

Washington Phipps

(1805-1885)

Wealthiest man in Ohio County

By
Jerry Long
c.2025



Grave of Washington Phipps
Goshen Methodist Church Cemetery
Ohio County, KY



The Kentucky State Register For The Year 1847,
Talliaferro P. Shaffner, editor
(Louisville, KY: Morton & Griswold, 1847) p.141:

List of Principal Merchants in Ohio County – “W. & W. Phipps”
 [this is Washington Phipps & his brother, Wesley Phipps]



Ohio County, KY 1850 Census, pp.48B-49A, household #680-680:

Town of Hartford – In household of Elisha M. Ford, 40, tavern keeper:

Phipps, Wesley	48	born KY		value of real estate \$1,150
Phipps, Washington	44	born KY	merchant	value of real estate \$3,370



Ohio County, KY 1860 Census, p.783:

Town of Hartford –

1387-1387	Phipps, Wesley	58	born KY	merchant	value of real estate \$1,650
					value of personal estate \$13,475
1388-1388	Phipps, Washington	60	born KY	merchant	value of real estate \$2,500
					value of personal estate \$28,385



Ohio County, KY 1860 Slave Schedule, p.156:

Phipps, Wesley	1 slave	age 38	female	black
Phipps, Washington	9 slaves	age 34	female	mulatto
		age 25	male	mulatto
		age 22	male	black
		age 16	female	black
		age 15	female	black
		age 9	male	mulatto
		age 3	male	mulatto
		age 2	male	mulatto
		age 4/12	female	mulatto



The Frankfort Commonwealth, Frankfort, KY, 19 March 1867,p.1:

Compensation for Enlisted Slaves.

Annexed we give the second installment the second thousand of applications filed the Commission for Compensation of Enlisted Slaves." The intention in the publication of these lists is to elicit criticism from known Unionists as to the certainty of the active loyalty of the applicants. The Commission desire the Union men of the State to freely communicate with them upon the subject :

Washington Phipps [is one three names listed for Ohio County]



Ohio County, KY 1870 Census, p.503B, household #47-47:

Town of Hartford –				
Phipps, Washington	age 64	born KY	white	drygoods merchant value of real estate \$2,000 value of personal estate \$500
Phipps, Woodford	age 37	born KY	white	blacksmith
“ Caroline	age 43	born KY	white	housekeeper
“ Luther	age 12	born KY	white	attended school
“ Gordon	age 11	born KY	white	attended school
“ Geo. B.	age 8	born KY	white	
“ Judson	age 6	born KY	white	



Ohio County, KY 1875 Tax List

Washington Phipps was taxed on three tracts of land (150, 125 & 70 acres). His total assessed value was reported to be \$36,315, This would be equivalent to about \$1,000,000 today.



Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY, Wednesday, 29 October 1879, p.3:

Mr. Washington Phipps is having a new brick dining-room added to the Hartford House, and Rule, Randolph & Co. are doing the work. This makes it one of the completest hotel buildings in the Green River Country. Mr. King is a good landlord, and nothing father is necessary except that that wretched pavement in front needs relaying.



**Kentucky State Gazetteer and Business Directory for 1879-80
(Detroit, MI & Louisville, KY: R. L. Polk & Co.& A. C. Danser, 1879) p.195:**

Hartford Business Directory:
Phipps, Washington, flour mill



Ohio County, KY 1880 Census, p.504B:

Town of Hartford – boarder in hotel of William T. King (household #4-4):
Phipps, Washington age 74 born KY parents born Maryland retired merchant

p.506A:

Phipps, Woodford	age 43	born KY	mulatto	blacksmith
“ Caroline	age 55	born KY	mulatto	wife
“ Luther	age 23	born KY	mulatto	son
“ Sallie	age 20	born KY	mulatto	daughter-in-law
“ Gorden	age 21	born KY	mulatto	son
“ George B.	age 18	born KY	mulatto	son
“ Woodford, Jr.	age 17	born KY	mulatto	son



Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY, Wednesday, 19 September 1883, p.3:

Mr. Washington Phipps, a former citizen of Hartford, who has been living in the country for a year or so, has moved back to town and will spend the winter in his town residence.



Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY, Wednesday, 5 August 1885, p.3:

Death of Washington Phipps.

In the morning of August 1st, 1885, at 3 o'clock, at his residence on Walnut street, in Hartford, Ky., Washington Phipps departed this life, after an illness of nine days, caused by a disorder of the bowels. Uncle Wash, as he was familiarly called, had been considered to be in rather better health than was perhaps usual for him through this season of the year, but when the disorder came it seemed to be beyond the control of human aid, from the beginning, and appeared to be so regarded by him. All that skillful hands or loving and affectionate hearts and minds could conceive and execute was done for him. He remained conscious until within a few hours of his death, and that gentle and manly politeness that was his in life, was felt and admired by his friends who attended and ministered to him during his last illness. Ever thoughtful and careful of the rights of others, he was not heard to murmur as to the treatment received from anyone, but kindly offered his hand to all who visited him and requested them to have a seat. He talked during his illness to the family and the Ministers of the Gospel, who visited him, hopefully, of the Rewards of the Great Beyond, and humbly submitted himself to Him who doeth all things well, and died painless and without a struggle, trusting in the merit of Jesus.

