Lucius Powhattan Little
(1838-1918)

By Jerry Long, Owensboro, Ky.

Original Paper of the Owensboro Investigators Club, A First Chapter in the History of Daviess County, by Lucius P. Little, written during 1893-1895:

A First Chapter in the History of Daviess County.

Not long anterior to A. D. 1810, Bill Smothers, the first settler, had bid a last adieu to his humble home on the banks of the broad and beautiful Ohio, and sadly turned his pilgrim face toward the setting sun. Long before his departure, passing boatman had suggestively christened the crumbling clay shore where he dwelt – the "Yellow Banks."

Others soon took his place in the forest and canebrake and a small cluster of cabins by and by arose, and increased in numbers and importance, as the adventurous years went by. Yellow Banks amounted to something even as a mere landing place where passing water craft stopped for necessary supplies. Keelboats propelled by oars down stream, brought goods shipped over the mountains, and cordelled up sugar, coffee and molasses from Orleans. Storehouses were in time established in part for local trade and in part; for goods transported thence on pack horses, and hauled on small primitive sleds to Hartford. Before 1810, the small, round-logged earthen-floored, windowless dwelling, with its stick chimney, was being supplanted by a larger one of hewed logs, puncheon floors, small glass windows, and chimneys of stone or brick. The emigrant Virginians with slaves and luxurious tastes accounted for this amelioration. As John Thompson once naively wrote, "the puncheon floors were much more decent for dancing." With all its progress in arts, however, Yellow Banks still compared but illy with Hartford, only thirty miles away. The latter was no mushroom--springing up in a night. It was founded in 1782, when Indians were plentiful in the neighborhood, and became the seat of justice of Ohio county sixteen years later, when the war whoop of the retreating savage had hardly ceased its blood-curdling echoes. About the latter date, Ben Hardin, then a boy, (afterwards a great lawyer) was there as pupil of Daniel Barry, a high bred Irishman and an accomplished teacher. It had its resident lawyers of note, and also its widely known physicians. McCreery and Lockhart, (in high repute,) were called in serious cases for thirty miles around. Capt. Robert Moseley maintained a reputable tavern, where only gentlemen were welcome, but very welcome to the contents of his well stocked larder and barroom. The Bairds, the Barnetts, the Mortons, the Taylors and others, made up an eminently respectable society. The Methodist and Baptist churches had vigorous organizations, and monopolized the religious field Camp meetings that had originated about 1800, were doubly attractive from novelty--but no such aid was needed when the eloquent William McKendree, afterwards the great pioneer Methodist bishop, proclaimed, as he often did, the word of life to Hartford congregations.

While there were some refined families at Yellow Banks, yet things generally were new, social lines dim and unsettled, a religious organization unknown, and the preaching of the gospel

rarely heard. The Husks, the Smothers's, the Pottses, the Leamans, the Rogerses, the Galloways, the Tarletons, the Atterburys &c., were plain, honest, hospitable folks, typical pioneers, caring little for outward show, or what other folks thought Of them.

Between 1810 and 1814 such was in part the attitude of affairs in this region. In that period the establishment of a new county with a boundary substantially that afterwards known as Daviess was agitated. It was proposed to be taken exclusively from territory then embraced in Ohio county.

There was natural opposition in some quarters to its creation. Ohio with its long frontage on the river, for which it was named, by the proposed scheme would become an inland county. In years to come it was said people would ask why the county was so named when it did not touch the river, and it was predicted that in the future insinuations would be indulged that it might as well have been called "Potomac" county or "Mississippi" county.

It was also objected that there were all ready fifty-six counties in the State, quite enough for the public needs, and a greater number than existed in some of the older States; that it was chiefly a scheme to provide offices for aspiring men with more ambition than qualifications.

Some recklessly asserted that the proposed new county would not embrace above 1500 white population, or exceeding 300 legal voters. This, however, was denounced as an exaggeration as it was confidently estimated there were at least 2000 white population and quite 400 voters.

At a batallion muster at Col. Aquila Field's in the spring of 1813, it was gravely stated by Joe Barnett, an intelligent and influential citizen, that owing to the great quantity of flat, wet and untillable land, and also land subject to overflow in the bounds of the proposed new county, there was not enough high land left to more than barely support the settlers already there.

He further stated that it was next to impossible on account of marshes and creeks, to have roads to Yellow Banks that could he travelled except for a small part of the summer, "and how" said Mr. Barnett "are they ever going to hold courts where the people can't get to the court house?" "Court house!" said he with a smile, "why it will break up the county to build a court house and jail!" "But," he continued, "the legislature is never going to rake a goose of itself by establishing such a needless county."

