

Lucius Powhatan Little (1838-1918) Author – Historian

By Jerry Long, Owensboro, Ky.
c.2021 & 2025

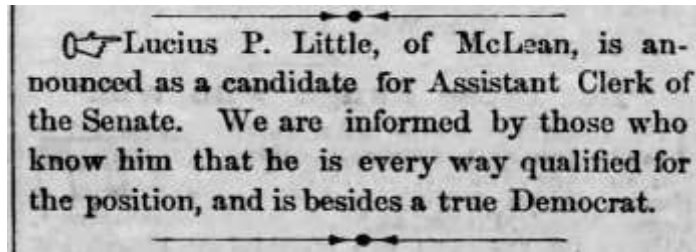


Lucius Powhatan Little

The Commonwealth, Frankfort, KY, Monday, 19 October 1857, p.3:

We are authorized to announce Mr. L. P. LITTLE, as a candidate for the office of Assistant Clerk of the Senate at the next session of the Legislature. Oct. 19.

The Tri-Weekly Kentucky Yeoman, Frankfort, KY, Tuesday, 22 November 1859, p.2:



The Tri-Weekly Kentucky Yeoman, Frankfort, KY, Tuesday, 3 November 1874, p.2:

We had a little re-union in our town last week, at the residence of Judge D. Little, Hon. Lucius P. Little, a prominent lawyer of Owensboro; Hon. Finis H. Little, of the Mississippi Senate, and R. B. Little, Chancery Clerk of Monroe county, Miss., were visiting their father, who is Judge of ibis county. Another son. Mr. A. W. Little, who is Clerk of the Supreme Court of Mississippi, was detained at home, his court being in session.

McLean Co. Progress.



Courier-Journal, Louisville, KY, Wednesday, 4 August 1880, p.2:

PILLARS OF JUSTICE.

The Successful Candidates Upon
Whom Fell the Judicial Ermine on Monday,
Brief Biographies of the New Circuit
Judges and Commonwealth's Attorneys.

A STRONG ARRAY OF LEGAL TALENT.

—
Circuit Judges.

The state is divided into eighteen judicial districts, in each of which a Judge and Attorney are elected for six years. Below are given sketches of the Judges by districts...

District 5 – LUCIUS POWHATAN LITTLE.

Judge Little was born in Daviess county, February 15, 1838. His father, Douglass Little, was born in McLean county, where he was County Judge for three terms. His mother was a native of Virginia, her parents being named Wright.

The subject of this sketch attended the best school afforded in Calhoon, McLean county, until his sixteenth year, when he entered the office of the County Clerk as a deputy. Here he improved his leisure hours by reading law, and at the age of nineteen was licensed to practice in the courts. He afterwards spent two years in the law school of Cumberland University at

Lebanon, Tenn., where he was graduated in 1857 with the degree of Bachelor of Laws. He practiced at Calhoon until 1861, when he removed to Louisville, remaining here a short time, and then to Marysville, Cal. Tn 1862 he returned to Owensboro.

While attempting to recruit a company of soldiers for the Southern army in the fall of 1862, Little was arrested by the Federal authorities at Bowling Green and held a prisoner for several months, only being released upon taking the oath of allegiance and giving bond. The next two years he spent in Cuba and Mexico. He resumed the practice of law at Calhoon in 1864, where he remained for four years. In 1868 he located permanently at Owensboro and has attained a valuable practice and a comfortable competency.

Judge Little has never held an office until the present time. He was twice before a candidate for office, but at least on one occasion was defeated by being one of several Democratic candidates to oppose a single Republican. He has been a regular contributor to the local newspapers of his town, though never connected with one as an editor.

He has been married twice first to Miss Lizzie Freeman, of Franklin county, and again to Miss Louise Holloway, of Henderson. Though not a member of any denomination, Judge Little is regarded as partial to Methodism.

[Note: The preceding article was published in several Kentucky cities, including: Semi-Weekly Messenger and Examiner, Owensboro, KY, 6 August 1880, p.2, ("The Newly Elected. The *Courier-Journal* gives biographical sketches of all the newly elected Judges and Commonwealth's Attorneys in the State, it refers to those chosen for this district in the following terms." and Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY, 11 August 1880, p.2.]



History of Daviess County, Kentucky,
Chicago: Inter-State Publishing Co., 1883, pp.32 (portrait) & 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 settler's cabin. Indeed, the 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.



Daily Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 30 January 1887, p.4:

BEN HARDIN:
HIS TIMES AND CONTEMPORARIES.

The Highly Interesting Sketch of the Life of the Great
Kentucky Lawyer, by Hon, L. P. Little, now in Press.

"Ben Hardin: His Times and Contemporaries, with selections from his Speeches, Hon. Lucius P. Little," is the title of a work in course of publication, which will be ready for delivery early in the spring of 1887. Its plan is in some respects unique, combining, as it does, in orderly arrangement not only biography of the principal subject, but sketches of history, biography, politics and parties, Congressional life, celebrated trials, constitutional law, slavery in Kentucky, etc., interspersed with old-time gossip, co reminiscences, and wit and humor, not only of the bench and bar, but of common life.

I. CONCERNING THE AUTHOR'S MATERIALS.

In its preparation the author has devoted much time and labor for the past two years.

The records of Congress, and the State Legislature, political miscellany, Kentucky history and biography, old newspapers, and many court records, have been resorted to for information with abundant success. But perhaps the most entertaining pages will be those where the silver-haired survivors of Mr. Hardin's generation have recalled the sunshine of youth and young manhood by relating their reminiscences of "Old Ben."

II. BIOGRAPHICAL AND HISTORICAL FEATURES.

Referring to its literary features, it is believed to be a worthy presentation of the life of one who, as lawyer, statesman, humorist, enjoyed in his day a renown attained by no other Kentuckian. The work follows, with elaborate recital of anecdote and incident, the not uneventful history of its subject, from the humble beginning of the farmer's boy to the close of a long, prosperous, and brilliant career of near three-score and ten. Mr. Hardin was born in Pennsylvania, came in childhood to Kentucky, was reared in Washington county, educated at Bardstown and Hartford, studied law at Richmond with Martin D. Hardin a year, and finished with Felix Grundy at Bardstown, commenced practice at "Elizabeth," then became a "Bardstown

lawyer;" was first county attorney; next attorney for the Commonwealth; at different times and often member of either house of the Legislature; in that body in 1824 was the champion of the "Old Court;" was twice presidential elector for Clay, and always an active politician; was ten years in Congress; a delegate and leader in the constitutional convention of 1849-50; a circuit court lawyer without a superior; in active practice near a half century, and engaged in some of the most celebrated cases of his time; was a speaker of great power at the bar, in Congress, and on the hustings. Such in brief outline was Mr. Hardin's life.

III. PROFESSIONAL CHARACTER.

His professional characteristics are discussed in detail and illustrated by many extracts from his speeches and numerous court-house anecdotes.

Sketches are given of the following celebrated trials in which Mr. Hardin was engaged as counsel:

1. Green v. Biddle, Supreme Court of States, involving the constitutionality of the occupying claimant law.

2. Dupareq vs. Rice, action for libel; Dupareq, a priest (represented by Mr. Hardin), suing the celebrated N. L. Rice for libel in charging the abduction of a nun.

3. The Wilkerson case, murder, where Mr. Hardin prosecuted and the eloquent Sargent S. Prentiss defended. (Mr. Hardin's speech is given in full.)

4. Spencer's case, murder; a remarkable case of circumstantial evidence, Mr. Hardin prosecuting.

5. R. Logan Wickliffe's case, murder; prosecuted by Nathaniel Wolfe, Esq., and defended by Mr. Hardin with a degree of ingenuity, skill and humor never equalled.

IV. HUMOR.

Not only is a special chapter devoted to Mr. Hardin's characteristics as a humorist, but illustrations of this trait abound throughout the work. In wit, humor, sarcasm and ridicule, he has had few equals. His speeches abound with instances of his talent in this respect.

V. POLITICIAN AND STATESMAN.

His public career has been traced by stating the questions in the Legislature and in Congress with which he was connected, showing his position relation thereto and giving his speeches thereon. The following are some of the subjects thus referred to : The dueling law in the State Legislature in 1801, and the "Old and New Court" and cognate questions in 1824; and in Congress, the direct tax and the charter of the United States Bank in 1816; the compensation, or "salary grab," law in 1817; the Missouri compromise measures of 1820; the removal deposits in 1833; and Jacksonism, in the abstract and concrete, from 1833 to 1837. In the Constitutional Convention of 1849-50, he discussed to a greater less extent, and always with interest and force, not only every political question of that day, but also all the great problems in the science of government, as well as the minutest details of political economy.

VI. THE OWSLEY AFFAIR.

One of the most interesting and exciting episodes of his life was the contest between Governor Owsley and himself on the occasion when the former undertook to eject him from the office of Secretary of State for alleged abandonment, non-feasance, etc. When the Governor sought to have Mr. Hardin's successor confirmed, the latter appeared before the Senate and made a speech in opposition, compared by some who heard it to the best efforts of Edmund Burke. That speech, with a sketch of the controversy, is given in full.

VII. TWO GREAT EVENTS.

Two of the most important events in the constitutional history of Kentucky – the "Old and New Court" contest of 1823-25 and the convention that framed the present constitution of the State – are carefully reviewed and discussed. In no other single publication will the student of history find them so fully and clearly treated.

