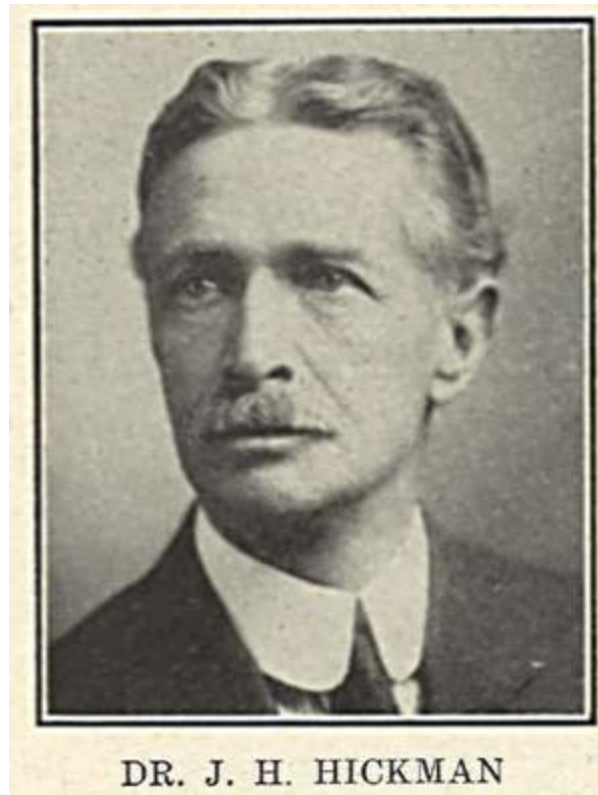


James Hardin Hickman (1852-1931)

By Jerry Long
c.2024



Picture from Sixty Years of Owensboro, 1883-1943, William Foster Hayes, Messenger Job Printing Co., Owensboro, KY, 1944, p.83.



Daviess County, Kentucky Celebrating Our Heritage, 1815-2015 **(Evansville, IN, M. T. Publishing Company, Inc., 2015)**

page 11 – “Daviess County Bicentennial Chronology – 200 Historical Events,” by Jerry Long (compiled in celebration of Daviess County’s Bicentennial):

1894, 4-27 Camden Riley sold Riley’s Woods, 23¾ acres, a mile and a half south of Owensboro on the Veach Road to the City of Owensboro for a park. It was acquired largely through the efforts of Mayor James H. Hickman. The park was initially

called Hickman Park. On 11 June 1923 the name was changed to Legion Park in honor of the service of the veterans of the local American Legion post during World War I. The park has proved to be a valuable recreational asset.



Mayor James Hardin Hickman (1852-1931) in horse and buggy riding south along Frederica Street. The Planters House Hotel can be seen in the background. He was loved by Owensboroans. He was elected mayor on six occasions. In 1894, the new public park was named after him – Hickman Park. In 1923, he persuaded the City Council to rename the park The American Legion Park in honor of those who had fought in World War I. picture from [A Pictorial History of Owensboro, Daviess County](#), Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro Publishing Company, Owensboro, KY, 1994, p.77.



Owensboro Monitor, Owensboro, KY, Wednesday, 10 March 1875, p.3:

Among the young gentlemen who recently graduated with distinction at the Louisville Medical University no one took final leave of his *alma mater* the possessor of greater honors than our popular young friend James H. Hickman, who is now a full fledged Esculapius. Owing to ill health that afflicted him for five weeks previous to the exhibition he was unable to make equal headway with his competitors, but despite this serious drawback he came near winning the prize for which he contended, (a gold medal) and even then so meritorious was the book of notes

prepared by him that Dr. D. W. Yandell of the Faculty, presented him with a handsome and serviceable copy of some standard medical work. All honor and success to you, friend Jimmie, may you in the future succeed in conferring upon the physical ailments of the afflicted and suffering the same relief and balm for which your cheerful presence and inspiring words of hope and kindness have ever been so powerful.



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

Page 463: JAMES H. HICKMAN, M.D., tobacco merchant, was born in Bardstown, Ky., March 17, 1852, son of William A. Hickman, M.D., a leading physician at Springfield, Ill. He was about fourteen years of age when he moved with his parents to Daviess County. He attended the St. Joseph College in Bardstown, Ky., two years, then attended the University at Springfield, Ill., for one year. He then returned home to Daviess County, and began the study of medicine with his father, graduating at the Medical University at Louisville, Ky., in 1875. He practiced five years with his father, and then located in Owensboro and engaged in the drug business until 1880, when he engaged in tobacco business, forming his present partnership with F.J. Clark, under the firm name of Clark & Hickman. They have one of the oldest and largest factories in the city. Dr. Hickman married Adele H. Jackson, in Owensboro, Oct. 1, 1877. She was born near Masonville, Daviess Co., Ky., a daughter of James S. and Sue (Hawes) Jackson. Dr. and Mrs. Hickman are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. They have two children - Virginia A., born May 28, 1878, and William Christopher Jackson, born April 18, 1881. Dr. Hickman is a member of Star Lodge No. 19, K. of P. He is Director in the First National Bank of Owensboro. In politics he is a Democrat.

Page 226: W. A. HICKMAN came to Daviess County in 1835. His grandfather, James Hickman, was a Virginian, and a revolutionary soldier; was present at the siege of Yorktown, and one of the guard appointed by Washington to conduct Cornwallis to Richmond. His father, William Hickman, was born near Winchester, Va., in 1791, and at the age of twenty-two moved to Shelby County, Ky. He married Mary M. Cadwell, of Charlotte County, Va., and afterward moved to Sangamon County, Illinois, where he died at the age of eighty-three, having filled among other positions that of Representative in the Illinois Legislature.

The education of Dr. Hickman was obtained almost entirely in Shelby County. Carty Wells, afterward the Judge of the Supreme Court of Missouri, was one of his teachers. In the fall of 1837 he began the study of medicine in Shelby County, and in 1840 entered the Louisville University, where he graduated in 1842. Returning to Shelby County for the purpose of establishing himself as a physician, he found that his practice was likely to conflict with that of his old preceptor, Dr. George W. Nichols, to whom he was under many obligations, and in consequence began practice at Bardstown. In 1844 he was married to Burnette Barbour, who died in 1853, leaving four children, two of whom are still living. In 1854 he married Susan L. Suit, of Maryland.

For personal reasons Dr. Hickman left the fine practice which he had acquired during his residence of twenty-three years in Bardstown, and came to Daviess County, locating on the Livermore road, nine miles south of Owensboro. During his stay in the county he made many friends and gained a professional reputation of a high character. The railroad running south from Owensboro is one of the measures of improvement in which Dr. Hickman has been interested. He

aided the undertaking in every way possible, and was President of the company. He also gave some notoriety to the medicinal springs in his neighborhood, to which many invalids have resorted with benefit. See Chapter XI. Whig, Democrat, and Southern sympathizer is the record of his politics.

James H., Burnette B., and Aurelia J., are his children. The son has chosen his father's profession, and is a graduate of the Medical University of Louisville.

Dr. Hickman is now an honored resident and prosperous physician of Springfield, Ill.



Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Thursday, 11 October 1888, p.2



Residence of James H. Hickman



Biographical Cyclopaedia of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

John M. Gresham Company, Chicago, Philadelphia, 1896, pp.534-535:

James H. Hickman, Mayor of Owensboro and one of the most influential citizens of that city, son of Dr. William A. and Burnette (Barbour) Hickman, was born in Bardstown, Kentucky, March 17, 1852. He was educated in St. Joseph College at Bardstown and in the University of Illinois; and, after completing his literary course, studied medicine and attended the medical department of the University of Louisville, from which he graduated in 1875. For five years following he was associated with his father in the practice of medicine, but abandoned his profession in 1880 to engage in the tobacco business with F. J. Clarke, under the firm name of Clarke & Hickman. This partnership continued until 1883, when Dr. Hickman was elected president of the Owensboro Wagon Company—one of the most successful manufacturing enterprises in that city—a position which he still retains. He is vice president of the First National Bank and has other investments and business interests, but has given especial attention to the management of the affairs of the Wagon Company.

After serving the public for several years as trustee of the School Board and as a member of the City Council, he was elected mayor of the city in 1890, and has been twice re-elected—in 1892 and 1894.

A man of superior business ability, of unswerving integrity, of genial, courteous demeanor, he is at once the exacting man of business and the generous friend of all who have dealings or intercourse with him. Nor is his popularity confined to party lines, for while he is a Democrat when it comes to a vote or a political contest, he knows no party in the discharge of his official duty, enjoying the confidence and respect of men of all parties.

He is a member of the principal benevolent orders, including Knights Templar, Knights of Pythias, Elks, Royal Arcanum and Knights of the Ancient Essenic Order, and is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Dr. Hickman was married October 1, 1877, to Adele P. Jackson, daughter of James S. and Sue (Hawes) Jackson. She was a native of Masonville, Daviess County, Kentucky. She died leaving three children, Virginia, Christopher and William.

Dr. William A. Hickman (father) was born in Shelbyville, Kentucky, October 26, 1816. He removed with his father to Sangamon County, Illinois, in 1833, where he remained four years, when he returned to Shelbyville and began the study of medicine.

In 1840 he entered the medical department of the University of Louisville, from which he graduated in 1842, and began the practice of medicine in Shelbyville. Finding, however, that his practice would probably conflict with his old friend and preceptor, Dr. G. W. Nuckols, he removed to Bardstown in 1840, where he was a leading physician for twenty-five years, when he turned over his lucrative practice to his brother, Dr. J. F. Hickman, and removed to Owensboro in 1865 and practiced medicine in that city and vicinity for another quarter of a century, when he went to Springfield, Illinois, to reside with his daughter, Mrs. James P. Radcliff. He practiced medicine there for a few years and then engaged in the drug business, in which he continued until his death, December 20, 1894.

Dr. Hickman was actively engaged in the practice of his profession for more than fifty years, and was a conspicuous figure in the communities in which he lived, a man of superior intellect, kind hearted and benevolent, with a good word for everyone, and his reputation as a physician was of the highest character.

He was the leading spirit in establishing the first railroad at Owensboro, and was the first president of the road. He was an active member of the Methodist Church for over sixty years, during which time he was an exemplary Christian gentleman.

Dr. W. A. Hickman was married (first) in 1844 at Bardstown to Burnette Barbour, daughter of William and Jane Barbour. She was born in Virginia in 1827, and died in Bardstown in 1853. Her parents having died when she was quite young, she made her home with her uncle, Ben Hardin of Bardstown. She was educated in Dr. Atkinson's school in Bardstown, and was a very highly accomplished member of the distinguished Barbour and Hardin families. Ben Hardin married Betsy Barbour, a sister of William Barbour.

William Hickman (grandfather) was born in Fredericksburg, Virginia, in 1790; removed to Sangamon County, Illinois, in 1833; then went to Springfield, Illinois, where he died in 1874. He married Mary E. Cardwell at Shelbyville, Kentucky, in 1813, and she died in Springfield, Illinois, in 1833. William Hickman was a merchant in Springfield and several times a member of the legislature. His father was a soldier in the Revolutionary war, and was present at the siege of Yorktown, and was one of the guards appointed by General Washington to take Cornwallis to Richmond.



Mayors of Owensboro, Kentucky, Jerry Long,
Kentucky Room, Daviess County Public Library, Owensboro, KY, 1988, pp.6-9:

| | | |
|-------------|---------------|---|
| From: | To: | |
| 15 Dec 1890 | - 19 Dec 1892 | <u>James H. Hickman</u> |
| | | elected: Monday, 1 Dec 1890 Owensboro Messenger, Tuesday, 2 Dec 1890, p2 |
| | | took office: Monday, 15 Dec 1890 Owensboro Messenger, Tuesday, 16 Dec 1890, p1 |
| 19 Dec 1892 | - 4 Dec 1893 | <u>James H. Hickman</u> |
| | | elected: Monday, 5 Dec 1892 Owensboro Messenger, Tuesday, 6 Dec 1892, p2 |
| | | took office: Monday, 19 Dec 1892 Owensboro Messenger, Tuesday, 20 Dec 1892, p1 |
| 4 Dec 1893 | - 2 Dec 1895 | <u>James H. Hickman</u> |
| | | elected: Tuesday, 7 Nov 1893 Owensboro Messenger, Thursday, 9 Nov 1893, p1; City Commission Minute Book 1893-1897, p49 |
| | | took office: Monday, 4 Dec 1893 Owensboro Messenger, Tuesday, 5 Dec 1893, p1 City Commission Minute Book 1893-1897, p56 |
| 2 Dec 1895 | - 6 Dec 1897 | <u>James H. Hickman</u> |
| | | elected: Tuesday, 5 Nov 1895 Owensboro Inquirer, Wednesday, 6 Nov 1895, p1 |
| | | took office: Monday, 2 Dec 1895 Owensboro Inquirer, Tuesday, 3 Dec 1895, p1 |
| 1 Dec 1913 | - 7 Jan 1918 | <u>James H. Hickman</u> |
| | | elected: Tuesday, 4 Nov 1913 Owensboro Messenger, Wednesday, 5 Nov 1913, p1A |
| | | took office: Monday, 1 Dec 1913 Owensboro Messenger, Tuesday, 2 Dec 1913, p1A |
| 2 Jan 1922 | - 4 Jan 1926 | <u>James H. Hickman</u> |
| | | elected: Tuesday, 8 Nov 1921 Owensboro Messenger, Wednesday, 9 Nov 1921, p1A |
| | | took office: Monday, 2 Jan 1922 Owensboro Messenger, Tuesday, 3 Jan 1922, p1A |



Owensboro Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 9 November 1902, p.12:

**Men Who Have
Made Owensboro.**



Dr. J. H. Hickman

Dr. J. H. Hickman has lived in Owensboro for twenty-two years, and during that time has been connected with a number of the foremost enterprises of the town. He was born at Bardstown, Ky., where he grew to manhood, studying medicine under his father and afterwards taking the prescribed medical course at the University at Louisville. He practiced his profession for several years before coming to Owensboro.

In 1880 Dr. Hickman removed to Owensboro and soon thereafter became interested in the erection of an electric light plant. Connected with him in this enterprise were J. W. Porter and John and W. F. Reinhardt. In the early months of 1884 the Owensboro Electric Light and Power company was organized and at its first meeting Dr. Hickman was chosen its president. A plant on St. Ann street near the river and actual operations began the latter part of the year. This plant furnished the first electric light and power in Owensboro. A contract was made with the city by which the concern lighted the streets for a period of ten years. The enterprise was finally discontinued and the plant sold to the Owensboro Gas company.