Another, (whose name need not be given) spoke up and said he had it from Dr. Lockhart, who practiced all over the territory, that milk sick was so common and fatal, that cattle and people were constantly dying, and instead of getting better, the disease grew worse. This same Mr. Free Talker intimated that It would be difficult to find material fit for magistrate in the whole county. A small man with a squeaky voice from the neighborhood Of Vienna, piped out - "Where's Squire Thompson? (Squire Thompson was already a justice or Ohio county.)

"To be sure! there is old Ant'ny," continued the critic, "and a pretty 'Squire he is! Never saw him at Hartford in court time, did ye, with a half dozen jiggers of liquor aboard singing Irish songs in Moseley's barroom? Nice way for a Squire to be doing! And then presented by the grand jury for profanity! He is a pattern for the new county, aint he? He denied it? Oh yes he denied it, but it was proved on him and Judge Broadnax fined him five shillings." The squeaky man tried to explain that if Squire Thompson did use bad words, it was in telling a joke on Joe McFarland and repeating what Joe said, but the crowd incredulously laughed him down.

"There's where you fool yourselves" interposed a tall bronzed faced hunter. "I've been to Orleans and back nine times, and I know something about river towns that you country fellows don't know. Why in a river town every body cusses -- men, women, children and niggers. "Squire Thompson will fit in at Yellow Banks like a spoke in a spinning wheel."

It is sufficient to sun up the sentiment of the crowd at that muster as against the new county. It is due the memory Of Anthony Thompson to say that notwithstanding his convivial proclivities, he possessed sterling sense and a sparkling wit. An Octogenarian who in youth had known him, told the writer that in conversation, Mr. Thompson was the most charming of men.

In the vicinity of Yellow Banks and in the Forks of Painter, (for so Panther creek was then commonly called) the talk was less sentimental and more practical.

It so happened that the chief tavern at Yellow Banks was kept by another Capt. Moseley--Capt. Thomas Moseley, Sr., a kinsman of the Hartford Boniface. In those days the host not only furnished entertainment for his guests in the way of creature comforts, but he also detailed the current news with proper comments, and had his share in molding public sentiment. The newspaper at that time and place, was unknown either as a necesity or a luxury.

"My stars, gentlemen!" said Capt. Moseley emphatically to a dozen local listeners; gathered in front of the tavern, "My stars it will never do to go on the way we've been going on. Yellow Banks is destined--mark that gentlemen--destined" and the Captain glanced around to see if any one questioned its destiny-"yes I say destined, and when I say that I not only say what I mean, but mean what I say, that Yellow Banks is the rising town on the Ohio, west of Bear Grass. "What's that Captain? Destined did you say? That's right. Not Only destined but predestined, fore ordained, predetermined and forever and eternally fixed and settled In the unchangeable order of future events." If Andy Rowan had been called on earlier in the day, when his potations were lighter, he would not have so suddenly wound to a close. If any one knew Walker's dictionary by heart in this end Of the State, it was that same o1d liquor loving schoolmaster. "How" proceeded Capt. Moseley "is a citizen of Ohio county domiciled and abiding at Yellow Banks to attend court at Hartford?

"There's Borth Painter and South Painter can't be forded over three months in the year and if you are over them when you get within a mile of Hartford, there's an impossible gulf-Rough Creek and the flats. I'll never forget the hard time the witnesses had In the Bill Smother's case. It was awful. The fellows that rode were not much better off than those who walked. Some said Col. Daviess walked. But no matter how that was he got there. If we'd had a new county here then, the grand jury would never have indicted Bill Smother's for killing the fellow that insulted his sister." Much more talk to like effect was indulged by the good landlord.

Col. Joe Hamilton Daviess a large land owner and eminent lawyer, was the most popular man in this region while he lived? He was regarded as a hero and a sage, a patriot and the poor man's friend. After he fell fighting the Indians under Harrison, at Tippecanoe, he was well nigh deified about Yellow Banks. By some sort of logic, hard to understand, the friends of the new county project got the impression abroad that proper respect for the memory of Col. Daviess required every one to support the new county scheme. It was assumed that it was what Daviess would have done, had he lived, and his friends resolved his supposed wishes should he regarded now that he was dead.

At this remote period of time it is not possible to refer to all the arguments resorted to for and against the new county. As in all such cases in that day as well as later, the organized friends of the legislative measure had decisive advantage over a larger opposition unorganized.