VIII. SPEECHES.

A selection of his speeches on various topics – forensic, constitutional and political – has been made, from which the reader for himself may discover the peculiar flavor of his genius and the indescribable power of his oratory.

IX. CONTEMPORARIES.

Not the least interesting and valuable feature will be the sketches of Mr. Hardin's contemporaries, his rivals and colleagues at the bar and in politics, and the judges presiding in the courts where he practiced. Indeed, the work will, in a measure, supply in Kentucky the place occupied in several other States by those volumes of legal biography, miscellany, and facetia bearing the common title of "Bench and Bar," of which that by the late Hon. Henry S. Foote is perhaps best known west of the Alleghanies.

Biographical notices, sketches of character, anecdotes, and reminiscences have been gathered in regard to a great number of distinguished Kentuckians, among others of following: Martin D. Hardin, Solomon P. Sharpe, William T. Barry, John Boyle, Benjamin Mills, William Owsley, Felix Grundy, John Rowan, William P. Duvall, John Hayes, Benjamin Chapeze, Charles A. Wickliffe, Stephen Ormsby, Fortunatus Cosby, Sr., John P. Oldham, Paul I. Booker, Armistead H. Churchill, Samuel Carpenter, Henry P. Broadnax, Alney McLean, John Calhoon, Dr. Christopher A. Rudd, John Pope, etc.



Daily Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Friday, 22 July 1887, p.4:

-"Ben Hardin; His Times and Contemporaries," by Judge Lucius P. Little, is now ready for delivery. Fred A. Pettit, the local agent, will supply all who desire the book. Cloth, \$4; sheep, or (library), \$5.



Ben Hardin: His Times and Contemporaries, With Selections From His Speeches, Lucius P. Little, Louisville, KY: Courier-Journal Job Printing Company, 1887, 640 pages:

PREFACE [pages VII – XI].

Some readers may inquire why the life of Ben Hardin should be written. If it be answered, because he was a great man, the question will, doubtless, be retorted, how, and in what? The chapters that follow must, mainly, answer that question. What men have accomplished, is ordinarily accepted as a measure of their genius and power. That success is an evidence of ability is true, but the limitation of a career by casual or trivial causes, by no means proves lack of merit. Hampdens and Cromwells by scores rest in the obscurity of country churchyards. If one, in a long career, evinces integrity in temptation, strength in trial, courage in difficulty and danger, fortitude in adversity and disaster; and if, to the accomplishment of every

high duty, he brings indomitable will and great talents, such a one better earns the laurel of the immortals than the graceless adventurer who "rides through slaughter to a throne."

For a considerable period not far from the year 1820, there were four contemporaries from four different American States, whose names were household words throughout the western country. Between them were wide dissimilarities, and yet there were striking points of likeness between the characters of all. They were strangely alike and unlike. Almost everything that was odd, grotesque, humorous, witty, or sarcastic in the current thought of their day was attributed to one or other of these four. Their real or supposed utterances were everywhere accepted as the mintage of genius. To their slightest deliverances an admiring and partial public gave attentive ear. Between the backwoods Crockett, of Tennessee, and the polished Randolph, of Virginia, was a long step, but somewhere in the interval stood the exuberant Corwin, of Ohio, and the homely-witted Hardin, of Kentucky. These four in their respective States were the exponents of certain phases of thought and sentiment, represented by no others. To define exactly what these ideas were would, indeed, be difficult. They were not only all ultra in their republicanism, but they were the antipodes of all that was pharisaical, hypocritical, or pretentious in politics or morals. While anything but partisan leaders, they had easy and constant access to the popular heart. Wrongheaded they might be, but their sincerity no one ever doubted. To this sincerity, a close sympathy with the interests and feelings of the great mass of the people, and an uncalculating devotion to whatever they believed to be right, supplemented by unusual talents, may be attributed the renown enjoyed by these men. Crockett was rude and uncouth, but honest and heroic. To the homely sense of the backwoodsman, he joined a spirit as brave and chivalrous as any that followed the banner of the Black Prince against the Infidel. Randolph was a political Ishmaelite. Erratic in everything save his principles, he defied all opposition and scorned all difficulty. With all his impracticability, he was the High Priest of constitutional liberty, sacrificing on its altar private interest and popular favor. Corwin was a genial man, overflowing in his sympathies — loving and beloved by the people among whom he dwelt. His wit and humor flowed in a perennial stream. Like the sun, it illuminated the National Capitol when statesmen were his auditors, and shone not less brightly for the inmates of the humble cabins of the Buckeye State. Crockett, Randolph, and Corwin have all found biographers. In these pages a like service is attempted for Mr. Hardin, under the belief that his name should be written high in the catalogue of notable Americans.

Various persons, at different times, have entertained the purpose of writing Mr. Hardin's life. Among others, the late Colonel Albert G. Hodges, long and favorably known in the State as editor of the Frankfort Commonwealth, made a collection of materials for a memoir, in which he had the aid of Mr. Hardin, but, unfortunately for the cause of literature, he postponed his work until overtaken by death. His collection has been lost — a loss that has not been and can not be supplied. Occasional writers have found in Mr. Hardin's life a rich field of reminiscence which has not been exhausted by frequent gleanings, yet all attempts at a formal biography have, thus far, proved abortive. On the Christmas eve of 1884, as the author sat alone by a bright and cheerful coal-fire, in the small town where his youth had been spent, reflection was busy with the "sad vicissitude of things." 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. Somewhat illogically, a resentful feeling arose against Boston, for no better reason than because that city was continually calling the muster-roll

of its great and worthy children in the hearing of the world. Why should these New Englanders, it was soliloquized, be thus perpetuated, while the memory of Kentucky's great sons hastens to that hopeless oblivion submerging the mound-builders? The sober second thought, however, acquitted the city of poets and philosophers, for, indeed, it was no more than faithful to its own offspring— the highest of maternal virtues. Moreover, it would be ungrateful not to acknowledge the debt which all Americans owe to that great fountain of American thought. What earthly reason, indeed, had Kentuckians for complaint? True they were not ready-writers, nor adept in the arts of literature, but still they could, at least, take mallet and chisel in hand, like "Old Mortality," and freshen and carve again the fading names on tottering and moss-covered grave-stones.

As a sequel to this cogitation, the author, feeling his humble share of responsibility in the matter, resolved to essay something for the rescue and preservation of the memory of his dead countrymen. So it came that a subject was selected, and a circular letter devised and sent, with some misgivings, to many persons requesting information and material for this work, in which its principal subject was thus referred to : "I have selected Mr. Hardin, of all that galaxy of great men among whom he flourished, not because he was necessarily greatest, but rather because his genius, more than that of another, was indigenous to his age and its surroundings. He was the product of his time, imbued with its spirit, and in sympathy with its thought and sentiment. His career was a long and successful one. At its outset he became famous. Until the end — at the bar, on the 'stump,' in State and national councils — he extended, widened, and strengthened his early prestige. Always a mighty, intellectual force, he had the good fortune to impress himself and his characteristics on his day and generation as few have done."

To this appeal a generous response was made — so generous as greatly to encourage the author in the prosecution of his announced purpose. Nothing, it may be observed, has been discovered rendering it necessary to qualify this early, brief, and hasty estimate, but, on the other hand, everything learned of Mr. Hardin has tended to illustrate and confirm it.

How far the query of the reader first supposed may have been answered by what has just been said or by the contents of this volume will not be surmised, whatever hopes may be indulged. Not a little of American biography has been ancillary to political purposes, in which all the shaded lines of character have been studiously penciled out, and thereby a sort of moral emasculation effected. Such literature is objectionable, in that it makes its subjects monotonously great and gifted.

The present work will prove a marked contrast in this respect. The purpose has not been to write the life of a saint, or an impossible or improbable ideal, but rather faithfully to depict the manhood and character of one, who, with a full average of human infirmities, possessed great talents, which he faithfully devoted to his State and generation. To do this adequately, a sketch of his contemporaries and the events in which he and they bore part, was deemed necessary. To Mr. Hardin has been assigned the principal place in this portrayal, yet the noted men with whom he came in contact have had such brief justice done them as the exigency of the narrative would allow.

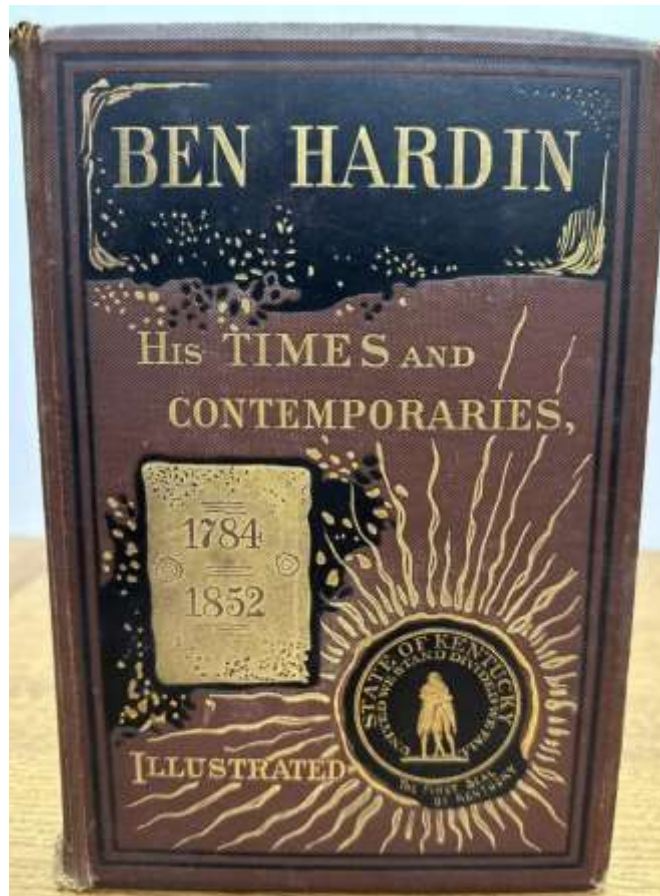
In justification of this plan it must be remembered that many of the events and personages alluded to are not familiar to the general reader, and are not discussed elsewhere, or if at all but briefly, and in books not usually accessible. So digressions and details became necessary, which would not have been the case if Kentucky, and the South and West, had had more of a literature of their own.