In March, 1888, Dr. Hickman became connected with the Owensboro Wagon company. The factory had been in operation for nearly a year previous to that time, but had practically been a failure. Stock that at the inauguration of the enterprise had been bought at its face value was unloaded at ten cents on the dollar and operations were discontinued. Most of the old stockholders sold out and Dr. Hickman bought a controlling interest. At the meeting of the directors in that year he was elected a member of the board and president of the company, which position he still holds.

During the first year of operation under the present management 200 wagons were put on the market. But from this insignificant beginning a magnificent trade has been built Every year saw a marked increase in sales, and last year 10,500 wagons were sold. Today the Owensboro wagon is one of the most popular wagons in the entire South and Middle West. Five traveling salesmen are employed, covering all the Southern states and an extensive jobbing business is done from a number of the larger cities throughout the states of the Middle West. For eight years W. A. Steele has been general manager of the concern and has been an important factor in its success.

The Owensboro Buggy company was organized in 1900 by Dr. Hickman and W. A. Steele. It at once took rank with the foremost buggy manufactories of the country and has already built up an extensive trade.

From 1890 to 1897 Dr. Hickman was mayor of the city, being three times elected to that position. At no time did he have an opponent at the regular election. In 1890 he defeated Richard Cullen for the Democratic nomination, but in the succeeding campaigns he had no opposition for the nomination. His first term was for two years. under the old charter. He served a short term of one year during the transition period and was elected for four years under the new charter.

Dr. Hickman was elected president of the Daviess County Fair association in 1898 and remained in the position until the fair was discontinued and the grounds sold last spring. He is at present a director of the street railway company and the water works company.



Owensboro Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Thursday, 29 May 1924, section 4, p.4:

Beautiful Parks Add To The Many Charms Of Owensboro
First Unit of Park System Bought in 1894
Tract of Land Then Purchased By City Council
Acquire Others
Beautifying of Public Square Next in Order

By Hon, J. H. Hickman
(Mayor of Owensboro)

He is not a normal man who is not in love with woods and trees and shrubbery and flowers; for they are among God's best gifts to the world.

From my earliest connection with the city government of Owensboro I have endeavored to develop and extend the system of parks now well started by the city; but for constant lack of funds, we have accomplished only a beginning. However, like an oasis in the desert, these places offer "rest for the weary; peace, peace for the tired soul," and their message of quiet end peace should not be lost, but should be a continued blessing to us who live and to the unborn thousands who shall come after us.

Parks are Sacred Trust

The parks we have are a sacred trust for the benefit alike of the normal, wholesome and merry folk who may find recreation and relief from life's toils, but to the sick, the weary and the care-worn, they offer a place where the cooling shadows kiss the tired brow and invite surcease from suffering and give a nature's failing forces a chance to live again. And the children – what a source of endless joy it is to have some part in brightening the life of the kiddies; in giving them a real place to play!

Considerations such as these must make it apparent that every municipality should provide adequate appropriation for the extension and maintenance of a system of parks. Especially should this be true of a rapidly growing city each as Owensboro and where so many persons, young and old can avail themselves of the outdoor recreations which a properly arranged system of parks ran alone afford.

First Step in 1894

The first step to acquire a city park for Owensboro was taken in 1894 when the writer suggested to the city council the purchase of a tract of woodlawn south of the city containing- 24 acres, then owned by Mr. Cam Riley. After some negotiation it was found that this land could be bought for \$4,500, and of this sum Mr. Riley himself would contribute \$500. After long continued discussion the council finally yielded to the extent of buying the land itself, but would make no appropriation to provide for the improvement or upkeep of the property. I then carried the matter to the citizens of Owensboro by an appeal to the public spirited and generous people, and through this means \$3000, was subscribed and paid, and with this sum all the improvements so far put into this park were provided for. For many years this beautiful spot has borne the name of Hickman Park; but during my present term as mayor of the city this park has by the action of my office and the city commissioners, Mr. Stone and Mr. Loney, been turned over to the American Legion for the use in such activities as they may see fit to employ it for, and its name changed to that of Legion Park. We have also recently constructed a beautiful driveway to be known as Legion Boulevard from Frederica street eastward to one of the entrances of this park.

Chautauqua Park

One of the most delightful spots in the Green River; country is the Chautauqua Park situated just southeast of the city. In 1916 this 30 acre tract of beautiful wooded land was being sold in some litigation involving its title.

At that time Mr. D. C. Stimson and several other public spirited citizens were members of the city council and I was mayor. At the time of this sale there was much doubt in the minds of some of the city officials as to whether or not the city would be justified in making the necessary investment of \$12,750 in this land; but some of the gentlemen then on the council, including Mr. Stimson and some others agreed, if necessary to become personally bound for the purchase price, and this beautiful body of land was bought and turned over to the city. It has been difficult at all times to obtain sufficient funds to properly develop the natural beauties of this park, but the charm of the place consists largely in its natural setting with its glorious beeches, its beautifully wooded hill sides and the magnificent view which its hilltop affords. It is one of the coolest and most delightful spots anywhere in reach of Owensboro, and many thousands find it pleasant to take advantage of, its restfulness and to spend some time in its quiet shadows.

It is the hope of the writer that before long one or the other of these parks, or both, will be provided with facilities and conveniences to afford places of rest and refreshment for the multitude of tourists who will shortly come this way from every quarter of the country, as soon as the good roads projects now under way are completed.

Riverside Park

Riverside Park has been established along the bank of the Ohio, and in summer it is one of the most popular places in the city. From it magnificent views may be had of the Ohio east and west of the city. In addition to its affording a place to rest and view the beautiful Ohio, it has likewise enabled the city to do much to protect, the bank of the river at that point by filling in with available material from excavations and other sources. Its proximity to the more thickly populated portions of the city makes it available for young and old and rich and poor alike.

Many years ago on the north side of West Ninth street in the west end of Owensboro was an old burial ground. In it were buried a good number of the early settlers; but gradually the neighborhood became thickly settled and it became desirable to remove the ashes of those who slept there to some other place.

Several years ago this was done accordingly and this beautiful green spot has been converted into a very delightful playground and place of recreation where the children and the older people alike who live in the Wet End spend many pleasant hours during the summer season.

Park for Negroes

There is being opened and developed on West Fifth street what designed finally to be a place of recreation for the children and the grownups among the colored people in that part of the city, and it is the purpose of the city authorities to improve and beautify these places as rapidly as the finances of the city will permit. Unlike many other cities in the state, no bonds have ever been issued and no indebtedness incurred by the city growing out of its purchase and improvement of its splendid parks, and they have been purchased, improved and developed to their present state out of the general revenues of the city.

The Taylor Wood Land in what is known as Moreland's Addition is splendidly located and beautifully adorned with forest trees to make a splendid addition to the parks of the city, and it is the hope of the writer that some day it may become a part of the city's park system. Certainly this should be done as soon as funds can be made available for that purpose; and it is my belief that every public spirited citizen of Owensboro, and every forward-looking man and woman would sanction a liberal expenditure of the public moneys to purchase and improve these cool and restful spots where tired men and women and happy, playful children, of our own time and in the years to come, may spend a while in God's refreshing out-of-doors. With an appropriation of \$500 generously made by the Elks Lodge.

Beautify Public Square

With the permission of the county judge and commissioners, I have been doing some work looking toward the beautifying of what will some day be a beautiful public square in the center of the city, and it is the hope of the writer that in some no distant day this place, along with the other public parks in and around Owensboro will become what they should be – places of recreation, rest and attractive social centers for those who live together as neighbors in and about the good city of Owensboro, and for the many thousands who from time to time will pass this way as tourists, pilgrims and sojourners of a day.