At the August election 1814, John Hanley defeated his opponent for Senator from the district embracing Ohio county. He resided near Vienna and was brother-in-law of the much traduced Squire Anthony Thompson. There was no doubt of Handley’s support of the new county measure. Capt. Johnson, a land surveyor and prominent citizen was chosen member Of the lower House. He resigned however, without taking his seat, and Phil Thompson, a young

lawyer of Hartford was without opposition chosen to fill his place. Capt. Johnson's residence was included in the proposed new county, and he was supposed to be its friend. His resignation and the election of Thompson was not regarded as auspicious. But the latter did not owe his election to his views on the new county question. In the campaign conducted by Gov. Shelby In the Northwest In 1813, Ohio county had sent a large military company under the command Of Capt. James Tyler with little Phil Thompson as first lieutenant, to join the American troops. The company having been assigned to detached guard duty, Thompson, a thirst for glory left it to follow the main army with a musket on his shoulder. He was the only soldier from Ohio county to take active a part in the hard fought battle of the Thames. This circumstance gave him, with the hardy western hunters, a pre-emption on any office he wanted or would accept.

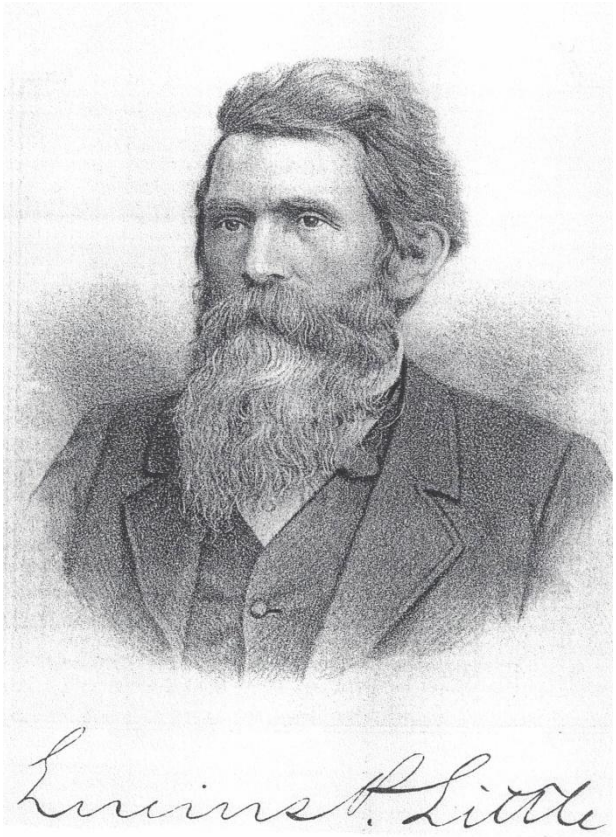
Thompson went horseback from Hartford to Frankfort and took his seat in the legislature at the opening. Friends of the proposed new county were early on hand representing and urging its importance. The suggestion that it should be named for Joe Daviess was a happy one. The war feeling was high among the people all over the state and the names of their heroes were good to conjure with. It was known that British troops threatened Orleans and that Gen. Jackson had gone to its defense. On or about the day he was dea1ing death to Packenham's army, from his cotton bale breastworks, the Kentucky legislature was honoring the hero of Tippecanoe by establishing a new county, and naming it Daviess. A few days before Allen county had been created and named for Col. John Allen of Shelby, a friend and school mate of Daviess, who fell in battle at the River Raisin. The bill creating Daviess was promptly approved by Shelby, the Governor, Jan. 14, 1815. It was weeks afterwards before news of Jackson's famous victory reached Kentucky. The act by its terms went into effect June 1, following. Benjamin Field, John Daviess, David Glenn, Sr., John McFarland, Edwin Hayden and John Leaman were designated commissioners to fix on a place for the permanent seat of justice. In doing this they were told to "have due regard to public conveniences, of water and situation, as it respects the capacity of the land in said county for sustaining present and future population." Such was the precise language of the act. There were but two places to consider--one was Yellow Banks, the Other Vienna on Green River. The Virginian proprietors of Yellow Banks, as an inducement to locate the seat of justice at that place, offered to donate two acres or ground on Frederica street for a public square, and every alternate lot to be sold to pay for erection of public buildings. This tempting offer was accepted and the seat of justice located accordingly. The subsequent neglect of the proprietors to make proper conveyance of title forced the county into litigation, which, however, after a delay of four or five years terminated in its favor.