No effort will here be made to avoid or placate criticism. The work is imperfect, and no one can realize it more keenly and regretfully than its author. Perhaps, one so little equipped for the task; one whom the commoner but tyrannical cares of life left such brief intervals for its performance, should not have undertaken it. Confessing all, however, it is only claimed that, with such opportunity, material, and talent as he possessed, he has labored earnestly and faithfully to add to the store of knowledge something that will please, instruct, inspire, and elevate.

The author makes his grateful acknowledgements for kindnesses from many friends in the preparation of this work. While the anticipation is pleasant that these may, to some extent, find realized whatever expectation may have been indulged, there were others whom he hoped to please, who, during its progress, have been summoned to their final account, and this reflection restrains and tempers the satisfaction he would otherwise experience at the end of his task.

L. P. L.

OWENSBORO, Ky., May, 1887.



Cover of volume bound in embossed cloth, with marbled edges, the front bearing the dates 1784-1852 (the life span of Ben Hardin) and an artistic impression of the first seal of the State of Kentucky.



Messenger and Examiner, Owensboro, KY, Thursday, 22 September 1887, p.2:

A New Kentucky Book.

One of the handsomest of the many criticisms of Judge Little's book by the Kentucky press following from the Maysville Republican:

"The Hon. Lucius P. Little, of Western Kentucky, has written a book which will prove a rare treat to those who rightly study the history of the State. There has been a dearth biography in the books pertaining Kentucky. If our annalists have gone beyond a bare outline of the life of prominent man, it has been for some purpose which obscured his real character. Hence our generation realizes only with difficulty what manner men founded the State and won her reputation in the early days.

"Under the title Ben Hardin: His Times and Contemporaries, Judge Little has rendered a valuable service in recalling, in his proper character, typical Kentuckian of the first quarter of this century. The work is that of an artist, who skillfully portrays the social and political condition of the new state as a background for one of the strongest and most original figures which early Kentucky civilization produced. Here is shown the private life of the man, with the influence of his family connections, the elements which helped to give him professional support and political strength at home; and even the outside acquaintance which the lawyer from the backwoods used to make himself a national figure. The whole of his life seems exposed, without any effort at praise or blame. The evident impartiality of the writer is a great merit of the book.

Why the life of Benjamin Hardin should have been written rather than another's is explained by the writer. He had an individuality worth putting on record; and he had more merit than many a man who reaped more and higher political honors. Judge Little, for one, does not admit that what one accomplishes in public life is the best measure of genius of power. Naturally the author, being a native of Daviess county, would find a subject for biographical study in his own end of the State rather than elsewhere. All the more so because the history of the men who graced the early prominence of Bardstown have received scant notice from historians. Many of these – John Rowan, Felix Grundy, the Wickliffes and the like – are fully referred to here. But the reader will find abundant apology for the existence of the book in its excellence, and in the insight it gives to the early social life and political history of a section and era, with which most of the State is to-day unfamiliar.

There is a pleasant surprise in the admirable literary style of the book, Judge Little not having made himself known before as a writer, outside the columns of the local newspapers of Owensboro. A "self made" man, with little "schooling" except what he paid for himself, after he had been admitted to the bar, he has had little opportunity for literary culture. Yet, the quiet life of a small center has given him time to digest his reading carefully, and he has made good use of his materials. Still less than fifty, we hope that this will not be Judge Little's last work.

The volume is handsome and strong, well printed, with twenty illustrations, from the Courier-Journal Job Printing Company. It is one of the best specimens of Kentucky book-making we have seen.



**A First Chapter in the History of Daviess County,
Original Paper of the Owensboro Investigators Club,**

by Lucius P. Little, written during 1893-1895:

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 necessity 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 potatoes 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 old 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 North 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 dealing death to Pakenham'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 pioneer name of Yellow Banks.

Lucius P. Little.

[“Full of Interest: Meeting of Investigators With H. K. Cole – Instructive Papers Were Read by Prof. McHenry Rhoads and Judge Little,” Owensboro Messenger, 20 July 1902, p.9: – “The original paper by Judge L. P. Little on 'A Chapter of Daviess County History'" dealt with the period of Smeathers and Jo Daviess and brought out many facts of interest not mentioned in local history volumes.” The correct title of the paper delivered on 18 July 1902 was “A First Chapter in the History of Daviess County.”]



Biographical Cyclopedia of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.
Chicago & Philadelphia: John M. Gresham Company, 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.



**The Lawyers and Lawmakers of Kentucky, H. Levin, ed.,
Chicago, Il.: The Lewis Publishing Company, 1897, pp.20 (picture) & 322-324:**



Lucius P. Little.

LUCIUS POWHATTAN LITTLE, of Owensboro, who for many years has been an honored and prominent representative of the bench and bar of Kentucky, was born in Daviess county, Kentucky, February 15, 1836. and is connected with one of its pioneer families. His great-grandfather, George Little, was a native of Scotland, where he grew to manhood and married. Seeking greater religious freedom, he was one of a colony of his countrymen that emigrated to South Carolina anterior to the Revolutionary war. Though opposed to that war, when it began he joined the American army and served until disabled by wounds in battle. In 1802 he came to Kentucky and settled in the vicinity of Fort Vienna, where he resided until his death in 1815.

Jonas Little, a son of George, married Betsy Douglass, and the second son of this marriage was named Douglass. Jonas Little was yet a young man when he accompanied his father to Kentucky. Locating in the same neighborhood he engaged in agricultural pursuits, and reared a numerous family. Like his father, he was of great personal piety, and was not a little disturbed by the religious controversies of the time. He was of high integrity, of strong native good sense, familiar with Josephus and King James' version of the sacred scriptures; a clear thinker and a fluent, forcible and attractive talker. He led a blameless life, and died in 1850, having attained threescore years and ten. His wife, Betsy, survived until beyond eighty, dying during the height of the civil war.

Douglass Little, father of our subject, in early life engaged in farming and carried on the business of manufacturing wagons and plows. He filled various official positions, beginning as a constable, was justice of the peace for eight years, and for three terms of four years each served as judge of McLean county, proving himself in all positions a most capable and faithful officer. He died during his incumbency in the last office, in the year 1877, when sixty-eight years of age.

Several years before his death he had been admitted to the bar and occasionally practiced in the courts. He was honored and revered throughout the community as an upright man and just judge, his personal popularity was great, and his name inseparably connected with the history of his county. He married Martha Wright, a native of Charlotte county, Virginia, who came to Kentucky in 1820, and is still living.

Judge Lucius P. Little, whose name introduces this review, is indebted to the public schools of Calhoon for his educational privileges. He took no college course and obtained only a limited knowledge of Latin at school, but early acquired a taste for substantial literature which largely recompensed for his limited scholastic training. He has truly earned the proud American title of self-made man, and his prominence to-day as a member of the legal profession is due entirely to his own efforts and merit.

He entered the office of the clerk of the circuit court and for three years served as deputy in Daviess and McLean counties. During this time he studied law, and on the expiration of three years he entered the law department of Cumberland University, of Lebanon, Tennessee, where he was graduated in June, 1857, with the degree of Bachelor of Laws. Admitted to the bar in Calhoon, he there engaged in the practice of his profession until 1860. In that year he received the appointment of deputy United States marshal and as such took the census of the county. At the close of the year he removed to Louisville, where he remained one year. He afterward spent a year in California. and in the fall of 1862 returned to Calhoon, Kentucky. and acted as recruiting captain for Adam Johnson's regiment of John H. Morgan's command, C. S. A. While thus engaged he was captured, together with several of his men, and taken to Bowling Green, where he was tried for the offense of recruiting inside of the government lines, the penalty for which, under General Burbridge's order, was death. Through the intercession of friends he escaped the punishment and was released under bond, after which he did not again enter the Confederate service.

During the war Mr. Little went to Texas on legal business, making a long trip by way of New York and Havana in order to reach his destination. In the fall of 1864 he resumed the practice of law in Calhoon, where he remained until February, 1868, when he removed to Owensboro, where he has since resided. In 1874 he was a candidate for the office of circuit judge, but was defeated, there being three candidates in the field. In 1880 he was the nominee of the Democratic party and was elected to that office, and in 1886 was again chosen for that position, being re-elected without opposition. His time expiring in 1893, he declined a further nomination and returned to the practice. Before his election to the bench he had secured a very large and valuable clientage, and when he once more opened his office he was not long in securing a lucrative practice. He has been connected with some of the most important litigation in the courts of his district. His taste, however, is for civil rather than criminal practice.