Washington Phipps was born November 1st, 1805, being in his eightieth year when he died. He was born in the Goshen neighborhood, Ohio county, Ky., and without wealth. His father, Uncle Billy Phipps, as he was called, was, perhaps, a local Methodist preacher, and was noted for his upright life. His mother was Henrietta Addington Phipps, a synonym for truth, and all along in life he loved and admired the character of his good mother, as he chose to call her. Having begun life poor, by industry, economy and prudence, Uncle Wash succeeded in becoming a wealthy man for this county, and at the time of his death was by odds the wealthiest man in the county. His was a character to be emulated by youth of the land, for he was ever truthful, honest and industrious, and always prompt in his engagements. Although for years he used both hands in writing, having become a little nervous as he had grown older, yet his record of events is a model. He believed in keeping business matters in an intelligible form and in having a place for everything and everything in its place. Such was Washington Phipps, a kind and indulgent man, one whose loss will not only be felt and regretted in Hartford, but through out Ohio county and where ever he was known. He had served the people of the county as school teacher and public officer, and was for years engaged in the mercantile business at this place, in connection with his brother, Wesley Phipps, deceased, and subsequently, with the late V. P. Addington, deceased.

Uncle Wash was never married, and spent the latter years of his life with his nephews, William and John R. Phipps, for whom he had great respect, passing his nights at his old home on Walnut street, in Hartford, guarded and protected by the kind hands of the family of Wood Phipps, who had been his former slaves, and all whom were faithful to him until death, and worthy of his confidence and esteem.

As the funeral notice said, the funeral services took place at his late residence, at 1 o'clock p. m. Sunday, August 2d, 1885 and proceeded to Goshen church, where they concluded at 3:30 o'clock, after which the remains were interred in the Goshen Cemetery, Revs. P. A. Edmards and G. J. Bean officiating. The attendance was large and services impressive.

Washington Phipps is gone and the community is bereft of a good and useful citizen, and the family of a sale counselor and friend.

"One by one our friends depart;
Who has not lost a friend ?"

To those, who mourn his loss, we point his commendable life and character, He lived respected, and fulfilled the time allotted to man, and was full of years, and died regretted. Peace to his ashes.



Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY, Wednesday, 26 August 1885, p.3:

The Rowe, Render, Elijah Phipps and Thomas Phipps heirs met here last Saturday and arranged for contesting the will of the late Washington Phipps. They employed Messrs. McHenry & Hill and Walker & Hubbard to represent them. The case will be called again in the County Court Monday, September 7th. Mr. Wm. Phipps will insist on probating the will, and we may expect a spirited legal contest as there is a large amount involved.



Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY, Wednesday, 9 September 1885, p.4:

Texas Letter.

AUSTIN, TEX., Aug. 20, 1885.

Editor Herald :

In a late edition of the HERALD I see an announcement of the death of Washington Phipps, which brings to mind an incident of forty years ago. It was about this time of year, in 1845, I was then a young man, full of energy and ambitions to get a start in life, but b my means were limited. At that time W. & W. Phipps were prosperous merchants in Hartford, and had a surplus of money in their business. By close economy I had scraped together \$200. P. A. Phipps was then doing a small mercantile business, at what was then called Adams' Fork, Ohio county, and desired to sell out. I was on familiar terms with Mr. Washington Phipps, and proposed that his firm put in \$800 and I would put in my \$200 and buy P. A. Phipps out and I would attend to and carry on the business for five years and then divide the profits with them, to which they agreed. Mr Washington Phipps and myself procured horses and rode up to the place, which was then owned by Dr. H. Wells, and we made the trade and invoiced the goods and I at once took possession and started the new business under the firm name of Crow, Phipps & Co. At the end of about two years it became necessary, from a change in the ownership of the property, for us to wind up quit business. I returned to them their original capital and a little more than as much more as their part of profits. That association gave me a start in a business life. While I was at Adams' Fork, myself and others secured a post office there and gave it the name of Fordsville, in honor of E. M. Ford, who had formerly owned the place and afterwards became an honored and worthy citizen of Hartford, and died respected and lamented.

For the assistance rendered in giving me a start in life, the memory of Washington Phipps has always been fresh in my mind.

G. C.



Ohio County, KY Will Book D, pp.218-219:

Will of Washington Phipps
Written recorded in October 1885

Hartford, Ky, April 26th 1882. In the name of God, amen, I Washington Phipps of Hartford, Ky, being of sound mind and memory, do hereby make declare this to be my last will and testament, hereby revoking and making void all former wills by me at time heretofore made.

First, I will and bequeath to the heirs of my sister Polly Rowe three thousand dollars; to the heirs of my sister Ann Render three thousand dollars; to the heirs of my sister Nancy Cooper three thousand dollars; to the heirs of my brother Thomas Phipps three thousand dollars; to the heirs of my brother Elijah Phipps three thousand dollars; to the heirs of my brother John Phipps one dollar; to Woodford Phipps five hundred dollars; to Caroline Phipps, five hundred dollars; to Judson W. Phipps five hundred dollars; to George Buell Phipps five hundred dollars; to Gordon Phipps five hundred dollars; to Luther Phipps five hundred dollars.

Second. I will and bequeath to the Methodist Episcopal church South, at Goshen, Ohio county, Ky., two thousand dollars, to build a church when necessary, which necessity is to be determined by the church.