There was early discontent on the part of some with the name of Yellow Banks. In the late fall of 1816, a map of it was made and recorded in the Clerk's office, in which it was rechristened "Rossville." But the new name failed to give satisfaction. Ross was a large land owner, but no hero. In 1817, an act of the State legislature was procured incorporating the town as Owensborough in honor of another Tippecanoe soldier who fell in that battle -- Gen. Abraham Owens. But after all it was thirty or forty years before the tongues of the people were weaned from the poneer name of Yellow Banks.

Lucius P. Little.

…….

History of Daviess County, Kentucky, Chicago, Inter-State Publishing Co., 1883, p.32:



History of Daviess County, Kentucky, Chicago, Inter-State Publishing Co., 1883, pp.129-133:

Lucius P. Little. Short and simple are the annals of the pioneer. To the unsteady hand of tradition we owe most of that which yet remains of all that was said and done, achieved and suffered, by those who came to Kentucky as the red man departed. Their very names are being blotted out from the memories and records of men. Deserving a better fate than this, the name of George Little is here set down. He was born in Scotland about the year 1735. The particular locality of his birth is now matter of conjecture. The patronymic has long been known in different parts of that country. The station in life of this particular stock in the old country, as well as its history, are both unknown. As tradition eagerly transmits the faintest suspicion of exalted rank, and as it has not done so in this case, the presumption is against its existence. All hopes of ancestral connection with those twin roots of British nobility — the Danish buccaneers and Norman plunderers — are thus forever blighted. For this deprivation Scotia's own bard has furnished the consoling couplet —

Rank is but the guinea's stamp;
A man's a man for a' that.

This unpedigreed lot is indeed to be preferred, even if it were possible to trace a lineage to that ancient and noble house, antedating all modern nobility — founded by the worthy baron

alluded to in Charles Dickens' History of Martin Chuzzlewit, as the Lord Nozoo. In early manhood he emigrated from the old to the new world. His first known place of residence in America was at Newberry, in the colony of South Carolina. His pursuits were agricultural, and he was so engaged at the rupture between the colonies and mother country. What his previous political sentiments had been is unknown, but he was opposed to the war that ensued. Without fortune or political influence, he asked no more of Government than liberty to pursue, unmolested, his private affairs. Possibly his attachment to the mother country, or kindred left behind, influenced his opinions. A dissenter from the established church, he early joined the Wesleyan movement, which before the Revolution had a considerable membership this side the Atlantic. His religious faith — embracing the doctrine of submission to the powers that be — may have colored his political views. However this may be, when war came and the colonial Government required his services, he enlisted in the American army. His military exploits had no chronicler. No record of the nature and duration of his service survives. Nothing more is certainly known than that in an engagement between the American forces and a detachment of the enemy under Tarleton's command he received a bullet wound in the hip. As the result of this he went to his grave a cripple. The ball was never extracted. Independence and peace finally came, and great rejoicing at the result. But the sturdy Soot still persisted that rebellion was a mistake, and died nearly forty years after with his opinion unchanged. He remained in South Carolina until the end of the century. He had married before the Revolution, and his children were born before or during that war. Some time after the war — how long can not be stated — his wife died. His children, five daughters and five sons, reached manhood and womanhood, married, and sought homes of their own. His old home was thus broken up.' Age and infirmity approached, avant courier of the beginning of the end. On the termination of the Revolutionary war, the exploits of Daniel Boone in the wilderness beyond the mountains were borne by rumor from his old home on the Yadkin to the four winds. Alluring accounts were afloat of the new country — beautiful and fertile, and watered by a river that rivaled the charms of its shores by its own grace and majesty. To the young and adventurous this prospect was irresistible; to all it was inviting. Jonas and John Little, two of his sons, decided to try their fortunes in this new Utopia. With their families they turned their backs on civilization and their old home in South Carolina, and started on their journey. Their father accompanied them. Their first halting place was in Barren County, in this State. Here they settled in 1802. John Little, becoming dissatisfied, removed to Tennessee, where he resided until old age. He went thence to Texas, and shortly afterward died. George Little and his son Jonas remained in Barren County two years. They then removed to and settled a few miles north of the Long Falls of Green River, in what was then Ohio County. The town of Vienna at that point on the river had maintained its fitful fortunes from its establishment in 1785. It succeeded a fort or block house erected there some years before. In 1848 it was supplanted by the present town of Calhoon. George Little engaged at such farming as supplied the wants of that primitive day. He had never acquired any considerable means, and was dependent on his own exertions — when the time for toil had about passed for him. The Ohio County Court exempted him from poll tax "on account of bodily infirmity," but not improbably intended in part a patriotic recognition of his sufferings for his country. These last years were comparatively uneventful in local affairs in this region. Society was primitive, business limited, and mostly in the farming way. The muster day and the religious meeting were about the only occasions when people assembled together. The pioneer necessarily lived much alone—

exempt from public haunts;
Finding tongues in trees, books in running brooks,
Sermons in stones, and good in everything.