On the 16th of April, 1868, Judge Little married Miss Lizzie E. Freeman, of Woodford county, who died in March, 1873. He afterward married Louise A. Holloway, of Henderson county, the wedding being celebrated October 5, 1875. This happy union was terminated by the untimely death of the wife, March 4, 1887. On the 15th of January, 1889, the Judge married Miss Fanny Beach, of Maryland. His children are L. Freeman, Lizzie E., Laura S., William, Martha B., Frances W., Catherine D. and Stanhope.

Judge Little is a prominent member of the Methodist Episcopal church, south, and for some years has served as its trustee. In 1894 he was sent as a delegate from the Louisville conference to the general conference at Memphis, Tennessee. He is an active Freemason, and is past eminent commander of the Knights Templar. and is one of the leading members of the

Investigation Club, a prominent literary society of Owensboro, and also of the Filson Club, of Louisville. He did the chief editorial labor for the Owensboro Examiner from 1876 to 1879, and is the author of a work entitled "Ben Hardin, His Times and Contemporaries," which he wrote between the years 1884 and 1887, and which is an important contribution to the historic literature of the state. He has hitherto borne an active part in politics, taking the "stump" for his party when occasion demanded. His writings on the subjects and issues of the day are clear, concise and masterful, and he has delivered many interesting and instructive lectures on literary topics. A scholarly, courteous gentleman, Judge Little is one of the prominent lawyers of the state and a leading citizen of Owensboro.

Lucius Freeman Little, the Judge's eldest son, was born on the 29th of January, 1869, and acquired his early education in the local schools. He afterward took a three-years' special course in Princeton University, and studied law under the supervision of his father. He was admitted to practice in December, 1892, at Owensboro, and has since been associated with his father in the prosecution of his chosen profession.



Memoirs of the Lower Ohio Valley, Volume II,
Madison, Wisc.: Federal Publishing Company, 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 for 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, Owensboro, KY, 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.

[Note: "See copy of Local Preachers in Old Times in Kentucky," West-Central Kentucky History & Genealogy, by Jerry Long, <https://wckyhhistory-genealogy.org/kentucky-records/>]



Owensboro Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Tuesday, 31 December 1918, p.3:

BURIAL OF JUDGE LUCIUS P. LITTLE

Services of Former Circuit
Judge at Settle Memorial
Wednesday Afternoon

The funeral of Judge Lucius P. Little, who died Monday afternoon at 2:15 o'clock at his home in Littles court of infirmities incident to advanced age, will be conducted Wednesday afternoon at 2 o'clock front Settle Memorial Methodist church with services by Rev. E. E. Smith, pastor of the Fourth Street Presbyterian church conducting the services. The Interment will be in Elmwood cemetery with the following acting as pallbearers: Honorary —R. W. Slack, Geo. W. Jolly, J. A. Dean, R. S. Hughes, Geo. V. Triplett and Dr. W. F. Stirman. Active—Prof. J. H. Risley, C. W. Wells, James Rodman, A. Y. Allen, Chas. A. Rogers and Jesse B. Harl.

Judge Little was born at Rumsey, in McLean county, February 15, 1838. He was educated in the common schools and later finished in the law school at Lebanon, Tenn., graduating in 1859. He began the practice of profession at the Louisville bar. Shortly before the Civil war began he returned to his native county, locating at Calhoun. On the outbreak of the Civil war Judge Little joined the Confederate army and served for some time before he was captured and paroled.

Returns to Calhoun

Being prevented from rejoining the armies of the South because of his parole he went to Mexico and later came back into the states, going to California. He could not then return to his home under his parole.

At the close of the war he returned to Calhoun and resumed the practice of law. In 1868 he moved to Owensboro and took up the practice of his profession, which he continued with success. He was elected city attorney of Owensboro in 1873 and in the "following year, 1874, resigned to make the race for circuit judge. In this race he had for his opponents James Montgomery, of Elizabethtown, Judge G. F. Wintersmith, Judge R. Y. Bush, of Hawesville and Judge James Stuart, of Owensboro, the latter being the successful candidate. The district was then composed of the counties of Hardin, Meade, Grayson, Ohio, Hancock and Daviess. No nominations were made by either the Democratic or Republican parties, all of the candidates running as free lances.

Forms Law Partnership

In 1874 Judge Little formed a law partnership with Timothy Needham, which was soon dissolved when the latter moved to Hartford in 1876. Judge Little then formed a partnership with the Hon. R. W. Slack, the present circuit judge, which continued until Judge Little was elected to the circuit bench.

In 1879 Judge Little, then a Democratic candidate ran against and defeated Judge James Stuart who ran as an independent candidate for circuit judge. He was reelected in 1885 defeating Judge W. T. Owen for the Democratic nomination. He did not seek a third term, retiring from the office in 1892. In 1894 he made an unsuccessful race for the Democratic congressional nomination against Capt. W. T. Ellis. In 1896 Judge Little took his son, L. Freeman, into partnership in the practice of law, which continued until the latter abandoned the legal profession. Judge Slack and Judge Little again resumed their old relations as law partners in 1902, which continued until the election of Judge Slack to the circuit bench.

Peculiar Circumstance

A peculiar circumstance in this regard occurred. Judge Little received his commission as circuit judge from the late James B. McCreary, as he was retiring from the governorship in 1879. Judge Slack received his commission from Gov. McCreary, as he was retiring from the same office in 1915, 36 years later.

Judge Little was the dean of the Owensboro bar, having been president of the Bar Association for many years. He has been a valuable legal adviser to many of the attorneys now practicing law in this city. He was a most affable gentleman and a learned historian on local affairs. For many years Judge Little was the only stenographer in Owensboro and during the trial of many cases he would take down stenographic notes of the proceedings.

While Judge Little was in office, he wrote a book on the "Life of Ben Hardin of Bardstown" who was one of the most brilliant lawyers in Kentucky. Judge Little had been a Democrat all of his life, and when the party became divided in 1896, he was an ardent supporter of the Palmer and Buckner ticket on the sound money platform. He later joined the Republican party. Judge Little was a past commander of the Owensboro Commandery Knights Templar.

Married Three Times

Judge Little was three times married. The first time to Miss Lizzie Freeman, of Woodford county, Ky.; the second to Miss Louis Holloway, of Henderson and the third to Miss Fanny E. Beach of Bridgeton, N. J.

Besides his widow, he is survived by ten children, nine of whom will be at his funeral. They are L. Freeman Little, of Owensboro; Capt. William Little, with the American army in France; Douglas Little, who arrived from Great Lakes Training station Monday morning; Miss Frances Little, of Baltimore; Stanhope Little, in Service on the U. S. S. Harrisburg; Miss Elizabeth Little, of Owensboro; Mrs. William S. Spieth, of Chicago; Miss Catherine Little and Woodbridge Little, of Owensboro; Mrs. Bright Hawes, of Maceo; Mrs. Latta Fowlkes, of Owensboro was a sister of Judge Little. His only brother was Alonzo Little, of Kansas City.

Bar Association Meets

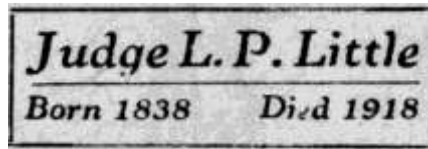
The members of the Owensboro Bar Association met in the circuit court room this morning with Vice-Chairman L. P. Tanner in the chair, and all members are to meet in Circuit Clerk Harl's office on Wednesday afternoon at 1:15 o'clock to go to the church in a body to attend the funeral. The chairman appointed a committee composed of Capt. W. T. Ellis, Judge R. W. Slack, Judge J. A. Dean, Judge W. P. Sandidge and Judge T. F. Birkhead to draft suitable resolutions upon the death of the deceased. The committee is to make its report at an adjourned meeting to be held on Monday morning at 9 o'clock, January 6.

At the meeting to be held on next Monday, the election of officers of the association for the ensuing year will also take place.



Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 19 January 1919, pp.1B & 2B:

*Owensboro Bar Association Honors The
Memory of Judge Lucius P. Little; Capt.
Ellis Sounds Praises of His Literary Skill*



The Owensboro Bar association house met in called session at the court house yesterday morning at 9 o'clock to take appropriate action on the death of Judge L. P. Little, who had been the presiding officer of this association for more than 40 years. Capt. W. T. Ellis, the new president, was in the chair at this meeting. Talks were given by L. P. Tanner, C. W. Wells, LaVega Clements, J. A. Dean and Capt. W. T. Ellis. The committee on resolutions presented the results of their work for adoption by the association.

L. P. Tanner, C. W. Wells, La Vega Clements and J. A. Dean in their brief but interesting talks told of incidents occurring during the life of the deceased member and Mr. Tanner sketched some of the earlier incidents occurring in McLean county as he knew them.

Capt. W. T. Ellis delivered the address of the morning dealing part with the life of "Ben Hardin" that literary treasure, the brain child of the deceased, which he wove much of the early life and history of men prominent in politics in the state. Capt. Ellis in this address dwelt at length on literary value of this volume, in which he compared the author with leading English prose writers and interwove many terse sayings of the writer.

Address of Capt. Ellis

The address of Capt. Ellis was in full as follows:

Gentlemen of the Owensboro Bar association: After what has been so well and deservedly said of the life and character of our late colleague, Judge L. P. Little, it would be an idle thing to attempt any supplement. It is sufficient to say, I cordially endorse all that has been said in reference to that fine lawyer, good citizen attractive man.

But I ask your indulgence while I add a few words in touching Judge Little's literary attainments and the contributions he has made to the history of the legal profession of his state.