Third, The residue of all my property both real and personal I will and bequeath to my nephew Wm. Phipps, a son of my brother John Phipps.

Fourth, I hereby appoint the said Wm. Phipps as Executor of this my last will and testament, and it is my will that no security of any kind be required of him by the court, and that at his discretion he sell and convey any or all of my estate real or personal at such time and on such terms as he may desire, and that he make no return of any appraisement or sale - bill, all laws to the contrary notwithstanding. He is authorized to make any conveyance of real estate which I should have made.

Fifth, It is my will that the said Executor have three years to wind up my estate, and that no suit shall be brought against him for any legacy herein bequeathed until after that time.

In witness whereof I have hereunto subscribed my name, this 26th day of April, 1882.

Washington Phipps

The above instrument was at the date thereof signed and declared by the said Washington Phipps as and for his last will and testament in presence of us, who at his request and in his presence have subscribed our names as witnesses.

John. C. Riley

Thos. S. Duke.

Ohio County Court

October Term 1885 – The foregoing instrument of writing was at this term of court produced in open court and proved by the oaths of the subscribing witnesses John C. Riley and Thomas S. Duke to be the last will and testament of Washington Phipps deceased and was thereupon ordered to be and it now is duly admitted to record.

Att: T. J. Smith Clerk

By W. P. Maxwell D. C.



Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY, Wednesday, 21 October 1885, p.3:

The Phipps Will at Hartford.

[Owensboro Messenger.]

All of the heirs of the late Washington Phipps, of Hartford, contested the will left by Mr. Phipps, save Wm. Phipps and J. E. Fogle. Washington Phipps was the richest man in Ohio county, his wealth being estimated at from \$150,000 to \$200,000. He. was a bachelor and left bequests to his relatives in amounts of from \$500 to \$3,000 and the remainder of his estate to Wm. Phipps, his nephew. It is generally believed, however, that before his death he gave to a mulatto, whom he recognized as his illegitimate off-spring, money and bonds amounting to \$40,000 or \$50,000. For years Mr. Phipps spent money lavishly on this young man whose skin is almost white, educating him at the best schools, and he is now a practicing physician and married to handsome mulatto girl he met in Nashville. Mr. Phipps' known fondness for him, and the fact that his name was not mentioned in the will, led to the belief that he had provided for young Dr. Phipps before his death, to obviate a contest of the will. But the contest came nevertheless, though the contestants were notified early in the action that they could recover nothing supposed to have been given Dr. Phipps. They concluded, however, to contest for the residue of the estate left to Wm. Phipps, but were defeated when the case was heard on Thursday. Mr. W. N. Sweeney, of this city, was counsel for Wm. Phipps.

The Phipps' Will Case.

The Phipps' will case was called Tuesday morning and testimony was taken up till Thursday. Just after dinner quite a crowd had assembled to hear the case argued before His Honor, Judge Aull, but they were disappointed. The attorneys for the contestants moved that the case should be given to the court without argument, to which the propounders agreed. His Honor said he had about made up his mind in regard to the decision, and decided that the will should go to probate. Mr. Mr. William Phipps was then qualified as executor.



Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY, Wednesday, 24 February 1886, p.3:

Mr. Muldoon, of Louisville, was in town last week and contracted with Wm. Phipps for a monument to be erected over the remains of the late Washington Phipps.



Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY, Wednesday, 8 September 1886, p.3:

A Monument to Washington Phipps.

A monument to the memory of Washington and Wesley Phipps was erected at Goshen cemetery August 11, 1886. It stands where the brick vault did that was built in 1870 by Washington Phipps. It is of Barry granite, and is composed of three bases, a die and a shaft. It measures five feet at the first base, and stands twenty feet high. The east or front side of the die bears this inscription :

"The sunshine of their native sky
Smiles sadly on them here,
And kindred eyes and hearts watch by

The brothers' Sepulchre."

The south side this : "Washington Phipps born November 1st, 1805. Died August 1st, 1885. Thou art gone but not forgotten." The north side this : "Wesley Phipps born October 22, 1801. Died October 23, 1861. Alas! departed brother W. P."

This latter inscription is a copy of what is now on a removed tombstone put to Wesley Phipps by his brother, Washington. An iron fence will surround the monument and graves. Should a few of the tall cedars and other shrubbery, which too thickly grow around the central portion of the grounds, be cut away, a thing apparently desirable, an improvement, both ornamental and useful, would be made in the cemetery; for much of the marble is blackened and its lettering is scarcely traceable.

The shaft which commemorates the memory of Washington Phipps was selected by William Phipps, and was erected under his immediate supervision.



Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY, Wednesday, 14 March 1888, p.3:

Mr. Wm. Phipps is having an iron fence placed around the graves of Wesley and Washington Phipps at Goshen.



Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY, Wednesday, 2 May 1888, p.3:

The dedication of Goshen was attended by a large crowd, not more than one-third of which could get inside the house. The dedicatory sermon was preached by pastor Campbell. The church is well furnished and is an ornament to the community. Three memorial windows dedicated to John, Wesley and Washington Phipps adorn either end of the building. The furniture corresponds well with the other work. The people of that country, hospitably entertained all who were present, and none were turned away hungry.