The war whoop of the Indian had scarcely ceased to echo around the setter's cabin. Indeed, the Ohio River bounded the Indian Ohio River bounded the Indian country on the south, which readied the great lakes to the north, and stretched from the Muskingum to the boundless west. Bear hunting was still good, deer abundant, and the wolf and panther still lingered. Many years after the death of his first wife he intermarried with Mary Douglass, widow of Alexander Douglass. Her maiden name was Handley. She was a native of Scotland, whence she came in childhood. In early life she married Douglass, of South Carolina. By him she bore several daughters, one of whom (Betsy) married Jonas Little. In 1784 or '5 Douglass came to Kentucky in company with his brother-in-law, Captain John Handley. The latter was a surveyor. Their purpose was to examine the country, and survey and locate lands with a view of ultimate settlement. They returned to South Carolina, and on arriving in that State they separated to go to their respective homes. Douglass never reached his destination, being mysteriously murdered. Time has never unraveled the mystery of his death. After the death of George Little, his widow married Edward Atterbury, of Daviess County, who died in 1824. Mary Atterbury survived several years, outliving most of her generation. From youth to old age she was noted for beauty, the grace of her manners, and the rare charm of her colloquial powers. She died in a green old age, and was laid to rest by the grave of her second husband. She was sister of the well-known pioneer. Captain John Handley, and also sister to Rachel, wife of Anthony Thomson, the first Justice of the Peace in all this region. On the first of February, 1815, — the same year in which Daviess County was established, — George Little made his will. He left the bulk of his small estate to his wife. Shortly after — having reached fourscore — he departed this life, or, in the quaint words of his will, he gave his soul into the hand of Almighty God that first gave it, and resigned his body to the earth, " believing, that at the general resurrection " he would receive it again. His mortal remains were interred in the Anthony Thomson graveyard (now in McLean County) where his dust awaits the final summons. In personal appearance he was stoutly built, rather under than over middle height, with dark hair and eyes, and marked features. He expressed himself freely in conversation, his broad Scotch dialect not being always readily understood. He was always a pious man, being established in his religious opinions beyond all shadow of turning. He had a clear mind and acute observation. Perhaps he was obstinate, equally in the right or wrong. To express a kindly feeling for Great Britain after the Revolution and during the collisions that culminated in the war of 1812, was not only unpopular, but was defying a very general and heated public sentiment. But to the last the old soldier maintained that under the fostering care of the British Government the American people would have best secured their prosperity and happiness. In the light of all that has followed, who knows? This meager and imperfect sketch (doing poor justice to its subject) may serve to remind this generation that the seeds of virtue were brought hither by the pioneers, and that it is the fault of their descendants if there be no fruitage.

The pioneers led simple lives and were mostly unlettered, but they realized in large measure all the better and nobler characteristics of true manhood.

…….

Biographical Cyclopedia of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. John M. Gresham Company, Chicago, Philadelphia, 1896, pp.429-430:

Lucius P. Little, a well-known author and able attorney at law of Owensboro, son of Douglass Little, was born on his father's farm in the southern part of Daviess County, Kentucky, February 15, 1838.

His father was a native of what was then Ohio County, Kentucky, but in the part afterwards embraced in Daviess County. He was at various periods of his life engaged in farming, blacksmithing and wagon making and in the latter days practiced law. He held the offices of constable, justice of the peace, and county judge and was in office over twenty years and died in 1877. His father and mother, grandparents of Lucius P. Little, were natives of South Carolina, where they were married in 1798. They, with Judge Little's great-grandfather, George Little, emigrated from South Carolina to Kentucky in 1802. George Little was a native of Scotland, whence he came to America before the Revolutionary War, and during that time he served as a private in the Colonial army. He was a life-long cripple in consequence of a severe wound received in battle.

Judge Little's great-grandmother was a daughter of Alexander and Mary (Handley) Douglass, both of whom were natives of Scotland. His mother's maiden name was Martha Wright, daughter of John and Katherine (Weatherford) Wright of Charlotte County, Virginia. She came to Kentucky with her parents in 1820, and still lives in her eighty-fifth year.

Judge Little was the eldest of seven children, and his early years were spent on the farm where he was born and in the small towns of Rumsey and Calhoun. He attended school in these towns, but never enjoyed the advantages of collegiate training. When sixteen years of age he became a deputy clerk, remaining three years in the clerk's offices in Daviess and McLean Counties.