Mayor of Owensboro



Hon. J. H. Hickman

Mayor J. H. Hickman was born at Bardstown. Ky., March 17, 1852, being a son of William A. Hickman. He came to Daviess county when about 14 years of age. He attended St. Joseph's college at Bardstown for two years and then the University of Springfield, Ill., for one year. He graduated in medicine at the Medical University in Louisville in 1875. He practised medicine for a short period, and was then engaged in the drug business and later the tobacco business. For many years he was President of the Owensboro Wagon company. He disposed of his interest in this concern and then organized the Hickman-Ebbert Wagon company.

Mayor Hickman is now serving his fourth term as chief executive of Owensboro. Ha has also served the city one term as commissioner. He has devoted much of his time to beautifying the several city parks.



Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Saturday, 10 January 1931, p.1:

**Dr. James H. Hickman Takes Own Life
Shoots Himself With .32 Pistol, Dying In Hour**

**Mayor of Owensboro Four Times; Leaves Saying Long Journey
At End And He Had Grown Weary; Once Wealthy**

Dr. James H. Hickman, four times mayor of Owensboro and many years ago one of the wealthiest citizens and largest landowner in Daviess county, while despondent and in ill health, ended his life by shooting himself with a .32 calibre pistol at the home of his son-in-law, Marc C. Stuart, in South Frederica street, late yesterday afternoon.

Dr. Hickman was at his office in St. Ann street yesterday, returning home late in the afternoon. He went to his room at 5 o'clock and a short time later his grandson, James Stuart, heard the report of a pistol. On entering the room he discovered that Dr. Hickman had shot himself. He was unconscious. Dr. O. W. Rash was called, but the aged wounded man expired an hour later without regaining consciousness.

Dr. Hickman left a brief note to the effect that he had reached the end of a long journey and had grown weary.

Members of the family stated that Dr. Hickman had been despondent for some time and for the last two or three weeks had suffered from a cough and cold.

Bom in Bardstown

Born at Bardstown. March 17, 1852, Dr. Hickman obtained hi early education in that vicinity, coming with his parents to Daviess county in 1866. He later finished his education, and studied for the medical profession, returning to Owensboro in 1880, where he entered into business instead of practicing his profession.

Becoming identified with the Owensboro Wagon company, he was president of that company for several years, during which period the company enjoyed its largest business and the stock was held as one of the most valuable investments in this section. He later sold his interests in the Owensboro Wagon company, the stock bringing \$2 for \$1, and organized the Hickman-Ebbert Wagon company, the plant of which is now occupied by the Murphy Chair company.

Loses Fortune

The latest venture was not as great a success as his earlier career with the old company and his fortune was largely dissipated in the failure of the company. He was at one time one of the largest landowners in the county, holding 1,500 acres of valuable timber-lands in the Panther creek bottoms.

The straightening of Panther creek to quickly drain it and make the section it traversed one of the richest agriculture sections of the county was a pet project of Dr. Hickman for many years, and he lived to see its accomplishment, filing the petition in county court which started it on its way, and procuring from the government an experienced drainage engineer to plan and develop the project.

Elected Mayor

In 1895, Dr. Hickman was elected mayor of Owensboro for a period of two years, the terms being of that length then, and succeeded himself In 1897. At the end of this term he retired from politics when he became connected with the wagon company and remained out until in 1912 he again was elected for a four-year term.

In the meantime the commission form of government had been adopted by the city of Owensboro and being ineligible to succeed himself as mayor Dr. Hickman offered himself for commissioner and was one of the first to be selected for the commissionership, together with Henry Cline, with Dr. John Calhoun as mayor.

Again in 1922 Dr. Hickman offered for mayor and was elected by a large majority, retiring in 1925 at the end of his term of office.

City Hall Built

During his mayoralty in 1912 to 1916 the present city hall was built wholly out of ordinary revenues and all city departments were developed to a high state of efficiency. It was then that he began development of the city's park system to make them attractive for Owensboro citizens. He had brought about the purchase of the first park, which was named for him, but during his last term of office, 1922-25 he procured the commissioners to change the name of Hickman park to that of the American Legion park, as a memorial to the Owensboro boys who had fought in the World war.

Dr. Hickman first began the beautifying of the courthouse yard as a park for downtown people and a playground for children while their parents might be in the shopping district. Through his efforts the Elks, of which he had long been a member, and one time exalted ruler, made a liberal donation for this project, and he made arrangements for building a park on the river front, known as Riverview park.

Beautify Parks Hobby

Providing Owensboro with beauty places and parks became an obsession with Dr. Hickman and the beautiful parks of today are largely due to his initiative. One of his recent projects was to study out the terrain of the large lot of ground south of Senior high school, drew a plat and prepared a layout, which he submitted to the Garden club of Owensboro, and urged its development. The club presented a request to the board of education that this plot be turned over to it, and Dr. Hickman's ideas will be put into existence when the season arrives, the club has determined.

Dr. Hickman's great fault, his friends were aware of, was his open-handedness, and it was this that provided a means for his once large fortune becoming largely diminished. He was loved by Owensboro's citizens for the unselfish devotion he gave to Owensboro that it might become a better place to live in. He devoted his energies to furthering her industries and civic affairs. He was a Knight Templar and Elk. He had been at his office during the day and had actively engaged in business to the last.

Surviving are his daughter Mrs. Marc Stuart, two sons, William, of Chicago, and Chris, of New York, and several grandchildren. His wife died many years ago. Funeral arrangements have not been made.



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 11 January 1931, p.6:

DR. JAMES H. HICKMAN

Some men die, are mourned for a brief period and then forgotten. There are others whose deeds survive long after them – monuments to their lives, their accomplishments and good works. In the latter category can be placed Dr. James H. Hickman, whose death late Friday resulted in expressions of regret throughout Owensboro – the city that he loved so well.

Were you to ask those best acquainted with Dr. Hickman what his most striking characteristics were, they would doubtless say his frankness, his sincerity, his courage, his common sense and his great generosity stood out most prominently. He had hobbies. Everyone does. One of his hobbies was a beautiful one – his love for flowers, trees and shrubs.

During the five terms he served mayor of the city of Owensboro and one term as city commissioner he did much to enhance the beauty of Owensboro's vacant spaces. It was during one of his terms as mayor that the woodland now known as American Legion Park was purchased and beautified. By a popular vote of the citizens it was named "Hickman Park." It was also while he held office that Chautauqua park was purchased by the city. Riverview park, too, was his creation. The beautification of the courthouse yard was one of his dreams that he saw realized. He personally attended to the laying out of a flower bed or the graveling of a walk and the placing of shrubs and plants.

He was a gentle, generous soul. One of his graceful acts was his appeal to the Daviess fiscal court to repair the road leading from Frederica street to Hickman park. "Put a hard surface on the road and call it Legion Boulevard and then I will have the city commissioners change the name of Hickman Park to that of American Legion Park in honor of the Daviess county young men who served in the war," Dr. Hickman said. It was typical of his unselfish acts.

A man in public life cannot please everyone. When an addition was built to the city hospital, while Dr. Hickman was serving as mayor, it was thought by some persons that it was ill advised on account of the city's then embarrassing financial condition. He saw the necessity of providing more rooms at the hospital and had the courage to carry out his plans. Now plans are being made for the building of another addition to the hospital.

He was often criticised for additions at the municipal water and light plants, but had these additions not been made the plants could not have been kept running and as Owensboro continues to grow it is necessary today to increase the capacity of the municipal plants.

