

# Albert Smith Marks

## (1836-1891)

By Jerry Long  
(c.2026)



Gov. Albert Smith Marks

**Albert Smith Marks (1836-1891), born in Daviess County, KY  
served as the 24<sup>th</sup> Governor of Tennessee, 1879-1881.**



**Owensboro Examiner, Owensboro, KY, Friday, 23 August 1878, p.4:**

ALBERT S. MARKS has received the nomination of the Democratic party for Governor of Tennessee. This will be gratifying intelligence to his many friends in this county. Raised in the vicinity of Owensboro, he labored on a farm until he was grown, when he emigrated to Tennessee, where uninterrupted success has attended all of his undertakings. He chose the law as a profession, and was rapidly attaining a commanding position at the bar, when the war between the States was inaugurated. He raised a regiment for the Confederate army, and made a gallant and accomplished soldier. Losing a leg at Murfreesboro, he was afterwards Post Commandant in Georgia, being desirous of contributing all in his power for the furtherance of the cause he had espoused.

Returning to his home in Tennessee he was elected Vice-Chancellor for eight years, and at the recent August election was reelected.

We take pleasure in adding our testimonial to the many tributes that have been offered to his worth. Having known him intimately as a boy in Owensboro, and our acquaintance afterwards renewed in the Southern army, we feel assured that the confidence of Tennessee will not be misplaced, in tendering him the highest honors in her gift.



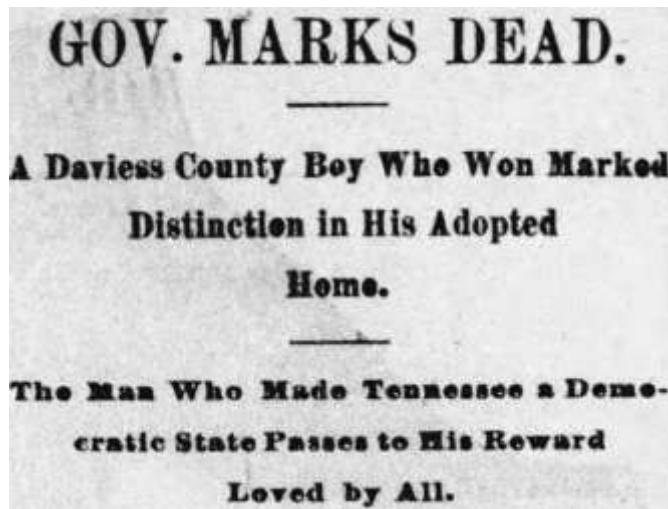
**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Wednesday, 22 January 1879 p.2:**

On Thursday last Hon. Albert Marks was inaugurated Governor of Tennessee, and delivered an able inaugural address. His elevation to this important office was a fit recognition of the talent and worth of this distinguished son of Kentucky. He served with credit in the Confederate army, and has occupied and adorned the bench for several years in the State of his adoption. The people of Daviess, among whom he was raised, have watched his honorable career, and now rejoice in the latest mark of distinction conferred on this able Kentuckian.

[See also: Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Wednesday, 2 October 1878, p.2 – sketch of Albert S. Marks]



**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Thursday, 5 November 1891, p.1:**



NASHVILLE, Nov. 4. - Governor Albert S. Marks died at the Maxwell House in this city this morning at 4 o'clock of heart failure. He had been unusually well for several days past and the end of his days was reached without more than a moment's warning. Yesterday he was called in consultation with Gov. Buchanan on the convict troubles, and was to have called on him again today.

Gov. Marks, was born in Daviess county, Kentucky, though he had lived in Tennessee for many years. He served in the Tennessee Legislature and later was a State Chancellor. In 1880,

after a very hard fight in he redeemed the State to the Democracy, he was elected Governor. He served out his time with the perfect confidence of people of every class and shade of politics. There is universal sorrow here on account of his death. No arrangements have been made for the funeral as yet.