At the age of eighteen he began the study of law and in 1856 and 1857 attended law school at Cumberland University, Lebanon, Tennessee. He began the practice of his profession at Calhoun in 1857, in his twentieth year, continuing there until 1860; was appointed deputy United States Marshal and took the census in McLean County in 1860. In the close of that year he removed to Louisville, and after practicing in that city for twelve months he went to California in 1861 and remained there a year, employed in a conveyancer's office. Returning to Kentucky in 1862 he spent some months in recruiting for the Confederate army, for which offense he was arrested by the United States authorities and imprisoned, first at Bowling Green, and then at Frankfort. Securing release, he went to Mexico in the fall of 1863, but returned to Kentucky in the spring of 1864 and after some time resumed his law practice at Calhoun.

He removed to Owensboro, February, 1867; where he has ever since resided. He was a candidate for Circuit Judge in 1874 and defeated; was again a candidate in 1880 and elected; and was re-elected in 1886. After serving twelve years on the bench, he resumed the practice of law in Owensboro in 1893, and is known as one of the leading lawyers in Kentucky.

Judge Little is much inclined to literary work and is a frequent contributor to the magazines and newspapers, his work always being acceptable. His most pretentious work, "Ben Hardin," published in book form in 1887, is a volume of rare merit and deep interest, and has had an extensive sale. It is a book that should be in the library of every Kentuckian.

He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, and is a Knight Templar Mason.

Judge Little has been three times married: First, to Lizzie Freeman of Woodford County, April, 1868; second, to Louise Holloway of Henderson County, October, 1875; and third, to Fannie Beach of New Jersey, January, 1889. He has eight living children.

…….

Memoirs of the Lower Ohio Valley, Volume II, Federal Publishing Company, Madison, Wisc., 1905, pp.25-27:

LUCIUS P. LITTLE, of Owensboro, KY., one of the leading lawyers of the Daviess County bar, was born in that county Feb. 15, 1838. His great-grandfather, George Little, was a native of Scotland. After his marriage in that country he came with his wife to South Carolina before the Revolutionary War. In that contest he served in the American army, was wounded and disabled, and after the war settled at Fort Vienna, KY, where he passed the remainder of his days. When he came to Kentucky, he was accompanied by his son, Jonas, who afterward married Betsy Douglas and followed the vocation of a farmer in the vicinity of Fort Vienna until his death in 1850. His wife died during the Civil War. The second son of this marriage was Douglas Little, the father of Lucius P. In his early life he was a farmer and a manufacturer of wagons and plows. He was always active in politics, held the office of constable, was then justice of the peace for eight years, and county judge of twelve years, three terms of four years each. He married Martha Wright, a native of Charlotte County, VA, who came to Kentucky in 1820. Lucius P. Little was educated in the common schools of Calhoun and in his early manhood entered the office of the clerk of the circuit court, as a deputy, in which position he remained foe three years. During this time he studied law and after leaving the office attended the law department of the Cumberland University, of Lebanon, Tenn., graduating in 1857. Soon afterward he was admitted to the bar at Calhoun and practiced there until 1860, when he was made deputy United States Marshal and took the census of his county. The next year he spent in Louisville and was then in California until the fall of 1862, when he returned to Calhoun and acted as recruiting officer for Adam Johnson's regiment, John H. Morgan's command, of the Confederate army. While engaged in this work he was arrested and taken to Bowling Green, where he was tried for the offense of recruiting inside the Federal lines. Under an order of General Burbridge, the penalty of this offense was death, but through the mediation of friends, Judge Little was released under bond and did not take any further steps in active support of the Confederacy. Shortly after this he went to Texas on legal business and remained there until the fall of 1864, when he resumed his practice at Calhoun. In 1868 he removed to Owensboro, where he has ever since lived, and where he has been an active participant in many of the political events of the county and city. In 1874 he was a candidate for the office of circuit judge, but was defeated. Six years later he was nominated by the Democratic part for the office and this time was elected. During his first term he won friends, both with the members of the bar and the general public, by his straightforward course on the bench and his clean cut, impartial decisions. In 1886 he was re-elected for another term of six years. Upon retiring from the bench in 1893, he resumed the practice of his profession and has been retained in many important actions. He prefers civil cases and in such matters he is regarded as an authority. Judge Little has also done something in the literary line. From 1876 to 1879 he was the chief editorial writer on the Owensboro Examiner; between 1884 and 1887 he wrote "Ben Hardin, His Times and Contemporaries," and he has delivered numerous lectures on literary subjects. He has always taken an active part in political affairs and as a political speaker he has few equals. He is a