Judge Little's death marked the passing of the last lawyer who was at this bar when I opened a law office here on the 17th day of April, 1870.

One By One They Go

One by one, through the long flight of years that has come down on us since then, the array of accomplished lawyers and fine men who were then at this bar have passed away. One by one it has been written on the doorposts of each of them, "he died yesterday." And that same inscription will be written on the door – posts of us when life's brief span is run. For it is –

"But the wink of an eye, the draft of a breath
From the fullness of life, to the paleness of death,

From the gilded salon, to the bier and the shroud,
Then why should the spirit of mortal be proud?"

The very spots that mark the last resting places of some of the lawyers who were at this bar when I began the practice are fast fading from the memory of their successors and unless, as Judge Little eloquently says in the preface to his book "Ben Hardin," some "old mortality" speedily goes among their gravestones and retraces the original inscriptions thereon, the very names of those men will be lost in tradition.

But if the important task this bar has now set itself is promptly and efficiently executed, we will not only have rescued the names of those men from forgetfulness, but will have done something that merits approval not only of the legal profession, but of the general public as well.

Rare Literary Skill

No man understood or appreciated the value of preserving the records of worthy members of our profession better than Judge Little. It was due to that lofty sentiment and great high sense of duty, which we all owe to our community and to our dead colleagues and the state, that prompted him, though then a very busy man, to undertake the laborious task of writing the "Life and Times of Ben Hardin and His Contemporaries." Whoever reads that book will discover how well he performed the task he set himself and the rare literary skill and research he displayed in writing his great book. It is an instructive and thrilling production from its preface to its closing paragraph.

If Judge Little had never done anything else except to write the life of Ben Hardin, his times and contemporaries, that would have entitled him to rank among the ablest and most accomplished men and historians of the state.

Life of Ben Hardin

The life of Ben Hardin is no mere biographical sketch of a great pioneer lawyer; but is an accurate, charming and valuable history of all the noted men in public life in this state from the days when the hardy pioneers of the "dark and bloody ground," without a model, laid the foundation of this great commonwealth, down to and including the death of Mr. Hardin, occurred on the 24th day of September, 1852.

Do you ask me how it happened to occur to Judge Little that he should write that book? We need neither speculate nor guess, for he answers that question in the preface to his book, and says:

Preface

"On the Christmas Eve of 1884, as the author sat alone by a bright and cheerful coal fire, in the small town where his youth had been spent, reflection was busy with the sad vicissitude of things.

"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.

"Somewhat illogically a resentful feeling arose against Boston, for no better reason than because that city was continually calling the muster-call of its great and worthy children in the hearing of the world.

"Why should these New Englanders, it was soliloquized, be thus perpetuated while the memory of Kentucky's great sons hasten to oblivion?"

"The sober second thought, however acquitted the city of poets and philosophers, for indeed it was no more than faithful to its own offspring – the highest of maternal virtues – moreover it would be ungrateful not to acknowledge the debt which all Americans owe to that great fountain of American thought.

"What earthly reason indeed had Kentuckians to complain? True they were not ready writers nor adept in the arts of literature, but still they could at least take mallet and chisel. like "Old Mortality" and freshen and carve again the fading names on tottering and moss-covered grave stones.

"As a sequel of this cogitation, the author, feeling his humble share of responsibility in the matter, resolved to essay something for the rescue of his dead countrymen."

The paragraph I have just read from the preface to Judge Little's book is as thrilling and classically expressed, as anything that has been written in our mother tongue.

Compared With English Prose Writers

By common consent Washington Irving, William H. Prescott, Nathaniel Hawthorne and Mr. Motley are conceded to be the most accomplished writers of English prose this country has ever produced. Those authors have charmed and delighted the lovers of literature in every land where their books have been read. But it is not an exaggeration to say that none of them ever framed a paragraph, that surpasses in style, or beauty the paragraph I have read from the preface to Judge Little's book. We have been charmed by the vigorous English of Colonel Roosevelt, and the fine scholarship of Woodrow Wilson; but none of our great authors or statesmen, however skillfully they have juggled with English words and sentences, have ever written anything superior to the paragraph I have read you from the preface to the life of Ben Hardin. That paragraph is worthy of more than a mere casual reading, for it discloses the motives that inspired the author to write that book.

He says it was on a Christmas Eve in 1884, while he was seated alone in his room in the small town where he had spent his youth, that his thoughts were busy with the "vicissitude of things."

Although he was at that time a circuit judge and burdened with the duties of that great office, he found time to think – to think upon lofty and patriotic lines.

Lofty Patriotic Thoughts

He says he was alone in his room in the little town; that town was Calhoun, Kentucky. I imagine the whole population of the little village was asleep; and that there was not the sound of a wheel to break the silence on the streets, and that no foot-fall on the pavements disturbed his reveries. He was thinking, 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 forty-one chapters of his book disclose.

Familiar With History

Whoever reads that book attentively will not only become familiar with the life and character of the central figure in it, Ben Hardin, but will likewise become familiar with the history and performances of all the great lawyers who were at the bar during the long period during which Ben Hardin was so conspicuous a figure.

Not only that, but those who read Judge Little's book will become familiar with the character and temper of the genera public as it existed and developed during that important period of our state's history.

Of Especial Interest To Lawyers

The book is of especial interest to all lawyers, because it deals with the most famous trials ever conducted during the history of the state; it deals not only with the character of Ben Hardin, in his professional, official and his private life, but with the course of legislation, not only in this state, but of national legislation.

The life of Ben Hardin entitles its author to a permanent place not merely in the history of Kentucky, but in our national history; for it deals with the course of national legislation, during Mr. Hardin's services in congress, where he was from the beginning a conspicuous and prominent figure.

The great labor and research involved in the production of that book clearly show the industry, the firm resolution, and the patriotic sentiment that inspired it. T

Lasting Honor To Memory

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 his state, and his loyal attachment to the great profession to which he belonged and of which for more than a half a century he was a distinguished member.

Closing my crude reference to Judge Little's book, I direct your attention to the poetic preface he placed to one of his concluding chapters.

He was about, to write his last paragraph of the history of the man who is the central figure of his story; and he prefaces that chapter with this quotation:

"There is a time, we know not when.
There is a line we know not where."

"Time We Know Not When?"

What was in the mind of that skillful lawyer and cultured man, when he set that poetic sentiment as a preface to one of the closing chapters of his book; I frankly confess I do not know. Was he suggesting additional and better evidence, as to what awaits us beyond the "time we know not when," or was he curious to know what realms we are to enter when we cross that "line we know not where?"

"Line We Know Not Where"

But this we all do know: Judge Little has reached, that "unknown time," and has passed "the line we know not where." But it is idle to speculate, as to what was in the mind of the author when he employed the couplet I have quoted, as the preface to a closing chapter of his book. For we, his colleagues, who knew his consistent Christian life, have no doubt, if he could have assembled his colleagues about him, that his last conscious request to us, as he; passed that unknown line, would have been: "Do not say Good Night; but in some brighter clime. Bid me Good Morning."

Resolutions Adopted

The committee on resolutions on the death of Judge L. P. Little included Capt. W. T. Ellis, T. F. Birkhead, W. P. Sandidge, J. A. Dean and R. W. Slack. The following seven resolutions were offered for adoption ty the Owensboro Bar association at the meeting yesterday morning.

1. That in the death of Judge Lucius P. Little this association has lost the member most active and effective in its organization and who has, for more than forty years, been its presiding officer.

2. That the Owensboro Bar, has lost one of its most scholarly, accomplished, companionable and distinguished members; 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; the history of the state one of its most entertaining and accurate recorders.

3. That Judge Little was a man of distinguished personal appearance, of pleasing manners, of delicate humor and of keen wit.

4. That as an orator he was magnetic, persuasive and impressive.

5. That he was an honor to his profession, his county, his state and his country.

6. That the members of this association tender their sympathy to his bereaved family.

7. That the secretary of this association present a copy of these resolutions to the Daviess circuit court and ask that they be spread upon its records.



**History of Kentucky, Volume III, Judge Charles Kerr, ed.,
Chicago & New York: The American Historical Society, 1922, pp.274-275:**

Lucius P. Little. The distinctions of an able and learned lawyer, a courageous and public spirited citizen, a leader both in thought and action were well merited by Lucius P. Little of Owensboro.

He was born on his father's farm in the southern part of Daviess County, February 15, 1838, and died at his home in Owensboro December 31, 1918, when nearing his eighty-first birthday. He was the oldest of the seven children of Douglass and Martha Ann (Wright) Little. His grandfather, George Little, was a native of Scotland, born in 1735, came to the United States in Colonial times, and his first known residence was at Newberry, South Carolina. He served as a private in the Continental line during the Revolutionary war, and while the record of his service is not complete it is known that he was severely wounded in battle, leaving him a cripple. He married his first wife in South Carolina, and was the father of two sons, Jonas and John Little. Soon after the death of his wife he brought his two sons from South Carolina to Kentucky in 1802, first locating in Barren County. His son John subsequently became dissatisfied and removed to Tennessee, where he lived for many years and spent his last days in Texas. George Little and his son Jonas remained in Barren County only three years and then removed to what was then Ohio County, locating in that portion which afterward became a part of Daviess County. George Little, the pioneer, attained a ripe old age and passed away in 1815. After coming to Kentucky he married the widow of Alexander Douglass. Her maiden name was Mary Hadley. She had come with her first husband to Kentucky from South Carolina. Her daughter Betsey Douglass became the wife of Jonas Little.