**The National Cyclopaedia of American Biography, Vol.7**  
**(New York: James T. White & Co., 1897) pp.212-213:**

MARKS, Albert Smith, twenty-fourth governor of Tennessee (1879-81) and soldier, was born near Owensboro, Daviess co., Ky., Oct. 16, 1836, son of Elisha and Elizabeth (Lashbrooke) Marks. He was a descendant of John Marks, one of the earlier settlers of Virginia, and his ancestors were neighbors of the great Jefferson, and associated with him in many of his undertakings. His paternal grandmother was a member of the Daniel family, which has contributed so many orators and statesmen to swell Virginia's long list of celebrities. His mother was a native of Daviess county. His father, who was a farmer in affluent circumstances, died when Albert was only fourteen years of age, and the lad was obliged to leave school and become the head of the large family, his mother being incapacitated by ill health from assuming this position. It had been the desire of his pious parents, who were noted for their hospitality to ministers of the Gospel, that their son should become a preacher, but when the time came for him to take up his life-work, he turned to law instead of theology. At the age of nineteen he entered the law office of Col. A. S. Colyar, a relative, at Winchester, Tenn.; was admitted to the bar in 1858, and became a member of the firm of Colyar, Marks & Frizzell, the style becoming Colyar & Marks in 1861. He supported Breckinridge and Lane in 1860, but was opposed to secession, and in 1861 was the Union candidate for the state convention called to deliberate on the question, but was defeated by Peter Turney, subsequently governor. As soon as war was declared, however, he enlisted in the Confederate army, was elected captain, and was rapidly promoted major and then colonel of the 17th Tennessee regiment, which was so inspired by his enthusiasm for the cause that it won the most brilliant laurels during the long series of campaigns. At the battle of Murfreesboro, Dec. 31, 1862, while charging a battery, he lost a foot and fell, crying "forward!" to his men, who swept on to victory. After the amputation of his leg, which became necessary, and a long period of convalescence, he was attached, as judge-advocate, to the staff of Gen. Forrest, and retained this position until the war closed, when his old law partnership was resumed. This was dissolved two years later by the removal of Col. Colyar to Nashville, and Col. Marks was then associated with his brother-in-law, Capt. James B. Fitzpatrick and Capt. T. D. Gregory. In 1870 he was elected chancellor of the fourth division, and in August, 1878, was re-elected without opposition. In the words of one of his personal associates: "His career as a chancellor was singularly brilliant. It was often said that a case might be presented to him embraced in a large record, which by the time it had been read by the lawyers had been completely grasped and taken in by him, and that after it was argued he was ready to decide, giving opinions so lucid and so strongly fortified by principles of right and justice that the losing party would be half converted to the correctness of the decision. It is said that his decrees were rarely reversed by the supreme court." In November, 1878, he was elected governor of the state. In this high position, as in all others held by him, he showed a burning ambition to do everything to advance the interests of the people at large. He was called to the office at an unfortunate period, when the Democratic party was rent asunder by dissensions over the debt of

the state, and to his position with regard to that question he sacrificed all hopes of continuing in office. The extreme state-credit wing, which was very small, and the repudiation party, which was large, were brought together by the conservatives, and the debt was settled during the next Democratic administration by a convention in which Gov. Marks was the leading spirit. For this assemblage he wrote a platform recognizing the voice of the people as supreme and final, and calling upon the legislators to carry out their wishes as expressed in the convention. His friends were anxious to bring him forward at this time as a candidate for re-election, but he declined, believing that some one not entangled in the debt question should be put forward. Throughout his administration he was distinguished for the firmness, unselfishness, and conscientiousness with which he discharged his duties. Subsequently he was candidate for the U. S. senate, but was defeated by William B. Bate. Nevertheless his record remained unchallenged, and as a politician he was stronger at the time of his defeat than ever before. Returning to the practice of his profession at Nashville, he had in his later years one of his sons as a partner, and sustained the reputation he had long enjoyed of being brilliant and profound lawyer. He was a Cleveland elector for the state at large in 1888. His active labors continued to the time of his death, but, although he acquired considerable means, he left but a small estate. The memory of his voice and deeds, however, is to his children a priceless possession. Gov. Marks was a very handsome man, and had a personal magnetism that drew every one to him. Ever courteous to all, poor as well as rich; abounding in sympathy, sensitive as a woman, yet undaunted as a warrior when duty called, or some principle was to be defended; inspiring in his conversation, a model of conduct in public and private life, he made a lasting impression upon everyone who came in contact with him, and his loss was bitterly mourned by thousands. He was a scholarly man outside of his profession, had accumulated a fine library, and devoted considerable time to the study of general literature. He was the most devoted and sacrificing of husbands and fathers, and his warm and genial nature never showed itself more attractively than when it was stimulated by home life and home interests. Soon after entering the army he became engaged to Novella, daughter of Maj. John H. Davis, a leading citizen of Wilson county, and in 1863 was married to her at the home of her uncle, Gen. J. M. Knight, in Marshall county, where she was spending the winter—her own home being within the Federal lines. She and two sons, Arthur H. and Albert D., survived him. Gov. Marks died at Nashville, Nov. 4, 1891. In ten months Arthur H., his son, also died, and so gifted was he his reputation as an orator and writer was already known beyond the limits of his state.



Lamb's Biographical Dictionary of The United States,

**John Howard Brown, Editor (Boston, MA: James H. Lamb Company, 1899) p.360:**

Albert Smith Marks, governor of Tennessee, was born near Owensboro, Ky., Oct. 16, 1835; son of Elisha and Elizabeth (Sashbrooke, sic) Marks, and a descendant of Jolin Marks, an early settler of Virginia. He removed to Tennessee with his parents, and on the death of his father in 1850 the management of the family estate fell upon him. He was admitted to the bar in 1858, and practiced in Winchester, Tenn. When Tennessee seceded in 1861, he joined the Confederate army as captain in the 17th Tennessee regiment, and reached the rank of colonel. He received a wound while leading a charge at Murfreesboro which rendered necessary the amputation of his foot. After his return to the field he served as judge advocate on the staff of General Forrest. He was married in 1863 to Novella, daughter of Maj. John R. Davis. He resumed his legal practice in 1865; was

elected chancellor for the 4th chancery division of Tennessee in 1870 and was governor of Tennessee, 1879-81. After 1881 he practiced law in Nashville. He was a delegate to the Democratic state convention in 1882, and in 1887 was a candidate for the U.S. senate before the Democratic caucus and after 68 ballots William B. Bates was nominated and elected. He was a presidential elector for the state at large on the Cleveland ticket in 1888. He died in Nashville, Tenn., Nov. 4, 1891.