prominent member of the Masonic fraternity, and is a Past Eminent Commander of the Knights Templars. Judge Little has been married three times. His first wife was Lizzie E. Freeman, of Woodford Co., KY, to whom he was married on April 16, 1868. Her death occurred in March 1873, and on Oct. 5, 1875, he was married to Louise A. Holloway. She died on March 4, 1887, and on Jan. 15, 1889, he was united in marriage to Miss Fannie Beach, of Maryland. To these marriages, there were born the following children: L. Freeman, Lizzie E., Laura S., William, Martha B., Francis W., Catherine D., and Stanhope. Judge Little is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church and has been on the board of trustees for years. He is also a member of several literary clubs. In all these organizations, as well as in the community at large, he is universally respected for his many sterling qualities.

…….

Owensboro Messenger, Wednesday, 29 March 1905, p.2:

VERY NEAT BOOKLET

Of Which Judge L. P. Little Is the
Author Just Been Issued.

A very neat booklet of thirty-two pages has been issued from the publishing house of the M. E. Church, South, the title of it being "Local Preachers in Old Times in Kentucky." The author Is Judge Lucius P. Little of this city and the matter contained is that of an address delivered by him before the Historical society of the Louisville Annual Conference of the M. E. Church, South, which was held at Frankfort, Ky., last year. The subjects are all selected from Daviess and McLean counties, where Judge Little has always lived. There are eight chapters or sketches in the book and every line is written in that excellent English. The frontispice is a picture of the late Rev. Hiram Kellam, who was well known in Daviess and adjoining counties and who was the grandfather of Mrs. Robert Littell and Hon. W. T. Ellis, of this city, and of others in the county.

……..

Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, 2 May 2004, p3E:

A love of law Owensboro's
Lucius Powhatan Little enjoyed
notable career as lawyer, writer

By Glenn Hodges

Lucius Powhatan Little was an esteemed circuit judge in the Owensboro district in the 1880s and early 1890s. But he became best known for his prowess as a writer and historian and was author of one of the most notable biographies of his times.

When he died in 1918, Little was the dean of Owensboro lawyers and had been president of the Owensboro Bar Association for 40 years.

As a judge, Little was "one of those rare men who performed their chosen work out of love for it, regardless of material awards and honors," Charles Kerr wrote in his "History of Kentucky" in 1922.

"He had the qualities of an analytical mind, deep and penetrating thought and achieved a profound knowledge of the law, attributes that gave his career as a jurist real distinction," Kerr said of Little. "He is remembered not as the austere type of judge, but on the bench, as in private life, he was gentle and temperate, well-balanced, dignified, and he also had a physical presence that fitted in well with his official and professional character."

Little was born on his family's farm in McLean County on Feb. 15, 1838, and later attended nearby schools at Rumsey and Calhoun. As a teenager he worked as a deputy county clerk and began the study of law at age 18, attending law school at Cumberland Presbyterian University at Lebanon, Tenn. Admitted to the bar in 1857, he began practice at Calhoun when he was 20 and remained there until 1860 when he was appointed deputy U.S. marshal.

During the Civil War in 1862, while recruiting for the Confederate Army, Little was arrested and imprisoned at Bowling Green and later at Frankfort. When he was released in the fall of 1863, Little went to Mexico. He returned to Kentucky in the spring of 1864 and resumed the practice of law in Calhoun.

Little came to Owensboro in 1867, opened a law office and lived here the rest of his life. He was elected city attorney of Owensboro in 1873, and the next year he ran for circuit judge but lost the race to Judge James Stuart. (At that time the circuit district included Hardin, Meade, Grayson, Ohio, Hancock and Daviess counties.)

Little formed a law partnership with Timothy Needham in 1874. When Needham moved to Hartford two years later, Little joined in a law partnership with R.W. Slack. In 1879, Little ran against and defeated Stuart for the seat on the circuit bench.

He was re-elected in 1885, serving until his retirement in 1892. Two years later, he made an unsuccessful race for the Democratic congressional nomination, losing to Capt. W.T. Ellis.

After that, Little resumed a law practice with his son, L. Freeman Little. When the son decided to go into the real estate business, Judge Little continued practicing law on his own until the infirmities of old age forced him into retirement. (Little was married three times and had 11 children.)