**Fogle's Papers: A History of Ohio County, Kentucky,
McDowell A. Fogle (Hartford, KY: Ohio County
Historical Society, Inc., 1981) pp.35-36 & 112-113:**

"Wash" Phipps Outstanding Early Financier

In Ohio County probably the first professional private banker was Washington Phipps, who was born in the Goshen neighborhood, within the periphery of the present trade area of Beaver Dam. His parents, William and Henrietta (Addington) Phipps came, around 1800, to the Goshen section from Montgomery County, Maryland, now practically on the doorstep of the national capital, in the great trek of emigrants from that part of the "Old Line State", of which Joseph Barnes, another Maryland squire and great-grandfather of John Hiram Barnes, cofounder of The Beaver Dam Deposit Bank, were also members. Accompanying Mr. and Mrs. William Phipps to

their new Kentucky home was the latter's teen-age brother, Henry Addington, who, in due course, became the progenitor of another prominent Ohio County family. The writer has the honor of being a descendant of both the latter pioneer and the previously named first bearer of the Barnes name in Ohio County.

State Bank Followed by Private Banker

When he came to manhood, Washington Phipps, as is so often the wont of youth in every generation, envisioned wider opportunities beyond the confines of his native habitat. Whereupon he went to the county seat, where he bought a lot,, built a home and entered the mercantile business. Soon, however, he came to realize the need of adequate and dependable financial service to the growing county and so he, before many years, evolved as a private banker. There were then no banks in Ohio County, the Ohio County branch of the ambitious state banking Project known as "The Bank of the Commonwealth of Kentucky" having closed about 1830, after a more or less successful career, under the direction of Richard Elliott, who had come from Greenville and conducted a successful general store in the county seat before he became cashier and later president of the county branch of the Commonwealth Bank. Consequently there was, when the up-and-coming young business man, "Wash" Phipps entered the financial field, comparatively little substantial competition. In fact, until his death in 1885, he continued to be perhaps the county's outstanding financier and he was rated as its richest native son, who had remained on his native heath. Through his extension of credit to his fellow citizens and judicious investments of his own, he accumulated an estate of an estimated value of at least \$300, 000, which, for those days and this section, was rather phenomenal. A large part of his banking business was conducted at his residence, where he frequently kept, it is said, large sums of money in an old iron safe in his bedroom, with practically no protection except that afforded by himself and his slaves, who lived on the place in ante-bellum times and one couple of whom continued to look after the wants of "Old Marster" after emancipation, until his death.

Goshen Church Built with Phipps' Bequest

"Uncle Wash" Phipps, as he was generally known, was never married. He, like his parents and many other members of his family, was buried in the historic old Goshen Cemetery, about two miles from Beaver Dam, his grave and that of his brother, Rev. John Phipps, being marked by towering monuments of granite, which are still well preserved and visable from afar . . . In his will, Ohio County's premier banker of his era bequeathed to the Goshen Methodist Church, the second oldest church organization in this county, and the oldest of its denomination, the sum of \$2, 000 with which was constructed the present handsome church building with its stained-glass window memorializing his brother, Wesley, to whom he gave the credit for proposing this permanent memorial to their beloved mother, who, a zealous member of the Goshen congregation, was verily "a mother in Israel".

After 1830, For Generation, County Had No Bank

Last week, in beginning the tracing of the history of Ohio County banking from its incipency in early post-pioneer days, it was stated herein that when Washington Phipps, the county's most noted private banker, entered the financial field in ante-bellum days, he had "comparatively little competition" and that, from then until his death in 1885, "he continued to be, perhaps, the county's outstanding financier".

Among Hartford's many storied old homesteads few have a more interesting history than 'the old Wash Phipps place', on Walnut street, now owned by Noah Ward and occupied by him and his family.

The lot on which the Ward home now stands, numbered 95 on the original plat of Hartford, was deeded to Washington Phipps by John Field, one of the town's earliest landowners, on January 4, 1836. The purchase price, \$75, shows it was then an unimproved lot. Though unmarried then, in his early thirties, and so continuing through life, Mr. Phipps built his home on this newly-purchased site and continued to live there until his death in 1885. The original residence of logs consisted of the two-story portion of the present Ward home. In the old days there were rooms in an ell back of the main house, where the servants lived, porches and the usual outbuildings.

Washington Phipps was perhaps the richest man who ever lived in Ohio county. There were then no banks in the county and he was a private banker, thus and by judicious investments accumulating a large estate. He not only owned much real estate in this county but also in Owensboro, and probably Louisville. He also invested in large blocks of government, municipal and improvement bonds, such as those of the Louisville Bridge Co. Elderly neighbors told me in my childhood that 'Uncle Wash', as he was generally known both to relatives and mere acquaintances, was probably 'worth' some \$300,000 at the peak of his finances, which in a rural community in those days was "some money".

In his home on Walnut street the local financier lived and also for many years transacted his banking business, frequently keeping, it is said, large sums of money in an old iron safe in his bedroom with practically no protection except himself and his Negro slaves living on the place. His house servants were a colored couple, Woodford and Caroline, who kept house for him in ante-bellum days and then continued to look after the wants of "old marster" after emancipation. In his latter years he built for the couple a home further down Walnut street toward "Muddy bottoms", where he then went for his meals as long as his advancing years permitted. A portion of this structure is part of the residence now owned by Isaac Poole, Jr., and occupied by him and his family.