**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 22 June 1902, p.3:**

### **Early Recollections Of Albert S. Marks**

The recent sad demise of Albert D. Marks, of Nashville, has caused many reminiscences to be told by Owensboro's older citizens of the time when his father, Albert S. Marks, was a boy living on a farm a few miles out from this town.

Albert S. Marks was the son of Col. Elisha Marks, who was quite a prominent character under the old militia system. Albert was born and reared in an old hewn log house about three and a half miles from Owensboro, on what was then known as the Ridge road. When he was fifteen years old his father died and the responsibility of caring for the family devolved upon Albert. He attended the historic old Field school during the winter and worked on the farm the remainder of the year, studying at night as best he could. His qualities of mind were such, however, that he was one of the most progressive pupils in the school. His only rival was Tom Jones, who has for sixteen years been minister to Funchal. The class records of these two boys were equal.

A debating society was organized at the school house and Albert Marks and Tom Jones were pitted against each other. Jones, who had been raised in luxury, devoted his whole time to making preparation for the debate. Thinking on the great event distracted Marks' attention from his work and he sat up late at night writing out and memorizing his speech. When the fatal night came both contestants were eager and excited. Jones had the affirmative of the question and made the first speech. His argument was cogent, showing a great deal of study and careful thought. When he sat down the audience was sure he had won the decision. Young Marks came on the platform trembling with excitement and began delivering the speech he had written. He had hardly completed the first period when he forgot, stammered, repeated and it seemed that a total collapse would be the result. In desperation he abandoned his written speech and began an offhand discussion of the subject. Pretty soon his sentiments began to flow with surprising ease and before he had proceeded far he was making one of those unanswerable arguments which in after years made him a terror to carpet baggers in Tennessee and for which he was known from the Mississippi river to the North Carolina line. He closed with a burst of sarcasm like those with which he afterward roasted his Republican opponents and sat down the winner by a wide margin. After he sat down and while the judges were filing out. Jones brought down the house in a roar of laughter by saying in a doleful voice, "Let us all pray."

Early in life he moved from Owensboro to Winchester, Tenn.

Albert D. Marks is shown to have played a remarkable double role. He was a Catholic and was regarded as a zealot, yet he swindled Bishop Byrne and Father Morris, his closest friend, and

chancellor of the diocese. More than \$80,000 of forged turnpike stock has been found, and other crooked deals have been unearthed.



**Owensboro Messenger, Owensboro, KY, Sunday, 15 October 1905, p.9:**



A decade ago there died in the neighboring state of Tennessee a man who was held in universal veneration by the people of that commonwealth. He had served them well and, for them, had suffered much. Born and brought to manhood in another state, he had lived and died for the state of his adoption. When the Northern horde swept like a devastating pestilence across the length and breadth of the state, when the boom of cannon and the roll of musketry and the heavy tramp of legions of soldiers sounded from Murfreesboro and Chickamauga and Franklin and Missionary Ridge, this man, forgetting the suffering of his own people beset by home guards and merciless marauders, charged always at the front with a hand full of Tennessee volunteers, snatching sometimes victory from the jaws of defeat or, that failing, protecting as best he might the wife and child, the home and heritage of the man who lived now among the hissing of balls and the bursting of shells.

When at last, by the light of a single fading star, the last hope of the Confederacy was buried beneath Virginia clay, when reconstruction came with all its woes, compared to which the horrors of war were as the fading dews of morning to the roaring flood, when Federal drum beats rolled close to the ballot box and Federal bayonets hedged it about, when the vast body of liberated slaves, dominated and controlled by unprincipled carpetbaggers dictated the policy of the commonwealth from legislative halls where the voices of Harris and Hatton and a hundred of their peers had hardly ceased to resound, when one woe did tread upon another's heel so fast they followed, the hero of a hundred battlefields with a corporal's guard of other faithful men hung like an avenging fate on the trail of the usurpers and, after years' of suffering and struggling, whipped them from the state house.

Peace restored within her borders but with her resources destroyed, her homes in ashes, her colleges and schools paralyzed and dazed and halt her sons sleeping on distant fields, self immolated on the altar of patriotism, the state of Tennessee set about the tremendous and, to a less courageous people, the hopeless task of building her prosperity on a firmer basis. As devastation was never more complete, surely was never restoration swifter. She emerged from her desolation with more prosperity, more culture and more wealth than ever she had known in the days of her pomp and pride.