Foster Hayes, himself a local lawyer, once attended a reception Little held during a summer evening at the judge's home on Little Court west of Frederica Street. In his book "Sixty Years of Owensboro, 1883-1943," Hayes described Little as gracious, tactful, courteous and charming - a man who had a "delightful, creative" sense of humor.

"Judge Little was distinctly an ornament and asset of solid worth to our community, as he would have been in any society, and fortunately remained so for many years," Hayes observed. "Of fine and vigorous natural ability, he was highly cultivated, very widely read and exquisitely felicitious both in speaking and writing. He had what may be called a sixth sense, that of appropriateness. His words were fitly spoken."

It was Little's literary skills that his colleagues of the bar association and residents of Owensboro most remembered after his death.

Little wrote frequently for newspapers and magazines and was a significant contributor to the historic and biographical literature of Kentucky, Kerr said. In 1905, as a prominent layman in the Methodist Church, Little published a pamphlet called "Local Preachers in Old Times in Kentucky," and was working on a history of Kentucky Methodism before he died. Also for many years, Little was the only stenographer in Owensboro, and during the trial of many cases he took down stenographic notes of the proceedings. He also wrote essays as a member and president of the Owensboro Investigators Club.

But his greatest writing achievement was the publication in 1887 of the book "Ben Hardin, His Times and Contemporaries, 1784-1852," a biography of one of Kentucky's greatest lawyers of the antebellum period.

The book was an act of kindness. The judge wrote the book to tell the previously untold story of Hardin's career and the times in which he lived. The biography was Little's salute to Hardin, a man whom the judge admired and wanted his fellow lawyers and citizens to emulate.

At 2:15 in the afternoon of Monday, Dec. 30, 1918, seven weeks short of his 81st birthday, Lucius Little died. His funeral service was two days later at Settle Memorial Methodist Church, and members of the Owensboro Bar Association gathered at the Daviess County courthouse on Jan. 18, 1919, to honor the old judge.

Ellis, who had practiced law in Owensboro since 1870, was the main speaker. He focused his tribute to Little on the work the judge had done in writing the biography of Hardin, which Ellis called, "that literary treasure, the brain child of the deceased." (Ellis' remarks were printed in the Owensboro Messenger on Jan. 19.)

"No one understood or appreciated the value of preserving the records of worthy members of our profession better than Judge Little," Ellis said. "Whoever reads that book will discover how well he performed the task he set for himself and the literary skill and research he displayed in writing his great book. It is an instructive and thrilling production from its preface to its closing chapter."

Little's life of Hardin was "no mere biographical sketch of a great pioneer lawyer but an accurate, charming and valuable history of all the noted men in this state from the days when the hardy pioneers of the `dark and bloody ground' laid the foundation of this great commonwealth down to and including the death of Hardin (Sept. 24, 1852)," Ellis said.

Ellis quickly divined the reason why Little wrote the book. The answer is in the preface of the text that Little began on Christmas Eve 1884. At the time, the judge's "reflection was busy with the `sad vicissitude of things,' " Ellis told the gathering of Owensboro lawyers as he read from the preface.

Here is part of what Little had written: "Among other matters it was recalled how many men of genius, talent and virtue had risen, flourished and passed away in Kentucky, leaving no adequate monument or record to perpetuate their memory. Orators, statesmen and heroes, not second to any that have adorned any age or country, with names worthy the brightest pages of history, were being forgotten in the state that held their dust."

After reading from the book's preface, Ellis continued his own remarks. "Judge Little was thinking lofty and patriotic thoughts, thinking along lines where he might possibly become an instrument in preserving something of the rich history of his native commonwealth. How well he performed his task the 41 chapters of his book disclose."

The words of the 616-page volume were "as thrilling and classically expressed as anything that has been written in our mother tongue," Ellis asserted.

The book clearly shows the "industry, the firm resolution and the patriotic sentiment that inspired it," Ellis emphasized. "It is a lasting honor to the memory of its author and ought to inspire, encourage and prompt Judge Little's successors at the bar to imitate his patriotism, his devotion to the state and his loyal attachment to the great profession to which he belonged and of which for more than a half century he was a distinguished member."

"The Owensboro Bar has lost one of its most scholarly, accomplished, companionable and distinguished members," Ellis lamented. "The judiciary of the state, one of its ablest, purest and most courageous representatives; the community, one of its most useful, unselfish and

beloved citizens; the literature of the state, one of its most graceful, charming and industrious writers."

On that day, the book about Hardin had become a fitting memorial to Little himself. It is an expertly crafted piece of work and an achievement of Little's lifetime.

It is preserved today in the Kentucky Room at the Daviess County Public Library.

…….