice of his profession in Owensboro, where he was a leading member of the bar for over forty years. At the time of his coming Owensboro was a village of two hundred and fifty inhabitants. In 1860 he was made president of the Deposit Bank of Owensboro, which position he has held for thirty-five years. In 1869 he was elected president of the Owensboro & Nashville Railroad Company, and held that position for three years.

When the reporters entered the city of Owensboro to obtain information for the compiling of this volume, they called on a number of the best citizens and asked for a list of the prominent men in the city, and every one of the lists thus given was headed with the name of James Weir. It is hardly necessary to add that among his fellow citizens he stands pre-eminently as the first citizen of Owensboro. A lawyer of the highest rank, a banker whose judgment and ability are recognized in financial and business circles, and a citizen of great purity of character, he is known of all men as a man of generous nature, kindness of spirit, and of the highest scholarly attainments. Dignified and withal courteous and obliging, unostentatious in his bearing and unconscious of his superiority, he is greatly loved and respected by everyone in the large circle of his acquaintance.

He is, moreover, a man of letters and an author of celebrity, although he has not recently aspired to literary fame. In 1850 he wrote "Lonz Powers," and in 1852-53 "Simon Kenton" and "Winter Lodge," which novels were published by Lippincott of Philadelphia, and gave promise of a brilliant future, but since that time he has been too much engrossed in his profession and other business matters to devote much time to literature, and his work in that direction has been limited to an occasional sketch for the newspapers and magazines.

He has never posed as an active politician, having never sought or held any political office. He was a Whig in his younger days, and has voted with the Democratic party since the war.

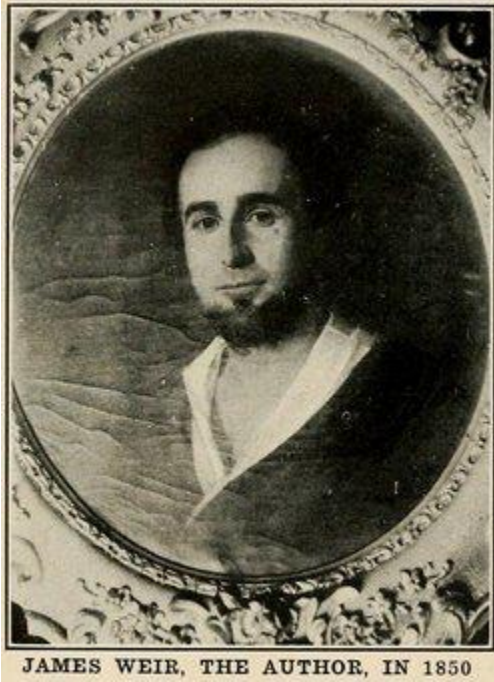
Mr. Weir was married March 1, 1842, to Susan C. Green, daughter of Judge John Green of Danville, Kentucky. Her maternal great-grandfather was Joshua Fry, who was a commander of the Virginia troops under General Braddock in his unfortunate campaign, and was taken sick and died before the battle. Joshua Fry, her grandfather, the son of General Joshua Fry, married Peachey Walker, a member of a distinguished Virginia family.

Mr. and Mrs. Weir have six children, three sons and three daughters: John E. Weir; Dr. James Weir; Paul Weir; Anna Belle, wife of Clinton Griffith; Susan, wife of James L. Maxwell, now residing in Knoxville, Tennessee; and Nora, wife of R. S. Triplett, Jr., now a resident of Waco,

The stories referred to were written before Mr. Weir was thirty years of age. They were published in book form and supplied to the trade by the Philadelphia house of Lippincott, Gambo & Co. The first of these (1850) was "Lonz Powers, or the Regulators"; 'a romance of Kentucky, based on actual scenes and incidents of the early days of the "Dark and Bloody Ground."

The second novel, "Simon Kenton," was designed to give a sketch of the habits and striking characteristics of the people of Western North Carolina, immediately following the Revolutionary times, and to introduce Simon Kenton, the scout and Indian fighter, and also his opponent and enemy, Simon Girty, the Tory and renegade. In this volume the character which Kenton represented came off victorious.

"Winter Lodge" is a sequel to "Simon Kenton," in which the author introduces many of the most striking characters who were prominent in the early history of Kentucky, with numerous incidents of the times, descriptions of scenery. Mammoth cave ; the battles in which Kenton and Girty were engaged and the habits and marked characteristics of the pioneers. The name "Winter Lodge", is derived from a cabin erected by Kenton, for the hero and heroine, which was ornamented with carpets of buffalo hides and lined with furs. Mr. Weir intended in his younger days to write a third volume of this series, coming down to the War of 1812 and the death of Kenton and Girty, but his increasing business prevented him from accomplishing this, and his literary work of late years has been undertaken as a pastime and recreation rather than a matter of business.



JAMES WEIR, THE AUTHOR, IN 1850