The present city hall is a monument to Dr. Hickman and the commissioners who served with him. The eyesore that stood as a city building at Fourth and St. Ann streets was wrecked and in its place rose the modern structure that would be a credit to any city.

Many years ago Dr. Hickman was head of one of Owensboro's greatest industries. He disposed of his interest in that concern and launched a new one. Then came business reverses over which he had no control and a fortune was swept away. But he carried on year after year, giving to the city of Owensboro his time and thought, taking the lead in making it one of the most progressive cities in the country.

Dr. Hickman was generous to a fault. City officials have often said they have seen him take the last dollar from his pocket and give to some deserving woman who appealed to him for aid for her family. If able to grant it, he never refused to aid a needy person. But no bribe-offerer ever had the temerity to approach him. His official life was as pure as the tender blossoms that will burst forth this spring from plants placed by his own hands in the Owensboro parks that he loved so well.



**Dr. James Hardin Hickman family plot
Elmwood Cemetery, section D, lot 67; Owensboro, KY:**



Dr. James Hardin Hickman
 Adele Hawes Hickman, wife of Dr. J. H. Hickman
 William T. Hickman, KY Sgt. US Army WW I
 Marcus C. Stuart
 Virginia H. Stuart

| Born | Died |
|---------------|---------------|
| Mar. 17, 1852 | Jan. 9, 1931 |
| June 3, 1858 | Mar. 25, 1887 |
| Jan. 6, 1884 | Aug. 16, 1956 |
| Mar. 4, 1875 | Mar. 19, 1959 |
| May 28, 1878 | Aug. 29, 1961 |



**More Begats: Lineage of the Hickmans, Jacksons, Sesselmans, Betzags,
Edition II, William T. Hickman, Roanoke, Virginia, 1989.**

Dr. James H. Hickman (1852-1931)

Dr. James Hickman was graduated from the Medical Department of the University of Louisville in 1875. This followed two years of study at St. Joseph's college in Bardstown, Ky. and a year at the University at Springfield (Ill.) He apparently practised medicine for only about five years and then engaged in the pharmaceutical business until 1880.

On October 1, 1877, Dr. Hickman married Adele Hawes Jackson. They lived in a house purchased for them by her grandfather, Christopher D. Jackson, a very wealthy landholder, farmer, Justice of the Peace and Sheriff of Daviess County Ky. Adele died in Louisville in 1887 after a prolonged illness leaving three young children.

Dr. James Hickman, a tall, handsome, ram-rod straight, for all the world looking like a Kentucky Colonel, was mayor of Owensboro for the periods 1890-1898, December 1, 1913 to December 3, 1917 and January 3, 1922 to January 4, 1926. He was apparently very well liked and considered to be a very honest and just person.

At one time, a park he had convinced the city fathers to fund was named for him but he managed to have this altered to Veterans Park; the name it still has to this day.

Perry Radcliffe related to me a re-election campaign of Dr. Hickman wherein he, Perry, took part. Dr. Hickman took young Perry by the hand one evening and together they walked to the edge of town and talked to a night watchman at one of the factories and then returned home. In short, there was no need for a campaign.

Besides the tobacco business with F. J. Clark and serving as a director of the First National Bank of Owensboro, Dr. Hickman was President of the Owensboro Wagon company. Later, he was part owner of the Hickman-Ebbert Wagon Company. A familiar advertisement of the H-E Wagon Co. was a painting called 'In the shade of the old apple tree'. That picture, painted on metal is considered an antique and now (1988) is worth over \$1000. Copies made several years later are going for \$100 and up. My cousin, Joan Stuart Money, has an original print and had a photographic copy made for this genealogy (see following).

Although he had many land holdings, Dr. Hickman lost almost all as a result of the failure of The Hickman-Ebbert Wagon enterprise. He made his home in his elder years with his daughter, Virginia and her husband Marc Stuart.

He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church and Star Lodge No.19 Knights of Pythias.

Dr. Hickman ended his life January 9, 1931 with a 32 cal. pistol in his upstairs bedroom. A suicide note explained that he was in poor health. My father's ashes are interred with his parents, Adele, and Dr. James Hickman in front of an attractive monument of a full sized angel (Gabriel?) pointing upward in Elmwood cemetery, Owensboro, Kentucky.

Recently on a trip to Owensboro to do family research, I had the pleasure of having a tour of Dr. Hickman's old home at 1524 Frederica street. It has been meticulously restored. I had been there once as a child of perhaps five and had some recollection of it. As I walked through the house more came back to me.

While visiting as a child, someone gave me a box of kittens which I brought home. The kittens of course wandered everywhere in the house and it was quite a task to round them up and return them to the giver.

Later that night, my Aunt Virginia, who loved reading mystery novels, looked up and saw two bright eyes looking at her from the dark stairway scaring her half to death until there was a soft 'meow'.



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Thursday, 28 July 1994, pp.1A & 2A:

City parks' founder honored with plaque

By Greg Kocher, Messenger-Inquirer

It was former Mayor James Hickman's desire that Owensboro have a system of parks that would "offer a place where the cooling shadows kiss the tired brow . . . and give nature's falling forces a chance to live again."

That vision, spelled out in an article of the Owensboro Inquirer in May 1924, lives on today in what's known as Legion, Chautauqua, Smothers and Kendall-Perkins parks. On Wednesday, that vision and Hickman's persistence were honored with the dedication of a historical marker at Legion, Owensboro's first public park.

Hickman, who died in 1931, is regarded as the "father of Owensboro's parks system" because Legion's nearly 24 acres were purchased while he was mayor in 1894. Legion's 100th birthday will be celebrated Saturday with an afternoon program of music and games.

"It makes me feel good that he did something that so many people have enjoyed for such a long time," said Joan Money of Louisville, a great-granddaughter of Hickman who attended the marker ceremony.

The marker is located near Legion's parking lot off Byers Avenue. On one side of the marker there's a biography of Hickman, who was elected mayor six times and was a doctor, pharmacist, tobacco merchant, bank director and wagon manufacturer.

The other side of the marker gives a brief history of the park, which was originally named for Hickman. In 1923, he had the name changed to Legion to honor the veterans who died in World War I.

The city of Owensboro and American Legion Post No. 9 paid for the marker. The Owensboro post marks its 75th year this year, along with the national American Legion organization.

"As we celebrate the 100th anniversary of this park, let us not forget the many sacrifices made by all our veterans who served in the great wars and all our armed conflicts," said Brice Howard, chaplain of Post No. 9.

Several of Hickman's descendants attended Wednesday's ceremony, as well as an invitation-only dinner at Owensboro Country Club on Tuesday night.

At the dinner, former Mayor Waitman Taylor said Hickman "is the perfect example of what one man can do and how one individual can affect so many lives."

Legion Park is proof, Taylor said, that "if a project is good, it will still be standing long after you're gone."

Hickman's descendants said they appreciated the attention given to him. As a gesture of thanks, Hickman's grandchildren donated a dogwood tree to Legion Park.

"We hope his spirit is around, and he knows what's going on," said grandson William Hickman of Roanoke, Va. "We're really very honored to be here and to take part in this ceremony."

Another grandson, James Hickman of Brevard, N.C., found a parallel between himself and his grandfather. James Hickman is part of a group that maintains trails in Pisgah National Forest in western North Carolina.

"We build bridges, we work on erosion control, we make the trail safer and better for the people who use it. It's kind of a park thing," James Hickman said.