The same man who fought so wisely and so well through four years of war and as many more of misgovernment at home, had no insignificant part in this rehabilitation. Always in a position of importance, he fulfilled to the jot every trust confided to his keeping. The Democrats of the state, the state's substantial white citizenship, elected him to the gubernatorial chair, where culminated his career of unselfish service. The darkest hour was already glimmering into dawn, already "Night's candles were burnt out and jocund day stood tiptoe on the misty mountain tops,"

and when Albert S. Marks--for he it was--went out of office one of the seceding states had been returned to the keeping of its rightful sovereigns.

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Three miles and a half from Owensboro, on the Carter road, stands an old "double log house," such as the Kentucky pioneer was want to build. It is the birthplace of Albert S. Marks. The old house is still in good repair and continues to be occupied as a dwelling. There have been few changes about the place; it must look much the same as when a future governor of Tennessee, barefooted and in homespun, played about the doorstep.

The old house use was built by Elisha Marks, father of Albert, one of the pioneers of Daviess county and was for a great number of years a colonel in the militia. He built his house on what was known in those days as "the ridge" – high, dry ground beyond the swamps that then existed south and west of Owensboro.

Albert was one of a large family of children. Although he had only meagre educational advantages, he developed into an unusually strongminded boy. With little schooling, he picked up a sound English education. Elisha Marks was not wealthy, and Albert worked hard on the farm.

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In the same neighborhood lived Andy Jones, one of the well-to-do citizens of the county. His son Thomas, now United States minister to Fonchal, was about the same age as Albert Marks, and the two were always rivals at school. When they grew older they engaged in joint debates at the school house, before gatherings of the men of the neighborhood. Sometimes the victory inclined to one, sometimes to the other.

At length the night came which was to be the final test. Jones had the first speech and made a strong and eloquent argument. Young Marks felt himself defeated. He took the floor to speak, and began a sort of set address. He forgot his sentences, stammered and seemed about to collapse. Suddenly, abandoning all to repeat his memorized speech, he began one of those unanswerable arguments which in after years made him a terror to the carpetbag politician in the state of his adoption. He held Jones' arguments up to ridicule, made an eloquent presentation of his own side of the case and sat down complete victor. Jones saved himself from utter annihilation by a happy witticism.

When quite a young man Albert S. Marks moved to Tennessee. He visited his old home several times after he came into prominence and is remembered by a number of Owensboro citizens.

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**Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Thursday, 18 June 1970, p.8A:**

**Historical Marker Denotes  
Albert Marks' Birthplace**

PAT MORRISON, Messenger and Inquirer Staff Writer

The story behind the placing of Daviess County's most recent Kentucky Historical Society highway marker, at the Owensboro-Daviess County Airport, is an intriguing case study of how historical facts are brought to light.

The story concerns the first governor of a state born in Daviess County, Albert S. Marks, who was governor of Tennessee. Daviess County, which has never provided the Commonwealth of Kentucky with a chief executive, furnished one for the Volunteer State almost a century ago.

This historical detective work began about six months ago. the Rev. Wendell Rone, of Owensboro, was reading an article about Gov. Marks in a Nashville publication. The Rev. Mr. Rone, pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church, and a longtime history enthusiast, was quick to realize the significance of Marks' Daviess County birth, which was reported in the article.

He alerted another local historian, Hugh O. Potter, Radio Station WOMI general manager. In an Editorial of the Air on Jan. 8, 1970, Potter asked for information concerning Gov. Marks from anyone in Daviess County who had any knowledge of him, noting g ironically that Tennessee seemed more appreciative than Kentucky of Daviess County's sons.

The response to the WOMI editorial was almost immediate. Mrs. Alice Gene Lewis, Owensboro-Daviess County librarian, found a complete biographical sketch of Marks, listing his parents a as Elisha Marks, originally from Virginia, and Elizabeth Lashbrook Marks, a native of Daviess County. Albert Smith Marks, the future governor of Tennessee, was born Oct. 16, 1836, near Owensboro.

Then, inquiries came from former students of Miss Mary Marks, who had taught at Daviess County High School. They suggested that she might be related to Gov. Marks. And the former Miss Marks, now Mrs. J. P. Shanks of 1516 Herr Ave., reported that Albert Marks was indeed a relative of hers, having been a cousin of her grandfather, Daviess County farmer Olin Marks (1800-1878).

A second WOMI editorial on Jan. 20 reported these revelations, and again requested the aid of local citizens in pinning down further evidence of Gov. Marks' Daviess County heritage.

Once again, the response was gratifying.

H. Vernon Bosley, 515 St. Ann St., whose ancestors came to the county in 1836, said that the original Bosley farm had been adjacent to the farm of the Marks family. He identified the area as land on which the Owensboro-Daviess County Airport is now located.

Mrs. Elizabeth S. Cox, Route 1, Utica, produced records indicating that Elisha Marks and Elizabeth Lashbrook were married in Daviess County on March 23, 1833.

An examination of marriage license records in the courthouse showed that the two were married by John Pinkston, a pioneer Methodist minister in this area.

Further examination of old records in the courthouse revealed that Elisha and Elizabeth Marks owned 656 acres of land "about three miles from Owensboro" during the 1840's. This tract was next to 262 acres owned by James and Nicholas Bosley. The latter was identified by H. Vernon Bosley as his grandfather.