Douglass Little, son of George and Mary (Hadley) Little, was a farmer, blacksmith and wagon maker in early life and in later years became a well trained lawyer. He was born in that portion of old Ohio County now Daviess, and died in 1877. For over twenty years he had the responsibilities of such offices as constable, justice of the peace and county judge.

Lucius P. Little grew up on a farm, attended the nearby schools of Rumsey and later the schools at the Town of Calhoun. He achieved a great scope of learning without the aid of a college training. When sixteen years old he became deputy county clerk, and for three years was in the clerk's offices in Daviess and McLean counties. At eighteen he began the study of law, and during 1856-57 attended the law school of the Cumberland Presbyterian University at Lebanon, Tennessee. Admitted to the bar in 1857, he had been in his profession over sixty years when he died. He began practice at Calhoun when in his twentieth year, and remained there until 1860

when he was appointed deputy United States marshal. In that year he was also supervisor of the census of McLean County. The following year he practiced at Louisville, and in 1861 removed to California and for a year was employed in a conveyancer's office. Returning to Kentucky in 1862, he was engaged for a month in recruiting for the Confederate army. The Federals having gained control of the state government, he was apprehended and arrested, and endured imprisonment at Bowling Green and later at Frankfort. Effecting his release, he went to Mexico in the fall of 1863, but the following spring returned and soon afterward resumed practice at Calhoun.

Judge Little was a resident of Owensboro from 1867 until his death half a century later. He rose rapidly in his profession, and ranked easily among the ablest lawyers of his section of the state. The first important office for which he was a candidate was that of district judge. He was nominated but defeated in 1874. In 1880 he was successful at election and in 1886 was reelected. The twelve years he was on the bench constituted a period of distinguished service. On retiring from the bench in 1893 he resumed private practice with his son L. Freeman Little, and they continued together under the firm name of Little & Little for two years. When the son retired to give his time to real estate and other business Judge Little continued active practice. He loved his profession and was one of those rare men who performed their chosen work out of love for it, regardless of material rewards and honors. His inclinations from youth were towards the law, and he possessed 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. Many of the opinions he rendered as district judge stand as adjudicated law of the state. 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 the physical presence that fitted in well with his official and professional character. Many of his friends and contemporaries regarded him as the foremost citizen of Owensboro.

To his long and distinguished service in the law he added rare literary attainments, and he is particularly entitled to memory as a contributor to the historic and biographical literature of his native state. He wrote a great deal for newspapers and magazines. His most extensive and notable work was entitled "Ben Hardin, His Times and Contemporaries," published in book form in 1887. He was also fond of the history of the Methodist Church, and was author of a book on church history frequently found in libraries. A prominent Methodist layman, he served several times as a delegate to the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and in his home church was for many years a steward.

Judge Little was author of the bill which passed the Kentucky Legislature and is known as the "Practice Act," now the rule of practice in the courts of the state. He was a member of the Filson Club, the oldest literary club of Kentucky, and also a member and for over twenty years president of the Investigators Club, the second oldest literary club of the state. He was a Knight Templar Mason and served as eminent commander of his commandery.

His first wife, whom he married in 1868, was Lizzie Freeman, of Woodford County. She was the mother of Lucius Freeman Little. In 1875 he married Louise Holloway, of Henderson County, and their three surviving children are Elizabeth, William S. and Laura S. His third wife, whom he married in 1889, was Fannie Beach, of New Jersey. She survives him and lives at Owensboro. Her children are: Martha Ann, Frances W., Stanhope S., Catherine, Douglass F. and Woodbridge Little.

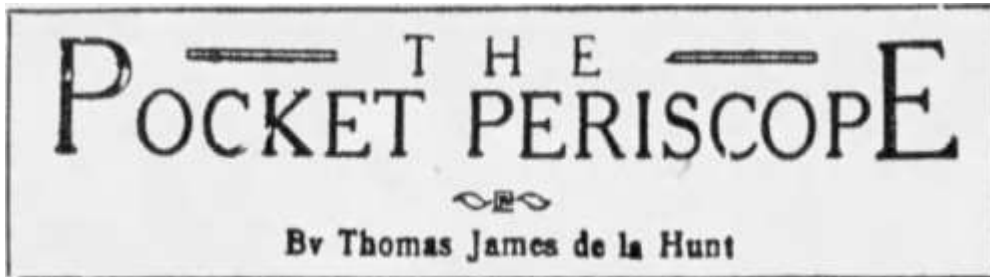


**Ohio County, Kentucky In The Olden Days,
Harrison D. Taylor, Louisville, KY, 1926, p.74:**

A sketch of Daniel Barry appears in *Ben Hardin: His Times and Contemporaries, 1784-1852*, by Lucius P. Little, of Owensboro, published in 1887. Mr. Taylor is cited as the authority for many of the facts pertaining to Barry and to various other subjects presented by Judge Little. It may be well to call attention to the fact that shortly before Judge Little died (in December, 1918), he had almost completed his manuscript of a history he intended to call *Old Stories of Green River and Its People*. This book has not yet (1926) been published. If published, it will make available much new material bearing on the early history of Ohio County and of other sections of the Green River country.



Courier and Journal, Evansville, IN, Sunday, 22 July 1928, p.6:



That the relatively unimportant Kentucky town of Hodgenville should ever been called "the center of the world," may be & a surprise to many readers of this column, and it may be still more surprising to learn that the fame of Abraham Lincoln was in no degree involved in such claim, humorously made by the noted Kentucky orator, Ben Hardin. The anecdote is an amusing one, whose lighter vein may be sufficient apology for its introduction during the warm summer months, as variation from more ponderous historical data often given space in *The Pocket Periscope*.

For preservation of the story, posterity is indebted to the Judge Lucius P. Little of Owensboro, in his admirable biographical work, "*Ben Hardin, His Times and Contemporaries; 1784-1852; With Selections from His Speeches*", (Courier-Journal Company, Louisville, 1887). It would be, however, an injustice to Judge Little, dean of the Daviess county bar at the time of his passing away in 1918, were one to quote a disconnected episode from the appendix of a volume that is far more than a mere biographical sketch of a great pioneer lawyer. Had Judge Little done naught else than write the life and times of Ben Hardin and his contemporaries, it would have given him high rank among Kentucky historians. It is an accurate history, delightfully told withal, of the most notable men of public life in Kentucky, from the days of sturdy pioneers who founded an enduring commonwealth upon the "dark and bloody ground," down to the middle of the Nineteenth century.

For an example of masterly prose writing, a reviewer could desire nothing more luminous than the prefatory paragraphs whereby Judge Little forestalled possible query as to how he came to write the book which followed.

"On the Christmas Eve of 1884, as the author sat alone by a bright and cheerful coal fire in the small town (Calhoun) where his youth had been spent, reflection was busy with the sad vicissitudes of things. 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. Somewhat illogically, a resentful feeling arose against Boston, for no better reason than because that city was continually calling the muster-roll of its great and worthy children in the hearing of the world. Why should these New Englanders, it was soliloquized, be thus perpetuated, while the memory of Kentucky's great sons hastens to oblivion?

"The sober second thought however, acquitted the city of poets and philosophers, for indeed it was no more than faithful to its own offspring. – the highest of maternal virtues. Moreover, it would be ungrateful not to acknowledge the debt which all Americans owe to that great fountain of American thought. What earthly reason, indeed, had Kentuckians to complain? True, they were not ready writers, nor adept in the arts of literature, but still they could at least take mallet and chisel, like 'Old Mortality,' and freshen and carve again the fading names on tottering and moss-covered gravestones.

"As a sequel of this cogitation, the author, feeling his humble share of responsibility in the matter, resolved to essay something for the rescue of his dead countrymen."

How successfully Judge Little performed his self-imposed task, the forty-one chapters of his book reveal to an appreciative reader. Whoever peruses the volume attentively will not only become familiar with the life and character of its central figure, Ben Hardin, but will at the same time make the acquaintance of other great lawyers who shone at the bar during the long period when Hardin was the most conspicuous. Not only this, but the reader will gain a comprehensive outlook upon the character of the general public as it existed and developed during an important period of Kentucky history.

Even an incident so purely diverting as the "center of the world" story is valuable, inasmuch as throwing its own strong sidelight upon political conditions in the Kentucky of long ago; recited by Judge Little with some apt reflections upon the evils of gerrymandering toward personal gain and preferment. On pages 637-383-39 one finds this episode described under caption, "The Center of the World."

"The following solution of the above important question was originally embraced in Chapter XXI. The speech was first published in the 'Editor's Drawer' of Harper's Magazine prior to the War Between the States, and was attributed to Mark Hardin. There were two Mark Hardins in Kentucky at the period the speech is supposed to have been delivered, both of good ability; but, without detailing the reasons for such a conclusion, it is sufficient to say that intelligent persons, in a position to judge, have decided that neither of these, but Ben Hardin, was its author.

"While this work was in press, an intelligent friend has communicated his doubts as to this conclusion, expressing his opinion that John E. Hardin was more probably the orator on the occasion. That this suggestion is erroneous could be easily shown by unpleasant reminiscences

of that gifted but greatly erring man. The speech is very much in the vein of Ben Hardin, and from internal evidence might reasonably be attributed to him; but since the matter is in question, it has been translated to the Appendix and its paternity is submitted to the decision of the critical readers of this work.