James Hickman of Brevard, N.C., grandson of former Owensboro Mayor James Hickman, looks over a historical marker at Legion Park on Wednesday after a dedication ceremony.



Inscription on James H. Hickman – Legion Park historical marker in Legion Park, Owensboro, KY

Side 1:

**Mayor James H. Hickman
Father Of Owensboro's Parks System**

James H. Hickman (1852-1931) was an extraordinary man. He was a doctor, pharmacist, tobacco merchant, bank director, and a manufacturer of Owensboro Wagons and the Hickman - Ebbert Wagon. He also served his community as a school board member, city councilman, and mayor. The citizens of Owensboro elected him six times to the office of mayor. He is best known for his devotion to developing a system of parks in Owensboro. These parks include: Hickman, renamed Legion Park; Chautauqua Park; Riverside, renamed Smothers Park; West Fifth Street, renamed Kendall – Perkins Park; and Moreland Park.

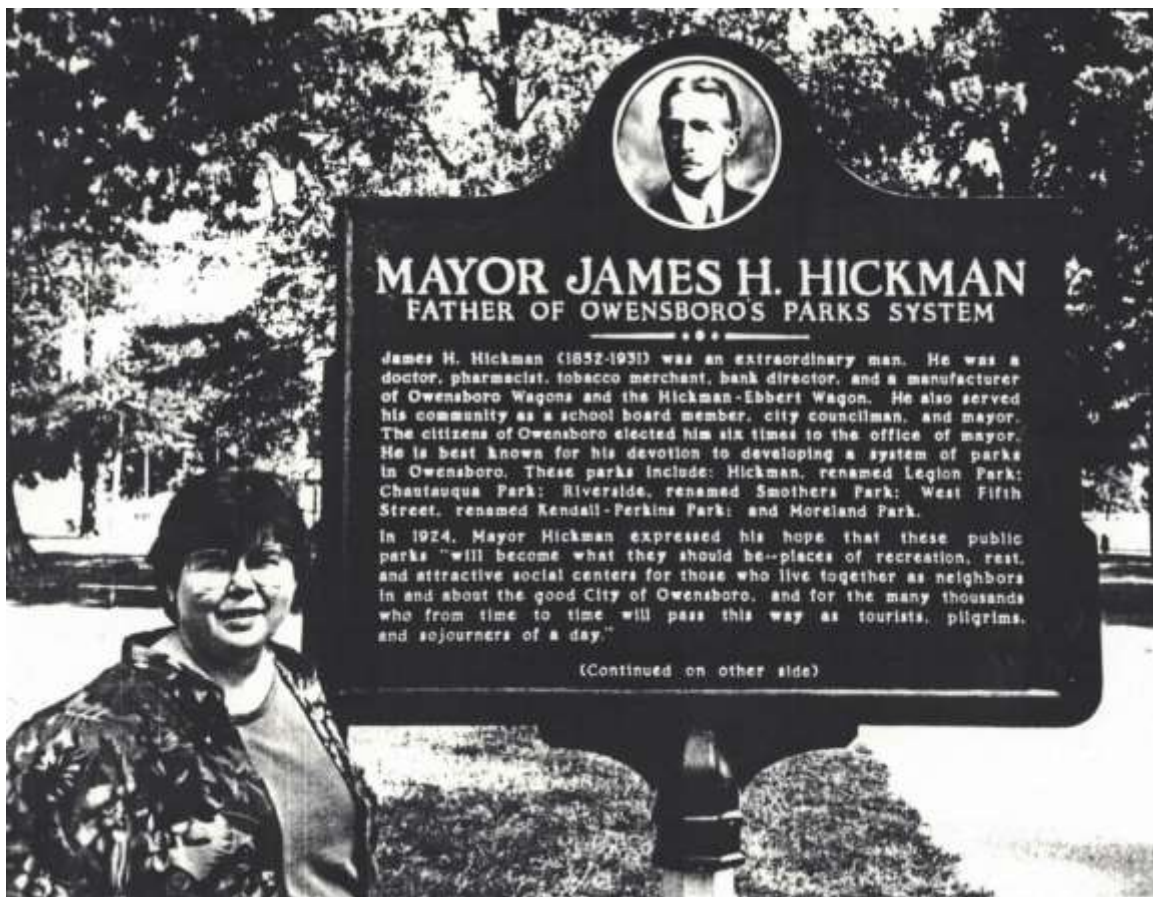
In 1924, Mayor Hickman expressed his hope that these public parks “will become what they should be – places of recreation, rest, and attractive social centers for those who live together as neighbors in and about the good city of Owensboro, and for the many thousands who from time to time will pass this way as tourists, pilgrims.

Side 2:
(Continued from other side)

In 1894, the city of Owensboro purchased this 23.75-acre tract of land. Early park features included walkways, trees, flower beds, swings, a monkey house, bandstand, lagoon, and fountain. The park became so popular, an agreement was made with the Owensboro City Railroad to build tracks from the city limits (Ninth Street) to the park for daily streetcar runs.

Originally named Hickman Park, the name was changed to American Legion Park in honor of those who served in World War I.

This marker was dedicated in July 1994 in celebration of the 100th anniversary of Legion Park. (Funding provided by American Legion Post No. 9 and the City of Owensboro.)



Shelia Heflin, supervisor of the Kentucky Room, Daviess County Public Library, at the dedication on 27 July 1994 of the James H. Hickman – Legion Park historical memorial. She worked on preparing the dedication program.

Note by Jerry Long : In compiling this article I visited Legion Park to take pictures of the Hickman – Legion Park memorial. To my surprise I discovered that the memorial was no longer in the park. On 27 February 2024 I called the Owensboro parks department to inquire about it. The person who answered had no knowledge about the marker and suggested I call the mayor’s office. She transferred me to Adrienne Carrico, the Owensboro mayor’s executive assistant. The mayor’s assistant knew nothing about the marker but said she would have someone investigate what happened to it.

The mayor’s assistant called me on 4 March 2024 and said they have located the whereabouts of the Hickman memorial. She said several years ago when major renovations were being done at the park to safeguard against damage the memorial was taken down and put in storage. After the renovations were completed the marker was forgotten about and it was not returned to the park. It has been found wrapped in bubble wrap in the parks department’s storage facility. This week it will be returned to the park. She thanked me for bringing to light the oversight.

I found that the renovations to the park’s picnic shelters, gazebos and restrooms had been done in 2008 – a notice of the building permits issued for these renovations was published in the Owensboro Messenger-Inquirer (on 20 April 2008, p.6D). Thus the memorial has been absent from the park for the past 15 years.

The marker was re-installed on 5 March 2024 in Legion Park in front of the east shelter building facing Byers Avenue:





Hickman – Legion Park memorial



Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 22 February 2004, p.3E:

Pure service

Three-time mayor helped build a more beautiful Owensboro

By Glenn Hodges, Messenger-Inquirer

On Friday evening, Jan. 9, 1931, Dr. James Hardin Hickman, three-time mayor of Owensboro, left his business office on St. Ann Street and returned home to 1524 Frederica St., where he was living with his daughter and her husband, Virginia and Marcus Stuart.

Hickman went to his upstairs bedroom about 5 o'clock and, a short time later, his grandson, James Stuart, heard a shot. Rushing to the room, young Stuart discovered that Hickman had shot himself in the heart with a .32-caliber pistol. Dr. O.W. Rash was called, but Hickman died about an hour later without regaining consciousness. He was 78 years old.