On Jan. 20, a third WOMI editorial concerning Gov. Marks was aired, urging that a Kentucky Historical Society marker be erected at the airport, to identify the birthplace of the governor which Daviess County furnished for Tennessee.

The career of Gov. Marks was nothing if not meteoric.

When his father died in 1850, young Marks left school and took over the duties of the head of the household, at the age of 14. His mother was devoutly religious and hoped that he would become a minister, but the lad had other ambitions. He left home in 1855 and entered the law office of a relative, Col. A. S. Colyar, in Winchester, Tenn. Admitted to the bar in that state in 1858, he quickly established himself as one of the keenest young legal minds in Tennessee.

Marks strongly opposed secession in 1861, but after Tennessee joined the Confederate cause, the young lawyer enlisted with the 17th Tennessee Infantry and marched off to war. He was

quickly elected captain of his company, and within a year had risen to the rank of colonel and commander of the regiment.

The fearless young colonel was seriously wounded while leading a bayonet charge at the battle of Murfreesboro on Dec. 31, 1862. His leg was later amputated. After a long convalescence, Marks became judge advocate of Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest's hard-riding cavalry division, and served in this capacity until the end of the war.

He re-established his law practice almost immediately, and soon married his pre-war sweetheart, Novella Davis of Wilson County, Tenn. Marks quickly gained a reputation as one of the most brilliant lawyers in the state, and after years of urging by friends, finally entered the political arena. He was elected governor of Tennessee in 1878.

In spite of Gov. Marks' unquestioned ability and integrity, he was not able to resolve the issue that was tearing the state's Democratic Party to shreds: an argument over the state debt and the state's ability to honor it. Marks left office in 1881, declining to run again, and refused to run for the governorship in later years. He did make one unsuccessful campaign which he seemed to thoroughly enjoy for the U.S. Senate, but otherwise he devoted himself to his prosperous law practice.

Marks died on Nov. 4, 1891, in Nashville, at the age of 55. The distinguished native of Daviess County, Kentucky, had come to the end of an illustrious career.

With the placement of the historical marker at the airport on May 27, marking the birthplace of Gov. Marks, Daviess County now has 16 historical markers.

Two of the most familiar stand on the courthouse lawn, one noting the identities of the county's three Confederate Medal of Honor winners, and the other attesting to the fact that the Daviess County courthouse was burned by guerrillas in 1865.

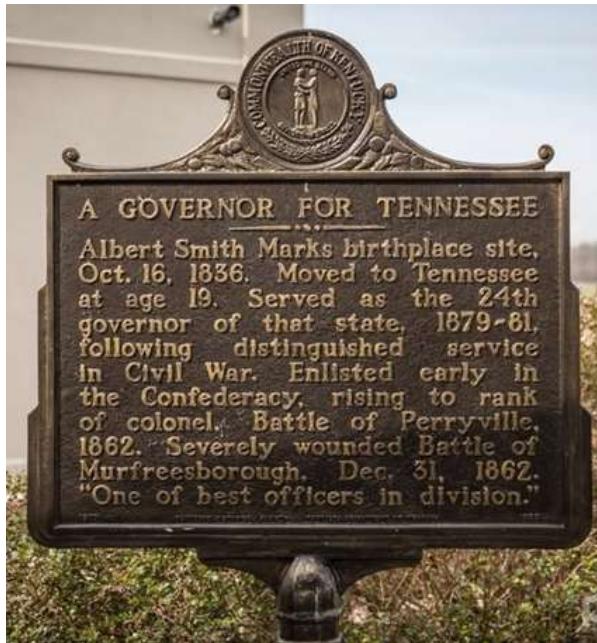
Two more markers concern the county's namesake, Col. Joseph Hamilton Daviess. One is located on Highway 231 north of the entrance to Daviess County High School, and the other is at the intersection of the Owensboro Beltline and U.S. 60 East, where Daviess' home once stood.

Other markers inside the city include those commemorating the Buffalo Road, at 1st and Frederica streets: the site of U.S. Senator Thomas McCreary's home at the intersection of Griffith and McCreary avenues; the site of Bill Smothers' cabin at 1st and St. Ann streets; and the giant sassafras tree at 2100 Frederica St.

The other historical markers in the county note the Panther Creek Battle during the Civil War, on U.S. 431 7½ miles south of Owensboro; the first movement of Kentucky coal by rail, at the intersection of U.S. 60 and Ky. 331; land once owned by George Mason, at the Green River Steel Mill on U.S. 60; the home of Harriet Beecher Stowe's "Uncle Tom" on U.S. 60 between Maceo and Lewisport; land once owned by President James Madison two miles east of Sorgho on Ky. 54; the founding of Mt. St. Joseph on Ky. 56; and the home of Thomas Clay, two miles from U.S. 60 on Ky. 405.