Part Negro, part Cherokee Indian, she said, "Aunt Caroline" was, when I knew her, as the old saying goes, a "likely looking colored woman", and probably in youth striking. The romantic unconventionality of Mr. Phipps' domestic menage was common knowledge during his lifetime and his belief in his paternity of his housekeeper's son, Luther, resulted, it is said, in his financing of the youth's medical education and later in life the conveyance to him of a sizable portion of his estate. And then in his will, he bequeathed to "Uncle" Wood, "Aunt" Caroline, Luther and three of the latter's brothers, \$500 each.

Luther, a handsome man, reminding one of a South European, obtained a good education, studied medicine and practiced in Chicago until his death some 25 years ago. His children and wife were educated and cultured, one of the daughters studying art or music in Paris. But they were always considerate and devoted to "Aunt" Caroline and her husband, "Uncle Wood", as well as respectful to their white friends, frequently visiting here until their own marital difficulties and the death of the old folks ended the trips.

[Note: McDowell A. Fogle (1888-1960) was editor of the newspapers, Hartford Herald and the Ohio County News. For these papers he wrote a column for almost thirty years entitled "Rough River Ripples". This column dealt with the history of Ohio County and its region. A collection of his columns was posthumously published in the book, Fogle's Papers: A History of Ohio County, Kentucky.]



Letter by McDowell A. Fogle

Letter by McDowell A. Fogle (1888-1960), of Hartford, KY, to D. Katharine Rogers (1892-1989), of Urbana, IL Miss Rogers was a great-great niece of Washington Phipps; her great-grandfather, Elijah Phipps (1795-1860) was a brother of Washington Phipps. Miss Rogers was author of "Phipps Family History"; copy at the Ohio County Public Library, Hartford, KY.

Hartford, Kentucky,
June 17, 1947

Dear Mrs. Rogers :

I received and appreciated your letter of the 3rd. inst. In regards to the Addington family. I regret that I cannot be of as much help as you apparently expect, but my reference in my column, which you read, was meant to apply mainly to my paternal family history. Unfortunately I have not been able to procure as much definite data about my maternal ancestors as I would wish. I had the pleasure of meeting your daughter when she was here looking up some family history a year or so ago and I believe, with the facts she gleaned from the records in the county clerk's office and what you have learned from the old Phipps bible, you are in possession of as much information about the Addington and Phipps families as I.

My grandfather, Virgil Porter Addington, son of the Henry Addington who came to Kentucky from Maryland with his sister, Henrietta, wife of William Phipps, died five years before my birth in his 50th. year. He was a tailor and later engaged in the mercantile business with his cousin, George Washington Phipps. When growing up I had very little contact with the Addingtons except "cousin Billie" (William B.) Addington, who lived in the Smallhouse section of this county and frequently visited us. You know how many youngsters are about neglecting the rich source of family history they have in the elders of their family. So, unfortunately, my Grandmother Addington and most of the other older members of the family, who could have helped me, were gone before I became much interested in genealogy. However, I did, learn an interesting fact, which you probably also know, that another Henry Addington, was prime minister of England in the early 19th. century, being created "Lord Sidmouth" by the King.

I judge that the Phipps and Addington families were predominately Methodist, thought my grandfather belonged to and was a devout worker in the Presbyterian Church. The register of the membership of the Goshen Methodist Church of date 1823 carried the names of Henry and Polly Addington, both listed as married and presumably husband and wife. I imagine they are buried in the Goshen cemetery, but many of the older gravestones were of native sandstone and the original inscriptions are illegible. Ohio County marriage records show that Henry Addington and Dorcas Barnard were married Dec. 1, 1799 with Joshua Barnard, presumably the bride's father, as bondsman and Rev. Ignatius Pigman, the noted pioneer Ohio county divine and land speculator, performing the ceremony. Above facts indicate Henry Addington was married twice, or Polly was a nickname or only part of Dorcas' name. I presume my grandfather was the oldest child as his father in his will dated June 9, 1850 bequeathed him 100 acres of land in addition to his proportionate part of the residue of the estate which was to be divided equally between all the children. He also had the distinction of having a bed and bedding willed to him alone.

My great-grandfather Addington's aunt, Henrietta, wife of pioneer, William Phipps, whom he accompanied to Kentucky, with her husband, is probably also buried at Goshen. Certainly their two sons, Rev. John Phipps and Washington Phipps are buried there, their graves being marked by tall and stately marble shafts erected by the latter who not only became wealthy in his own right, but also, I understand, inherited the bulk of his ministerial brother's estate, which was larger than the average clergyman amasses. As I recall from my grandmother Addington's reminiscences, there was another brother, Wesley, who lived in the old log house, later covered with weatherboarding, on the corner of Walnut and Mulberry streets in Hartford and in which you and your family resided in your early married life, as I recall. Wesley must not have been considered a "Soloman" for my grandmother used to tell of his mother apologizing for some of his intellectual shortcomings by saying "Wessie does, the best Wessie knows, but Wessie don't know."