"By way of introduction, it may be observed that no greater folly has marked the legislation of Kentucky than the needless multiplication of counties. The only imaginary apology for it is that it springs from an over-zeal in behalf of the principle of self-government. Neighborhood becomes arrayed against neighborhood, or an enterprising village seeks to rival the village that is the county seat, and therefrom originates a new county scheme. The 'project' (and so it is usually designated) becomes an issue in county politics, and small but earnest and energetic statesmen make it their hobby. The matter is rolled round and round like a schoolboy's snowball, accumulating astonishing bulk in a small area, until what at first was arrant pretense assumes the proportions of inevitable reality.

"'We all know how this thing is started,' said Mr. Hardin in the Constitutional Convention,' and there is no end to it when it is started. A man wants to be a county clerk, and he will press it; and here is a man out of office, and he will press it; and then there are men who want the seat of Justice nearer their town, and they will press it; and where there is a little miserable town at the cross-roads, the people there will press it, so it is that a thousand little petty interests are brought to bear in making new counties.'

"When the formation of Larue county was being agitated, (1843), Mr. Hardin opposed it. He spent some time at the state capital during the sitting of the legislature, seeking to defeat the measure. Hodgenville was the prospective seat of Justice of the new county and its citizens were not unnaturally disposed to 'press it.' Happening in that town on the occasion of a political gathering, when the new county project was receiving a most favorable consideration, Mr. Hardin, not waiting invitation, took the stand for a speech. His known hostility to the project caused his audience, at the outset, to give him the cold shoulder.

"Not at all discouraged, however, he proceeded with his remarks as follows: 'Fellow-citizens, I hear everywhere that there is a decided wish to divide Hardin county, and some, I regret to say, oppose it. Why? I ask. Why, fellow-citizens? Look at this end of Hardin. It comes out of the way. It is detached naturally from Hardin. It projects like the toe of a boot; and, fellow-citizens, the toe of that boot ought to be applied to the blunt end of any candidate who opposes this just, proper and natural division. (Cheers).

'Having shown you that this end of the county is thus by nature, and should be by law, divided from the other, my next consideration is the county seat. To gentlemen as intelligent as you, and as familiar with the section to be divided off, I need not point out that Hodgenville will be the center of the proposed county; and where but at the center should the county seat be? (Cheers). Gentlemen, you have doubtless heard the removal of our state capital spoken of. As it is, it is tucked up in a north corner of the state, where it is about as convenient a situation for the capital of the whole state as Elizabethtown (the county seat of Hardin) is to be the county seat of your proposed new county. The same reasons that induce us to separate this part of the county from the other, should make us move the capital. We must move it, and to the center of the State.

'Now take a map. Kentucky is four hundred and twenty miles long, by about one hundred and forty wide in the center. Now the new county will be on a perpendicular line just seventy miles from the Ohio river, and two hundred and ten from each end of the state, and Hodgenville

is the center of the new county. I have thus mathematically demonstrated to you that the State capital should be removed to Hodgenville. (Enthusiastic cheering).

'Fellow-citizens, I have been inadvertently led into these questions, but I will proceed further. In the late war (the War of 1812) Washington City was burned by the British, and why? Because it was on our exposed border. The National capital should be removed from the Atlantic coast, and to center of the Union. Kentucky is the great seal set in the center of our mighty Republic, as you will see by enumerating the surrounding states, and, as I have already shown you that this is the center of Kentucky, it follows that the National capital should be removed to Hodgenville.' (As some had begun to smell a large Norway by this time, the cheering was not quite so loud).

"Nay!" said orator, in a burst of enthusiasm, 'Hodgenville is the center of God's glorious and beautiful world!' 'How in the devil you make that out?' said an irritated voice in the crowd. The speaker, drawing himself up, and sweeping his forefinger in a grand circle around the horizon, said, 'Look how nicely the sky fits down all around!'"

Judge Little lived to the ripe age of four-score years, and his fellow-citizens rated him as ones of the brightest men and most lovable characters it was ever Owensboro's good fortune to possess; a learned historian on local affairs and a most entertaining conversationalist because of his rare knowledge of those things. He had intimate acquaintance with the reasons for naming most of the city streets, as an example, and could relate much attractive history attached to them. At the outbreak of the War Between the States. he enlisted in the Confederate army, was captured and paroled, then going to Mexico and California until hostilities were ended, when he returned home to Kentucky. He was a lifelong Democrat until the party became divided on the sound money issue in 1896, when he supported the Palmer and Buckner ticket and thereafter affiliated with the Republican party.

In his religious convictions, Judge Little was a devout Methodist, and wrote much on the history of Methodism in Kentucky. In 1905 the Southern Methodist publishing house (Nashville and Dallas) printed his "Local Preachers of Old Times in Kentucky", wherein he comprehensively set forth the lives and labors of eight pioneer evangelists: Anthony Thompson, "An Old Time Church"; John Pinkston, "A Pioneer Preacher"; Joseph Miller, "An Old-Fashioned Preacher"; Joseph L. Gregory, "A Praying Preacher"; R. Thomas Stevens, "An Introspective Preacher"; Diocles Whitescarver, "A Happy Preacher"; Nathan Bordley (Colored), "A Brother in Black"; and Hiram Kellam, "A Brave and Faithful Preacher." The character-drawing in each instance portrays the man described as a type, and the author's foreword modestly says that "an account of the local Methodist preacher is a simple story. It tells of a class that may not measure high by worldly standards. He was sort of militia-man in that glorious host Divinely commissioned to help save world from its sins by the foolishness of preaching.

"He was zealous, but frequently not learned; earnest, but not always eloquent. He was rarely a great writer, but at times wrote good purpose. He was not widely known, but where known revered; usually poor in this world's goods, but rich in spiritual things; not a philosopher, but had a profound insight into Divine truth; often a man of one book, but that the Book of Books.

"He was deeply sensible that he was called of God to proclaim the Gospel message and the unsearchable riches of grace. Divine grace was not a freer gift than his own services. He was most efficient in old-fashioned revivals where the conversions were of the through-and-through and shouting kind. At quarterly meetings and camp meetings, in exhortation and in song, in

prayer, in rejoicing, as the seekers' adviser, he made himself of noble use in the Master's cause. He administered the baptismal rite to infants and adults, confident of his authority to do so in the mode he did it. He solemnized matrimony and gave his blessing to young husbands and wives, whom death alone ever parted. He visited and prayed for the sick, comforted the dying, and preached their funeral sermons. built church houses, often working with his own hands, and out of his substance he helped pay for them, He knew and loved the doctrines of his church: taught them to his brethren, and defended them when attacked. Providence usually vouchsafed him long life, and always at last a happy hour in which to die.

"Such, in part at least, was the local preacher a half century ago," observes Judge Little, "but he is not that important factor today that he once was in our ecclesiastical economy. I state the fact sorrowfully, I shall not argue it. I do not know why it is so, but I am sure that God has so ordered it. It may be that the local preacher has had his day, The place he once filled is, to some extent, otherwise supplied. The church societies, the Epworth League, the Sunday School, the professional evangelist and his singer, – these or something, have crowded him out, and with him his 'class meeting,' and have made unfashionable, I sometimes fear, the 'old-time religion'."



**Sixty Years of Owensboro, 1883-1943, William Foster Hayes,
Owensboro, KY: Messenger Job Printing Co., 1944, pp.7-9:**

JUDGE LUCIUS P. LITTLE

In the evening Judge Little gave a reception to the lawyers in his spacious home, which stood back some distance west from Frederica St., where Little's Court now extends. I walked out Frederica that mellow summer evening with a young man who had but shortly preceded me to the Owensboro bar, and afterwards attained and held until his recent death a leading position there, the genial and deservedly popular LaVega Clements. I was clad in a solemn and all too ample Prince Albert suit, whereby I vainly and painfully sought to simulate age and experience, but achieved only embarrassment. Of that evening I recall scarcely any other detail, but, despite the oppressive solemnity of my attire, it remains in my mind as a beautiful and glamorous mid-summer night's dream.

The gracious and tactful charm of our host is, I am sure, largely responsible for the pleasantness of that memory. 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. Of fine and vigorous natural ability, he was highly cultivated, very widely read, and exquisitely felicitous both in speaking and writing. He had what may be called a sixth sense, that of appropriateness. His words were fitly spoken.

He had also a delightful sense of humor, which enlivened his public addresses and brightened his daily intercourse with his friends. His sense of humor was thoroughly appreciative as well as creative. On one occasion I was trying a small case before him in which my client was a devout Roman Catholic and his adversary was of the same faith. In his testimony my client told of something that his opponent had said or done that so shocked my man's moral sense that as he testified "I told him I didn't see how he could go to his duties." The utter solemnity and dead-hard earnestness with which he said that subjected the Judge's judicial gravity to a severe strain, and subsequently in my contact with him he occasionally referred to it.



Judge Little was, the author of at least one published book in which his learning and happy literary style are attractively shown. It is *Ben Hardin, His Times and Contemporaries*, published in 1887; and while of especial interest to lawyers, it would well repay reading by anyone who has an intelligent interest in the history of the state. There is also, in pamphlet form, a delightful address of his delivered in 1904 and published in 1905 on *Local Preachers in Old Times in Kentucky*. At the time of his death, December 30, 1918, he was working on a history of Kentucky Methodism, but the papers relating to this were not preserved.

It was my privilege to know Judge Little quite well, as a younger man may know an older one, and to be the recipient of his uniform courtesy and kindness, and I gratefully acknowledge the beneficent influence on my life of his character and attainments.



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.)



Lucius Powhatan Little

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.