Historical highway marker was erected by the Kentucky Historical Society and Kentucky Department of Highway on 27 May 1970. Inscription – Governor For Tennessee: Albert Smith Marks birthplace site, Oct. 16, 1836. Moved to Tennessee at age 19. Served as the 24th governor of that state, 1879-81, following distinguished service in Civil War. Enlisted early in the Confederacy, rising to rank of colonel. Battle of Perryville, 1862. Severely wounded, Battle of Murfreesborough, Dec. 31, 1862. "One of best officers in division."



Marker is near Owensboro, Kentucky, in Daviess County. It is on Airport Road (State Road 2118), on the right when traveling east. The marker is in front of the Owensboro-Daviess County Regional Airport terminal. Marker is at or near the postal address: 2200 Airport Road, Owensboro KY 42301.



**A History of Owensboro and Daviess County, Kentucky, Hugh O. Potter,  
Daviess County Historical Society, Owensboro, KY (Montgomery, AL:  
Herff Jones-Paragon Publishing, 1974) pp.56-58:**

#### ALBERT SMITH MARKS

The first native of Daviess county to become a state governor was Albert Smith Marks who was born on October 16, 1836 on a farm south-west of the then small town of Owensborough (1830 U.S. Census, 229). At the age of 43, twenty-four years after leaving his Daviess county home, Marks was inaugurated the twenty-fourth chief executive of Tennessee.

The story of Governor Marks' life and career, and the way many 20th Century Owensboro area people learned about him, was told in the *Owensboro Messenger and Inquirer* early in 1971 [should be 1970] by a staff writer, Pat Morrison. Using the *National Cyclopaedia of American Biography*, published by James T. White and Company, New York, in 1897, as his chief source of biographical information, Morrison wrote:

"The story behind the placing . . . (of a) Kentucky Historical Society highway marker at the Owensboro-Daviess County Airport is an intriguing case study of how historical facts are brought to light.

"The story concerns . . . Albert S. Marks, who was governor of Tennessee (from 1879 to 1881.)

"This historical detective work began. . . (when) the Rev. Wendell Rone . . . was reading an article about Gov. Marks in a Nashville publication. The Rev. Mr. Rone (then) pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church and a longtime history enthusiast was quick to realize the significance of Marks' Daviess county birth, which was reported in the article.

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"The response to the WOMI editorial was almost immediate. Mrs. Alice Gene Lewis, Owensboro-Daviess County librarian, found a complete biographical sketch of Marks, listing his parents as Elisha Marks, originally from Virginia, and Elizabeth Lashbrook Marks, a native of Daviess county...

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A dramatic account of Governor Marks' sudden death and a brief appraisal of his legal career appeared in the February 14, 1970 issue of The Nashville Banner. It said:

"There's a nip of autumn chill on Church Street. It is Nov. 3, 1891. A handsome man with a cane is entering the Maxwell House. He walks with a limp.

"Former Governor Albert S. Marks is returning from two important cases. He's widely known as one of the most successful lawyers in Tennessee, and he has argued the cases with his usual force and clarity.

"But he's tired. He's in his middle 50s now. He's spent two successive nights on Pullman cars.

"Upstairs, Novella is waiting. Ah, but it's fine to be home—for to them the Maxwell House is home in Nashville. He can rest.

"It was 15 minutes till 4 a.m. when Novella Marks suddenly realized her husband was in grave distress. She ran down the hall and hammered on the door of their neighbor, Dr. J. M. Harding.

"'Come quickly', she exclaimed, 'I believe—Gov. Marks—is dying'.

"It was true. He had suffered a heart attack.

"A man of unblemished honesty and integrity lay dead at the Maxwell House."

*The National Cyclopaedia of American Biography* joined in eulogizing the former Daviess county farm boy when it editorially said:

"Gov. Marks was a very handsome man, and had a personal magnetism that drew everyone to him. Ever courteous to all, poor as well as rich; abounding in sympathy, sensitive as a woman, yet undaunted as a warrior when duty called, or some principle was to be defended; inspiring in his conversation, a model of conduct in public and private life, he made a lasting impression upon everyone who came in contact with him, and his loss was bitterly mourned by thousands."



**Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Wednesday, 13 June 1979, p.6E:**

**Tennessee castle  
reported haunted**

Associated Press: Winchester, Tenn. — Tucked away in East Tennessee is an old English castle complete with towers, an exact replica of Sir Walter Scott's library, and its own ghost.

It is the 90-year-old Hundred Oaks Castle, a rich man's dream which in the end housed monks instead of princes and which today is a tourist attraction.

The castle was bought at auction in 1977 by Hal and Alma Reagan, a prominent Gatlinburg couple. They purchased it from Winton S. Douglas of Winchester for \$418,500.

Douglas still runs the 37-room castle for the Reagans.

"Mrs. Reagan has been busy restoring it," he said in a recent telephone interview. "She has been redoing some of the rooms and making a showplace out of it."

He said that since the castle's tourist season had begun April 1, it had averaged 40 to 50 visitors a day, mostly from out of town.

The castle was the dream of Arthur Marks, son of Tennessee's 21st governor, Albert S. Marks.

Marks became obsessed with old English castles while serving as an American consul in London.

"He was infatuated with the baronial way of life," Douglas said.