Washington Phipps was perhaps the richest man who has ever lived in Ohio County. There were then no banks in the county and he was a private banker, thus and by judicious investments accumulated a large estate. He not only owned much real estate in this county but also in Owensboro, probably Louisville, and also bought blocks of municipal and improvement bonds such as those of the Louisville Bridge Co. My father was employed as the attorney to settle the estate of "Cousin Wash" and he told me that his estate grossed at least \$300,000, which in a rural community and in those days, was "some money". Washington Phipps as you, no doubt, know, was never married. You also perhaps have heard the romantic scandal which distinguished his domestic menage. He lived in the old house, also partly of logs and part of which also still stands, camouflaged by a modern exterior, just next door on the east to the home where his brother "Wessie" lived. There the local financier lived and also transacted his banking business, keeping, it is said large sums of money in an old iron safe on many occasions and with practically no protection except himself and the Negro couple who worked for him. Former slaves, the colored couple, Woodford and Caroline Phipps, continued to look after the wants of "old marster" after emancipation. and the latter in his will left them a comfortable home on the outskirts of the town at the end of Walnut street, next to Muddy "bottoms". He also bequeathed to "Aunt" Caroline's son, Luther, a large part of his estate, probably at least \$100,000, thus accentuating his belief in his paternity of the child. Luther, a handsome man, reminding one of a South European, obtained a good education, studied medicine and practiced in Chicago until his death some 25 years ago, I have been informed. His children and wife were educated and cultured, one of the daughters studying art or music in Paris. But they were always considerate and devoted to "Aunt" Caroline and her husband, "Uncle Wood" as well as respectful to their white friends, frequently visiting here until their own marital difficulties and the death of the old folks ended the trips.

A portion of Washington Phipps' estate was willed to his nephew "Billy" Phipps, who while he remained in Hartford was one of the owners of the Hartford watermill and carding plant at the old dam at the end of Union Street. While a young man here he was crippled permanently when, as it is related, he tried to stop a job press of the Hartford Herald, then located upstairs, by putting his foot against the flywheel and was catapulted out a window.

When "Billy" Phipps left Hartford, also, it was said, partly on account of "woman trouble", he went to Arkansas where I have heard he made and lost two or three fortunes. Another nephew of Washington Phipps, I believe, perhaps only a cousin, John R. Phipps was connected with the mill, owning part of it, I think, and he continued to operate it for many years. His home was on the Fordsville road just beyond the colored suburb of Hayti where his sister "Miss Dent" also lived. He, his wife and sister are now all dead. His two sons live here now and are the only members of this immediate branch of the Phipps family living in this county that I am aware of, excepting, of

course the wife, son and daughter of John, who lived in town. The other brother, James, is unmarried and "batches" at the old family home in the country. John's son is a veteran of the recent World War.

Above rambling narrative may not give you new information, but I trust it will be interesting. And, of course, you realize that the intimate parts are confidential and I know you will treat them accordingly.

I trust this finds you, your daughter and other members of your family well and I hope I may have the opportunity to see you again. If your daughter comes back in her search for family history, you must come with her. My wife and I would be indeed glad to meet you all. Neither of us has been too well in recent years so the chances are you would find us home most any time. With regards and best wishes for you and yours, I am

Your old friend and neighbor,
McDowell A. Fogle

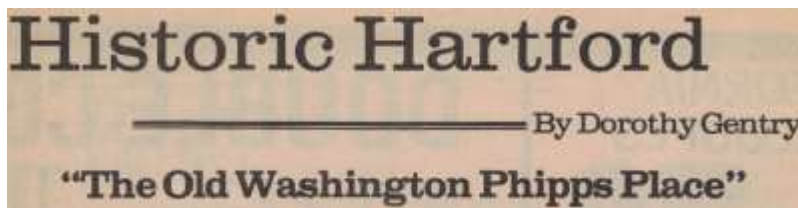
P. S. I forgot to mention another fact which you all probably already know, viz : that a Sir William Phipps was governor of one of the colonies, was it Massachusetts or New York? – during at least one of the so-called French and Indian Wars. Maybe he was another of our "distant cousins.

P. S. I know you will think I am getting childish and at such an early age, but as I have been reading this letter over, I keep thinking of "something else" I aimed to say. This time it is that, as you also almost certainly know, the present Goshen Methodist Church edifice was erected and donated to the congregation by Washington Phipps as a memorial to his mother.

M. A. F.



Ohio County News, Hartford, KY, Thursday, 15 September 1983, p.9A:



Among Hartford's many storied old homesteads few have a more interesting history than the old Washington Phipps place on Walnut Street, presently the home of Mrs. Noah Ward.

The lot on which the Ward home stands is number 95 on the original town plat of Hartford. The land was deeded to Phipps by John Field, one of the town's earliest landowners, on January 4, 1836 for the purchase price of \$75.

Mr. Phipps, who was in his early thirties at the time, built his home on this newly purchased site and continued to live there until his death in 1885.

The original residence of logs consisted of the two-story portion of the present Ward home. In the old days there were rooms in an ell back of the main house where the servants lived, porches and the usual outbuildings.

Washington Phipps came from Montgomery County, Maryland around 1800 with his parents, William and Henrietta Addington Phipps and settled in the Goshen section.

As Washington reached manhood, he envisioned wider opportunities, went to the county seat and purchased the lot, built his home and came to realize the need of adequate and dependable financial service to the growing county.