See Also:

- Owensboro Monitor, 31 July 1867, p.3 – Lucius P. Little, of McLean county, is candidate for Judge of Court of Common Pleas.
- Owensboro Monitor, 4 November 1874, p.3 – "McLean County Items: Family reunion : Hon. L. P. Little, of Owensboro, Senator Finis H. Little, R. B. Little and A. W. Little, of Mississippi, and their father Judge D. Little, county judge of McLean."
- Owensboro Examiner, 8 October 1875, p.5 – L. P. Little married Miss Lou Holloway in Henderson this past week.
- Owensboro Examiner, 6 October 1876, p.1 – Letter to the Editor of the Monitor by Lucius P. Little.
- Messenger and Examiner. 4 August 1880, p.3 – elected Daviess County Circuit Judge on 2 August 1880.
- Owensboro Semi-Weekly Messenger and Examiner. 6 August 1880, p.2 – biography of Judge Lucius Powhatan Little published in the Courier-Journal, Louisville, KY.
- Owensboro Semi-Weekly Messenger, 3 June 1884, p.4 – Judge Lucius P. Little will erect a new 2-story brick home on the site of his current residence.
- "The Life of Ben Hardin", Owensboro Tri-Weekly Messenger, 13 January 1885, p.4; 22 January 1885, p.1; 24 January 1885, p.1 – Lucius P. Little proposes to write the life of Ben Hardin.

- “Judge Lucius P. Little’s Speech”, Owensboro Tri-Weekly Messenger, 28 July 1885, p.3 – speech by Judge Little on citizenship.
- “Rotation in Office”, Owensboro Tri-Weekly Messenger, 19 January 1886, p.1 – speech by Judge L. P. Little on the rotation of office holders.
- “Judge Little’s Book The Life of Ben Hardin Reviewed by an Able Critic”, Owensboro Daily Messenger, 12 February 1887, p.4 – reviewed in the Courier-Journal yesterday.
- “Ancient History... Lucius Powhattan Little’s First Pair of Boots”, Owensboro Daily Messenger, 8 July 1887, p.4.
- “A Life of Ben Hardin”, Owensboro Daily Messenger, 16 July 1887, p.4 – notice of Judge Lucius P. Little’s was published in yesterday’s Courier-Journal.
- “Judge Lucius P. Little”, Owensboro Daily Messenger, 11 October 1888, p.1 – drawing of Judge Little and biographical essay.
- “Little - Beach”, Owensboro Messenger, 16 January 1889, p.4 – Lucius P. Little married Miss Fannie E. Beach at Bridgeton, NJ on 15 January 1888.
- “Council Meeting”, Owensboro Inquirer, 7 November 1895, p.1 – Judge L. P. Little proposes to give ground to make a street between Frederica & Locust Streets.
- “The Bench and Bar of the City of Owensboro: Judge Lucius P. Little”, Owensboro Inquirer, 29 January 1899, p.11B – during Civil War was recruiting captain for Adam Johnson's regiment of John H. Morgan's command, CSA, and was captured and released through the intercession of friends; a Mason),
- “Methodists: Opening Session of the Louisville Conference at Elizabethtown”, Owensboro Messenger, 27 September 1900, p.3 – Judge L. P. Little requested to write a history of the Methodist church in Daviess & McLean Counties).
- Owensboro Messenger, 1902: 7/20 p.9 – Judge Lucius P. Little presents original paper, "A Chapter of Daviess County History", to Investigators Club.
- “Judge Lucius P. Little: Jurist, Scholar, Author and an Adept in Masonry in All of its Various Branches”, Owensboro Inquirer, 20 May 1903, p.10 – a Mason since 1867
- Owensboro Inquirer, 13 October 1904, p.8, will deliver an original paper, "Byways to Higher Culture", to the Investigator's Club tonight.
- “An Interesting Address: Methodist Publishing House Prints Judge Little’s Production”, Owensboro Inquirer, 26 March 1905, p.1.
- “Otto Rother’s Splendid History of Muhlenburg County”, by Lucius P. Little, Owensboro Messenger, 20 July 1913, p.1B.
- “Interesting Sketch of Fielding B. Meek”, by Lucius P. Little, Owensboro Messenger, 12 October 1913, pp.1B & 3B.

- “Owensboro Citizen Writes Entertainingly of Trip West”, by Lucius P. Little, Owensboro Messenger, 13 September 1914, p.4B.
- “Side Lights on Neutrality”, by Lucius P. Little, Owensboro Inquirer, 11 October 1914, p.2A.
- “Ann Marshall Subject of Fine Paper By Judge Lucius P. Little”, Owensboro Inquirer, 8 December 1915, p.7.
- “Interesting Local History: Kinspeople of Col. Joe Hamilton Daveiss, Who Fell at the Battle of Tippecanoe in 1811, Who Have Resided in Daviess County”, by Lucius P. Little, Owensboro Messenger, 2 January 1916, p.6A,
- “Dean of Lawyers Has Passed Away: Judge Lucius P. Little Dies At His Home This Afternoon”, Owensboro Inquirer, 31 December 1918, p.1 – abstract: died at his home on Little Court; born at Rumsey, now in McLean County; lawyer, graduated from law school at Lebanon, TN in 1859, first practiced in Louisville, shortly before Civil War returned to McLean County; soldier - Civil War, CSA, prisoner of war & paroled; in 1868 moved to Owensboro; elected city attorney of Owensboro in 1873; elected twice as Daviess County Circuit Court Judge, term ended in 1892; president of the Owensboro Bar Association for many years; married three times, 1st to Miss Lizzie Freeman, 2nd to Miss Louise Holloway & 3rd to Miss Fanny E. Beach; brother of Alonzo Little of Kansas City, Mrs. Bright Hawes of Maceo & Mrs. Latta Fowlkes of Owensboro.
- “Will Hang Pictures of Deceased Attorneys in Circuit Court Room”, Owensboro Messenger, 31 August 1919, p.1A – picture of L. P. Little will be hung in the court room at the Daviess County Courthouse; he was the originator of the idea of hanging pictures of the deceased circuit judges.
- "Owensboro Has Long Boasted Many Beautiful Residences", Owensboro Messenger, 20 December 1942, p.1B – the Ideal Pure Milk Company was built on the site where Judge L. P. Little lived, Frederica Court or 10th Street off Frederica Street was the entrance to his grounds.
- “Here Are Daviess County’s 15 Past Circuit Court Judges”, Messenger-Inquirer, 5 September 1964, p.4B.
- “County Had Courthouse Birth Pangs”, Messenger-Inquirer, 5 September 1964, p.10B – material from unpublished manuscript by Lucius P. Little.

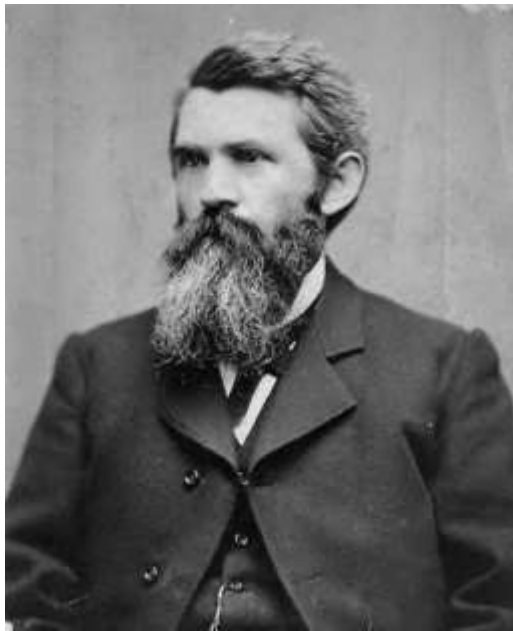


**Articles written for the Investigator’s Club,
Owensboro, KY, by Lucius P. Little.**

Original papers of the Investigator’s Club are on file in the Kentucky Room, Daviess County Public Library, Owensboro, KY. The Owensboro newspapers report that Lucius P. Little

wrote and delivered several other original papers for the Investigator's Club that are, however, now missing.

1895:	“A Thief and Abettors”
1900: Dec. 14	“Scriptural Divorce, a Few Words On”
1902: Jul. 18	“A First Chapter in the History of Daviess County”
1910: Nov. 18	“The Felo De Se”
1912: Dec. 20	“Literary Clubs”
1914:	“Our Mother Tongue”



Grave section E, Elmwood Cemetery, Owensboro, KY



From 2014 Log of Jerry Long

West-Central Kentucky History & Genealogy

<https://wckyhhistory-genealogy.org/biographies-collections-papers-of/>

Phone call by Jerry Long, Kentucky Room, Daviess County Public Library, Owensboro, KY, To Richard Weiss, Archivist, Kentucky Wesleyan College Library, Owensboro, KY, 270-684-6017 on 11 February 2014:

I asked if he had heard of an unpublished manuscript by Judge Lucius P. Little that was a history of Daviess County, KY. Years ago I had heard that there was an unpublished manuscript by him at Kentucky Wesleyan College Library. I had read in the old newspapers that he was working on a history of Daviess County and in a listing of some of the earlier papers submitted to the Investigators Club there was one by him entitled Chapter One of A History of Daviess County. Dr. Weiss said that he had never heard of an unpublished work by him on the county. The college, however, did have an expanded unpublished work by him on local Methodist ministers that contained more than his first published work on this subject. He said he would try to get the Kentucky Room a copy of this manuscript. I told him we would definitely be interested in having the manuscript.