When he came home to Winchester, he began building his dream castle patterned after the ones he had visited in England. He hoped, Douglas said, to entertain royalty in his own castle.

But Marks died before the castle, started in 1891, was finished and it was taken over by the Paulist Fathers, a Roman Catholic religious order, at the turn of the century. They left Hundred Oaks in 1965.

Douglas said each of the owners had done something toward finishing the castle and that Mrs. Reagan is finishing up the last part – the interior of one of the towers.

The ghost story? Douglas said that when the Marks family was living in the castle in the early 1890s, "some friends or family, it's not clear which, came to visit. While they were there, one of their children, a little girl 8 or 10 years old, disappeared. They couldn't find her but they kept hearing her all over the castle. A day or so later, they found her drowned in the spring cellar."

He said the incident was supposed to have occurred around the first of the month and so, even today, there are those who say, around the first of each month, they hear the little girl calling.



Hundred Oaks Castle, in Winchester, Franklin County, Tennessee, was built starting in 1830 by railroad tycoon Benjamin Decherd. Later prominent residents included Tennessee Governor Albert Marks in the 1860s, and his son Arthur Marks, who transformed it into a castle in 1889 with his wife Mary Hunt. It also served as a Paulist Fathers monastery from 1901 to the 1950s. It was situated on a plantation which was purchased by Albert S. Marks in the 1860s. It is said that his son, Arthur, counted the oak trees that dotted the land and came to the sum of one hundred, hence the name “Hundred Oaks”.



Grave of Albert Smith Marks (1836-1891) in the Winchester City Cemetery, Winchester, Franklin County, Tennessee.



**Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Thursday, 17 October 1991, p.7C:**

**Buyer will build apartment complex on Bosley property**

By Keith Lawrence, Messenger-Inquirer

The Ike Bosley estate on the southeast corner of West Parrish Avenue and the U.S. 60 bypass will become an apartment complex.

Earl Connor, who is developing the 112-unit Parrish Plaza Apartments complex just east of the Bosley property, outlasted all bidders Wednesday to claim the 12.34 acres for \$241,000.

The property has two houses including the colonial home where Albert Smith Marks, governor of Tennessee from 1879 to 1881, was born on Oct. 16, 1836. Wednesday was the 155th anniversary of Marks' birth. The house was located on property now owned by Owensboro-Daviess County Regional Airport at the time.

A year ago, two motel chains were reported to be looking at the Bosley property. And auctioneers touted the fact that 23,000 cars a day pass the property, which has nearly one-quarter mile of frontage on the two highways.

It is just north of Good Shepherd Church.

Connor said he plans to rent the houses and eventually build apartments on the 8.299 acres along the beltline and behind the church.

Work on those apartments won't begin until Connor completes eight more six-unit buildings in the Parrish Plaza complex, he said.

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[Note by Jerry Long – the former Albert Smith Marks home was originally located on property where the Owensboro-Daviess County Airport is now located. When the airport was constructed in 1949-1951 the house was moved to the southeast corner of West Parrish Avenue and the U. S. 60 bypass – this property in 1991 was purchased by Earl E. Connor. The Marks house is shown on the right in the picture in the following article. The house was razed in 1995 when Connor sold the property for a planned Best Western hotel. In 1997 the hotel was built at 3220 West Parrish Avenue. The hotel is now the Wingfield Inn & Suites.]

**Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Friday, 14 July 1995, p.1B:**

## **Best Western coming to area**

By Keith Lawrence, Messenger-Inquirer



A 70-unit Best Western motel with an indoor pool soon will be built on a three-acre plot at the southeast corner of West Parrish Avenue and the U.S. 60 bypass. Developer Mike Jones of West Virginia plans to break ground on the property in two months. The house on the right will be razed; the other one will be moved off the property.



Construction is expected to begin this fall on a \$2.4 million 70-room Best Western motel at the southeast corner of West Parrish Avenue and the U.S. 60 bypass.

Thursday's announcement by Mike Jones of Chapmanville, W.Va., was the third major motel move in the city this week.

Tuesday, Dr. Scott Reader and Larry Peach announced plans for converting a historic former downtown bank into a 40-room Peachtree Suites hotel. The same day, the Executive Inn Rivermont announced it is changing its name to Ramada Plaza and affiliating with that motel chain.

Jones said the Best Western, which will be called the Owensboro Inn, will be located on three acres. He hopes to have it open by the end of March. Room rates haven't been set, he said, but the motel will have an indoor pool, though no restaurant or lounge.

Jerry Feldpausch, president of the Owensboro-Daviess County Hotel-Motel Association, said Peachtree Suites and the Best Western Owensboro Inn will be the city's 14th and 15th inns.

"For a metropolitan area of 81,000, that's quite sufficient," he said. "That should be enough to last us for awhile."

Feldpausch, who manages the Days Inn, said, "I don't know what we're all going to do in the off-season." Winter months are traditionally slow in Owensboro.

But motel revenues in Daviess County topped the \$10 million mark for the first time last year – climbing to \$10.89 million. Occupancy rates also increased – from 53 percent to 60 percent.