There were no banks in Ohio County at the time and Phipps entered the financial field with little competition. He kept a safe in his room and loaned money to his trusting friends and soon became one of the county's outstanding financiers and was rated as its richest, "worth" some \$300,000 at the peak of his finances, which in a rural community in those days was "some money."

He kept an old iron safe in his bedroom with practically no protection except himself and his slaves living on the place. His house servants were a colored couple, Woodford and Caroline, who kept house for him in antebellum days and then continued to look after the wants of "old marster" after the emancipation.

In his latter years, Phipps built a home for the couple farther down Walnut Street where he then went for his meals as long as his advancing years permitted. A portion of the home built for Woodford and Caroline is part of the residence now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Poole, Jr.

McDowell Fogle wrote in FOGLE'S PAPERS, that Caroline was part Negro, part Cherokee Indian and a "likely looking colored woman," and probably in youth, striking. The romantic unconventionality of Mr. Phipps' domestic menage was common knowledge during his lifetime and his belief in his paternity of his housekeeper's son, Luther, resulted, Fogle wrote, in his financing of the youth's medical education and later in life, the conveyance to him of a sizeable portion of his estate. Phipps, in his will, bequeathed to "Uncle" Wood, "Aunt" Caroline, Luther and three of his brothers, \$500 each.

Luther became well educated, studied medicine and practiced in Chicago until his death some several years ago. His children and wife were also educated and cultured, and one of the daughters studied art and music in Paris. They were said to have been devoted and considerate to "Aunt" Caroline and her husband, "Uncle Wood" as well as respectful to their white friends, and visited in Hartford on many occasions until the death of the old folks ended the trips.

Credit to "Fogle's Papers, A History of Ohio County, Kentucky" for information concerning this home.



Old Washington Phipps place 123 West Walnut Street
in Hartford, Ohio County, KY



Old Washington Phipps place 123 West Walnut Street in Hartford, Ohio County, KY

Ohio County Times-News, Hartford, KY, Thursday, 2 September 1993:



Goshen Methodist Church is the oldest Methodist church in the county. Just across the highway from the church is the Goshen Cemetery. The tallest monuments in the cemetery are for brothers,, John, Washington & Wesley Phipps – the taller of the two obelisk monuments in picture on right is in nonor of Rev. John Phipps (1792-1876), the other obelisk is for

Washington Phipps (1805-1885) & Wesley Ppips (1801-1861). Each monument is enclosed with an ornate iron fencing.



Ohio County Times-News, Hartford, KY, Thursday, 19 July 2001, p.8A:

Historical sites

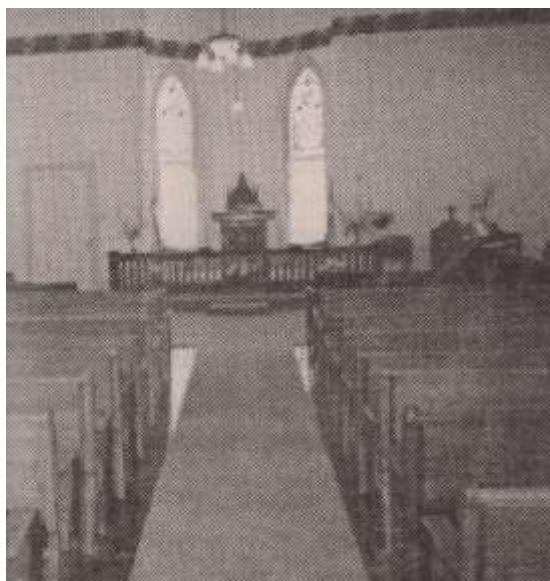
The historic Goshen Methodist Church, built in the mid-eighties and located a short distance from the Beaver Dam City limits on Goshen Road, has been completely renovated and restored with special donations from friends and former members who have moved away.

During the renovation of the dome of the ceiling, it was learned that huge hand-hewed arches and square nails were used when the structure was being built. The renovation included removing everything including the old lathe plaster.

The church was built in the mid-eighties by a gift of \$2,000 from Washington Phipps, as specified in his will, with stained-glass windows memorializing his brother, Wesley, to show he gave credit for proposing the permanent church building as a memorial to their mother, who was a member of the Goshen Church. There had been two or three church buildings previously, at that location.

When Phipps reached manhood and envisioned wider opportunities, he came to Hartford, bought a lot, built a home and entered the mercantile business.

There were no banks in Ohio County at that time, consequently "Wash" Phipps entered the banking business and with comparatively little substantial competition, continued to be perhaps, the county's outstanding financier and was considered the richest man in the area.



Left: Goshen Methodist Church, with its stained-glass windows and dome, built in the mid-eighties, has been completely restored. Across the highway is the historic Goshen Cemetery where the early-day settlers are buried and marked with impressive monuments. Right: Interior of the renovated Goshen Methodist Church, showing the carpeting, beautiful oak pews, chandeliers and other improvements.



Left: The towering monument, surrounded by wrought iron fencing, is to the memory of financier Washington Phipps, and inscribed "You Art Gone But Not Forgotten." He was born Nov 1, 1805 and died Aug. 1, 1885. Right: The old Noah Ward home, now owned by the Dale Bartlett estate, was the home of Washington Phipps. The original residence was of logs with rooms in an ell back of the main house for servants.