In its report of the death the next day, the Daily Messenger said Hickman had been "despondent for some time" and, according to the family, had suffered from a cold and cough for "two or three weeks."

"Dr. Hickman left a brief note to the effect that he had reached the end of a long journey and had grown weary," the paper stated.

Hickman was survived by his daughter; two sons, William of Chicago and Chris of New York; and several grandchildren. His wife, Adele, had died in 1887.

"Some men die, are mourned for a brief period and then forgotten," the Messenger wrote later. "There are others whose deeds survive long after them - monuments to their lives, their accomplishments and good works. In the latter category can be placed Dr. James H. Hickman, whose death late Friday resulted in expressions of regret throughout Owensboro."

A wonderful life had ended tragically for a talented man who not only had been a doctor and mayor, but a pharmacist, tobacco merchant, bank vice president, manufacturer of famous wagons, a school board member and a city commissioner.

In appearance, Hickman was described by one writer as "tall, handsome and ramrod straight." Through times of frail health and financial misfortune, he was said to have never despaired or quit and always survived. As mayor, he was known for his frankness, sincerity, courage and common sense.

Hickman also had a hobby that he incorporated into his public life. He had a love for flowers, trees and shrubs. According to the Messenger, some who knew Hickman in those days said providing Owensboro with beautiful places was almost an obsession with him. Driven by his love for beautification, he started the city's parks system.

Hickman was born in Bardstown on March 17, 1852, the son of Burnette and Dr. William Hickman, and came to Daviess County with his parents in 1866. He graduated from the University of Louisville Medical School in 1875 and then practiced medicine and was engaged in both the pharmaceutical and tobacco businesses in Owensboro.

In 1884, Hickman became the first president of the Owensboro Wagon Co. That business was so successful during his years at the helm that the company stock became one of the most valuable investments in this area of Kentucky, the Messenger reported. When Hickman later sold his interest in the wagon company, the stock brought \$2 for every \$1. He then started Hickman-Ebbert Wagon Co. in 1906, but most of his accumulated wealth was lost when the company failed during the national Panic of 1907.

At one time, Hickman was among the largest landholders in Daviess County, owning 1,500 acres of prime timberland in the Panther Creek bottoms. One of Hickman's favorite projects was to straighten and drain Panther Creek and transform that area into a rich agriculture section. In fact, it was Hickman who first filed a petition in county courts to get the project started, the Messenger said. He also was able to procure from the government an experienced drainage engineer to plan and develop the project.

Hickman first served as mayor from 1890 to 1897, again from 1913 to 1918 and, finally, from 1922 to 1926. His tenure at the reins of city government was longer than any other mayor in Owensboro history.

His administrations as mayor were "clean as a hound's tooth," the Messenger once remarked.

"His constant effort was to improve and beautify the city," Messenger Editor Urey Woodson opined during Hickman's campaign for mayor in 1913. "Naturally enough, therefore, as the election of another mayor comes near, many of the citizens have again turned to Dr. Hickman as their candidate. They want to tender a testimonial to this splendid, brave man who through the worst of adversity has kept a brave heart and whose enthusiastic interest in his home town never lags."

Early on as mayor, Hickman succeeded in convincing Owensboro residents that it was more economical to pave city streets. During his terms of service, a new City Hall was built at Fourth and St. Ann streets, and additions to the hospital and municipal water and light plants were constructed.

In April 1894, Hickman and the city council purchased 24 acres of land a mile and a half south of town and established Hickman Park, which was named in his honor by a popular vote of residents.

Built in what then was called Riley's Woods, the new park included walking trails, flower beds, water fountains, a monkey house, footbridges, a lagoon, picnic areas and a bandstand. The park quickly became a popular recreation site. Street car tracks on Frederica Street were extended from Ninth Street so citizens could ride out to the park.

During Hickman's second run as mayor in 1916, he acquired 30 acres of land on the southeastern edge of town and built a park where Chautauqua meetings had been held in the past. In 1917, Hickman and the City Commission approved a petition to establish a park for African-American residents on West Fifth Street between Maple and Vine (now Orchard) streets. (The park was renamed Kendall-Perkins Park in 1973.) In 1929, during Hickman's third term, the city obtained the Taylor-Moreland family property near West 12th Street and named it Moreland Park in honor of Alexander Moreland, an early resident of Daviess County. Riverview Park, now known as Bill Smothers Park, was also Hickman's creation.

In 1924, one of Hickman's more magnanimous acts as mayor came in his appeal to Daviess Fiscal Court to repair the road leading from Frederica Street to Hickman Park. "Put a hard surface on the road and call it Legion Boulevard, and then I will have the City Commission change the name of Hickman Park to that of American Legion Park in honor of the Daviess County young men who served in the war (World War I)," he said.

Hickman also began beautifying the courthouse yard as a park for downtown residents and a playground for children while their parents might be in the shopping district. As an exalted member of the Elks Club, Hickman made a liberal donation for the courthouse lawn project. He often was seen on the courthouse square, attending to the laying out of a flower bed, the graveling of a walk or the placement of shrubs and plants.

The beautification and development of the city's parks was Hickman's greatest legacy. But no one ever forgot his honesty.

After his death, residents of town and newspaper editorialists remembered Hickman as a "gentle, generous soul."

"Many years ago Dr. Hickman was head of one of Owensboro's greatest industries," the Messenger said the day after he died. "He disposed of his interest in that concern and launched a new one. Then came business reverses over which he had no control and a fortune was swept away. But he carried on year after year, giving to the city of Owensboro his time and thought, taking the lead in making it one of the most progressive cities in the country."

"Dr. Hickman was generous to a fault," the Messenger also observed in its final tribute. "City officials have often said they has seen him take the last dollar from his pocket and give to some deserving woman who appealed to him for aid for her family. If able to grant it, he never refused to aid a needy person.

The newspaper added: "But no bribe-offerer ever had the temerity to approach him. His official life was as pure as the tender blossoms that will burst forth this spring from plants placed by his own hands in the Owensboro parks he loved so well."



See also Owensboro newspaper articles:

- Owensboro Weekly Messenger – 1877: 10/17 p.2 (Dr. J. H. Hickman recently married)
- Owensboro Weekly Messenger – 1879: 11/5 p.3 (Dr. J. H. "Jimmie" Hickman is selling farm at Utica & moving to Owensboro)
- Owensboro Messenger & Examiner – 1880: 1/28 p.3 (joins drug firm of Courtney, Hickman & Co.)
- Owensboro Semi-Weekly Messenger & Examiner – 1881: 1/25 p.3 (has opened a carpet store)
- Owensboro Semi-Weekly Messenger – 1884: 6/3 p.4 (will put another story on his Frederica Street residence)
- Owensboro Messenger – 1887: 5/13 p.4 (having a new residence built)
- Owensboro Messenger – 1887: 7/19 p.4 (granted a building permit for house on Frederica Street)
- Owensboro Messenger & Examiner – 1887: 8/25 p.3 (planning to erect a hotel)
- Owensboro Messenger – 1888: 10/11 p.2 (picture of his residence)
- Owensboro Messenger – 1890: 12/2 p.2 (elected Owensboro mayor on 1 December 1890)
- Owensboro Messenger – 1890: 12/16 p.1 (took office as mayor on 15 December 1890)
- Owensboro Weekly Messenger – 1890: 3/13 p.3 (he & J. D. Powers bought lot at the corner of Frederica & Fifth Streets in Owensboro from Mrs. Mildred Duke for \$6,940, they now own the entire square on the west side of Frederica, between Fourth & Fifth, includes the Moreland tract which they bought three years ago, the whole will be a fortune to them)
- Owensboro Weekly Messenger – 1890: 8/28 p.2 (editorial on his eligibility for office of mayor)
- Owensboro Inquirer – 1890: 8/13 p.1, 8/21 p.1 (president of the Electric Light Company)
- Owensboro Messenger – 1890: 8/22 p.1 (question of his eligibility to run for office of mayor is resolved)
- Owensboro Inquirer – 1890: 9/23 p.1 (the city primary)
- Owensboro Inquirer – 1890: 12/16 p.1 (took oath as mayor)
- Owensboro Messenger – 1892: 12/6 p.2 (elected Owensboro mayor on 5 December 1892)
- Owensboro Messenger – 1892: 12/20 p.1 (took office as mayor on 19 December 1892)
- Owensboro Messenger – 1893: 2/8 p.1 (born at Bardstown on 17 March 1852, came to Daviess County at age of 14)
- Owensboro Messenger – 1893: 11/9 p.1 (elected Owensboro mayor on 7 November 1893)
- Owensboro Messenger – 1893: 12/5 p.1 (took office as mayor on 4 December 1893)
- Owensboro Messenger – 1894: 1/17 p.1 (gives first annual Mayor's address)
- Owensboro Inquirer – 1895: 11/6 p.1 (elected Owensboro mayor on 5 November 1895)
- Owensboro Inquirer – 1895: 12/3 p.1 (took office as mayor on 2 December 1895)
- Owensboro Messenger – 1896: 3/1 p.1 (sells his Frederica Street residence)
- Owensboro Inquirer – 1897: 11/7 p.1 (new president of the Daviess County Fair Company)
- Owensboro Inquirer – 1897: 11/15 p.2 (editorial on Sunday closing law)

- Owensboro Inquirer – 1897: 12/6 p.1 (today is last day in office as mayor)
- Owensboro Inquirer – 1898: 8/2 p.4 (sold his interest in the Rudd House hotel to his partner, John Murphy)
- Owensboro Inquirer – 1899: 1/29 p.8B (president of the Owensboro Wagon Company)
- Owensboro Inquirer – 1899: 3/17 p.4 (moved to new home at corner of Fourth & Locust)
- Owensboro Inquirer – 1900: 2/27 p.1 (he & W. A. Steele plan to erect a carriage factory)
- Owensboro Messenger – 1900: 2/28 p.5 (plans to erect new buggy & carriage factory, Owensboro Buggy Company)
- Owensboro Messenger – 1900: 3/3 p.2 (Owensboro Buggy Company incorporated)
- Owensboro Messenger – 1900: 3/6 p.4 (arbitration over the naming of corporation)
- Owensboro Inquirer – 1901: 4/23 p.2 (will not be candidate for mayor)
- Owensboro Inquirer – 1902: 11/9 p.12 ("Men Who Have Made Owensboro", in March 1888 became connected to the Owensboro Wagon Company and was elected its president; he & W. A. Steele organized the Owensboro Buggy Company in 1900)
- Owensboro Inquirer – 1903: 5/24 p.1 ("An Invention That Will Revolutionize the Entire Horseless Carriage Business", automobile to be built in Owensboro)
- Owensboro Inquirer – 1904: 10/24 p.1 (sold his holdings in the Owensboro Wagon Company to W. A. Steele for \$110,000, became president of the company in 1888)
- Owensboro Messenger – 1904: 10/25 p.1 (sells interest in Owensboro Wagon Company)
- Owensboro Inquirer – 1904: 12/29 p.1 (Hickman-Ebbert Wagon Company organized, he will be the president)
- Owensboro Messenger – 1904: 12/30 p.1 (Hickman-Ebbert Wagon Co. established)
- Owensboro Inquirer – 1905: 1/1 p.1 (Hickman-Ebbert Company incorporated)
- Owensboro Inquirer – 1905: 1/5 p.1 (Hickman-Ebbert Company now fully organized)
- Owensboro Inquirer – 1905: 1/12 p.3 (deed recorded for new Hickman-Ebbert factory)
- Owensboro Inquirer – 1905: 3/19 p.13 (birthday celebration)
- Owensboro Inquirer – 1905: 4/30 p.8 (purchased an automobile from the Franklin Automobile Company of Syracuse, NY, it will arrive in about three weeks)
- Owensboro Inquirer – 1905: 6/12 p.8 (his new auto arrived in Owensboro on Sunday)
- Owensboro Messenger – 1905: 6/1 p.1 (Hickman-Ebbert Wagon Company to be enlarged)
- Owensboro Messenger – 1905: 6/11 p.9 (work progressing on new Hickman-Ebbert plant)
- Owensboro Messenger – 1905: 9/2 p.5 (sale of lots in Hickman-Ebbert Addition)
- Owensboro Messenger – 1905: 9/15 p.2 (list of purchasers of lots in Hickman-Ebbert Addition)
- Owensboro Messenger – 1907: 4/26 p.1 (purchases Thomson residence on South Frederica)
- Owensboro Messenger – 1907: 9/22 p.6B (president of the Hickman-Ebbert Company)
- Owensboro Messenger – 1908: 10/25 p.3 (W. A. Ebbert resigns from the Hickman-Ebbert Wagon Company)
- Owensboro Inquirer – 1909: 8/1 p.12B (Hickman-Ebbert Company, manufacturers of wagons, was organized on 1 January 1906)
- Owensboro Messenger – 1910: 2/22 p.4 (plant of Hickman-Ebbert Company to be sold), 1911: 6/21 p.1 (Universal Stenotype Company acquires old Hickman-Ebbert plant)
- Owensboro Messenger – 1913: 8/1 p.1A (candidate for mayor)

- Owensboro Messenger – 1913: 11/5 p.1A (elected Owensboro mayor on 4 November 1913)
- Owensboro Messenger – 1913: 12/2 p.1A (takes office as mayor on 1 December 1913)
- Owensboro Messenger – 1915: 1/19 p.1 (annual report as mayor), 1916: 1/3 p.1 (annual report as mayor)
- Owensboro Messenger – 1917: 8/19 p.1B (father of the local park system)
- Owensboro Messenger – 1920: 6/23 p.7 (Hickman-Ebbert suburb now part of Owensboro)
- Owensboro Messenger – 1921: 11/9 p.1A (elected mayor on 8 November 1921)
- Owensboro Messenger – 1922: 1/3 p.1A (took office as mayor on 2 January 1922)
- Owensboro Inquirer – 1924: 5/29 p.4D ("Beautiful Parks Add To Many Charms of Owensboro" by Mayor J. H. Hickman, first unit of park system bought in 1894; son of William A. Hickman, came to Daviess County when about 14, practiced as a doctor for a short period, received degree at the Medical University of Louisville in 1875, later engaged in drug & tobacco business, president of the Owensboro Wagon Company for many years, organized the Hickman-Ebbert Wagon Company)
- Owensboro Messenger-Inquirer – 1986: 7/6 p.1C&3C (Tour of Historic Homes: Medley-Thompson-Hickman house, 1220 Frederica Street)
- Owensboro Messenger-Inquirer – 1994: 7/3 p.1E ("Legion Park: That was then...This is now")
- Owensboro Messenger-Inquirer – 1994: 7/28 p.1A ("City parks' founder honored with plaque")
- Owensboro Messenger-Inquirer – 2004: 2/22 p.3E ("Pure Service: Three-time mayor helped build a more beautiful Owensboro")



Legion Park