The new rooms at Peachtree Suites and Best Western Owensboro Inn will bring the city's total to almost 1,600.

Jones said he and his wife, Cindy, wanted to get out of the coal business and buy a motel in Kentucky – closer to family. "We'll be relocating to Owensboro with our children. We really like the town. It has big town conveniences and small town hospitality. And it's growing."

Family members own the Days Inn in Madisonville.

Jones chose the site for its access to the bypass. "And it's close to the airport, ball fields and Moonlite" Bar-B-Que Inn, he said.

When local businessman Earl Connor bought the property at auction in 1991, auctioneers said 23,000 cars pass the property daily.

The property has on it two houses, including the home where Albert Smith Marks, governor of Tennessee from 1879 to 1881, was born in 1836. Originally on property owned by Owensboro-Daviess County Regional Airport, they were moved so the airport could be built. Jones said Marks' former house will be razed to make way for the new motel.



**Messenger-Inquirer, Owensboro, KY, Thursday, 1 September 2022, p.1C:**

**Who was  
Smith  
Marks?**

By Keith Lawrence, Messenger-Inquirer

On the north side of the front of the terminal at Owensboro-Daviess County Regional Airport is a worn state historical marker honoring the birthplace of Albert Smith Marks, governor of Tennessee from 1879 to 1881.

Marks has been largely forgotten in his hometown and probably is barely remembered today in Tennessee.

But he was an interesting man.

The marker was erected in 1970.

A newspaper story at the time said that Marks' parents, Elisha and Elizabeth Lashbrook Marks owned 656 acres three miles from Owensboro.

He was born there on Oct. 16, 1836.

The house Marks was born in and another house on the property were moved to West Parrish Avenue when the airport was built.

They were razed in 1995 to make way for what's now the Wingfield Inn & Suites.

Marks' father died in 1850, when he was 14.

And he quit school to work the farm.

But they say Marks spent as much time as possible reading fiction, history, biographies and the Greek and Roman classics.

When Marks was 19, he moved to Winchester, Tennessee, to study law with a relative, Arthur S. Colyar.

He was admitted to the bar in 1858.

When the Civil War broke out three years later, Marks was strongly opposed to secession. But when Tennessee seceded from the Union, he enlisted in the Confederate Army.

He was elected as a captain and later promoted to colonel.

At the battle of Stones River in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, on Dec. 31, 1862, Marks led a bayonet charge against a Union position.

He was shot in the leg, and surgeons had to amputate it.

After a long convalescence, Marks served as a judge advocate to the staff of General Nathan Bedford Forrest until the end of the war.

After the war, he gained a reputation as one of the most brilliant lawyers in the state.

In 1878, Marks ran for governor of Tennessee as a Democrat and won the office.

When his term was up, however, he declined to seek a second.  
Marks died at the Maxwell House Hotel in Nashville on Nov. 4, 1891.  
He was 55.



**Lashbrooke, Lashbrooks and Lashbrook (Of the United States,**  
**Mark K. (Gritt) Lashbrook (Utica, KY: McDowell Publications, 1986) pp.24-25:**

Elizabeth (John 3, William 2, 1) Lashbrooks was born 9 March 1815 in Bullitt Co., KY, the daughter of John and Ursula (Colyer) Lashbrooks. She married Elisha S. Marks 29 March 1833 in Daviess Co., KY (MBk A, p.58). Elisha S. Marks was born 1 November 1807 in Loudon Co., VA, the son of Isaiah and Elizabeth (Daniels) Marks, and died 7 August 1851 in Daviess Co., KY (Adm.. set 10 November 1851 and Bible Records at TN State Archives.). Elizabeth (Lashbrooks) Marks died 22 January 1859 in Daviess Co., KY (Adm. set 14 February 1859 and *History of Daviess Co., KY*, 1883, p. 415.)

Children:

1. Martha M b. 7 Apr 1834 Daviess Co., KY
2. Albert Smith (16 Oct 1834 - 1890) “  
m. Novella Davis  
(He became a Governor of TN.)
3. Edward Camden b.. 2 Mar 1838 “
4. Lucinda Jane b. 9 May 1840 “
5. Zerilda b. 18 Feb 1844 “
6. Elizabeth b. 2 Jan 1846 “
7. Margarette b. 11 Feb 1848 “
8. Catherine b. 17 June 1850 “

(Two sisters were mentioned as survivors of Albert Smith Marks in his obituary: Mrs. Robt. C. Handey of Winchester, TN and Mrs. James B. Fitzpatrick.)



**Daviess County, Kentucky 1850 Federal Census, p.398:**

Elisha S. Marks	43	m	farmer	real estate value	\$6,175	Va.
Eliz'th	33	f				Ky.
Martha M.	16	f				Ky.
Albert S.	15	m				Ky.
Edw'd	12	m				Ky.
Lucinda J.	10	f				Ky.
Zerilda	8	f				Ky.
Eliz'th	6	f				Ky.
Marg't	4	f				Ky.
Cath'n	1/12	f				Ky.
Eliz'th	66	f				Va.