The lot on which the Noah Ward home now stands on Walnut Street in Hartford, numbered 95 on the original plat of Hartford, (later numbered Walnut Street) was deeded to Washington Phipps by John Field, one of the town's earliest landowners, on January 4, 1836. The purchase price, \$75, shows it was then an unimproved lot.

The original residence was of logs on the two-story portion of the home. There were originally, rooms in an ell back of the main house where servants lived, porches and outbuildings.

In his home, the local financier lived for many years transacting his banking business and keeping large sums of money in an old iron safe in his bedroom. (That safe is now at the Ohio County Museum).

He, like his parents and many other members of his family, were buried in the historic Goshen Cemetery, across from the church. building. The inscription on the tall Phipps monument reads: "Born Nov. 1, 1805 Died Aug. 1, 1885.

Washington had a brother, John, who was also a minister but little is known of him.

Mike Taylor has been minister for the past eight years and is also the minister at Cromwell Methodist Church.



Family of Woodford & Caroline Phipps by Jerry Long

The 1900 census reported that Woodford Phipps was born in August 1833 in Kentucky. Woodford "Wood" Phipps and his wife, Caroline, had been slaves of Washington Phipps (1805-1885), of Hartford, KY. The 1860 Ohio County, KY census slave schedule records that Washington Phipps was the owner of 9 slaves. Woodford Phipps about 1854 married Caroline McFarland. Woodford & Caroline are listed in the 1870, 1880, 1900 & 1910 censuses of Hartford, Ohio County, KY. Woodford was a blacksmith. In 1870 he and his family were living at the residence of Washington Phipps.

The Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY, published the following obituaries for Caroline and Woodford Phipps:

Wednesday, 6 December 1916, p.5: A Respected Colored Woman Dead. Mrs. Caroline Phipps, wife of Woodford Phipps, died Tuesday night, November 28, 1916, at her home on Walnut street, where she lived to be over ninety years of age. She was a good woman, loved and respected by all her neighbors. Her children were loving and dutiful during her suffering and last illness, and buried her away tenderly and affectionately. At the request of friends, her funeral was conducted by Rev. R. D. Bennett and was well attended by both her white and colored friends. Her son, Dr. Gordon Phipps, of Corsicana, Texas, was notably tender and loving toward his mother. Interment Saturday in the family burying lot, Hayti.

Wednesday, 18 September 1918, p.1: WOOD PHIPPS DEAD. Woodford Phipps one of Hartford's most respected colored citizens died at his residence last Friday morning about 4 o'clock, of trouble incident to old age, he having passed his 88th birthday. His remains were interred in the Hayti cemetery. "Uncle Wood" as he was familiarly known, had been living in Hartford for 80 years having been brought here when 8 years old. He had been a member of the Baptist church for a half century. He is survived by two sons, Dr. Gordon Phipps, of Texas and George B. Phipps, of Hartford, his wife, who was in her 91st year proceeded him two years.

The obituary of Washington Phipps said he was the wealthiest man in Ohio County and noted – "Uncle Wash was never married, and spent the latter years of his life with his nephews, William and John R. Phipps for whom he had great respect, passing his nights at his old home on Walnut street, in Hartford, guarded and protected by the kind hands of the family of Wood Phipps, who had been his former slaves, and all whom were faithful to him unto death, and worthy of his confidence and esteem" (Hartford Herald, Hartford, KY, 5 August 1885, p.3). By his will Washington Phipps left \$500 each to Woodford Phipps, his wife Caroline, and their children – Judson W., George Buell, Gordon and Luther Phipps (Ohio County, KY Will Book D, p.218).

Woodford Phipps was a deacon of the Hartford Baptist Church. His wife, Caroline, died on 28 November 1916 at her home on Walnut Street in Hartford, KY; her death certificate reports that she was born 15 February 1826 in Ohio County, KY and her mother was Hannah Petticord. Hannah Petticord has a gravestone in the Hayti Cemetery in Hartford; it has that she died on 16 November 1865 at the age of 90. Hannah is reported to be a free mulatto in the 1850 & 1860 censuses of Ohio County, KY. Hannah was reported to be 64 years old in 1850 and 80 in 1860.

Woodford Phipps died 13 September 1918 in Hartford, KY. His death certificate gives his mother's name as Lydia Nall. Woodford & Caroline, and their sons, George & Judson, were buried at the Hayti Cemetery in Hartford.

The 1910 census recorded that Caroline & Woodford had been married 56 years and Caroline was the mother of 5 children, 2 of whom were then deceased. Their children included – Luther Hansford (1857-1957, dentist, married Sarah Victoria Dodge), Gordon (1859-1918, doctor, married Sarah E.), George Buell (1861-1924, single), Woodford Judson (1863-1896). The death certificate of their son, George, lists his parents as Wood Phipps & Caroline McFarland.

Gordon Phipps is listed in the "Oklahoma and Indian Territory, U.S., Dawes Census Cards for Five Civilized Tribes, 1898-1914." On 3 June 1902 Gordon Phipps, age 43, of Corsicana, Texas, applied for membership in the Mississippi Choctaw Indian tribe. He claimed to have 1/4 Indian blood and his daughters, Minnie L., 18 and Ora D., 16, 1/8 blood relationship. He reported his parents as Woodford & Caroline Phipps and the mother of his daughters was Sarah E. Phipps. He claimed that his mother was a Choctaw Indian. His claim was rejected.