

Kenneth Cayce  
April 2

(1)

APRIL 1992

### Kentucky's Governors 1792 - 1859

When I first chose the subject of Kentucky's Governors for this paper, I envisioned one paper being an adequate vehicle to summarize the 57 men and 1 woman who have held this position. I soon realized that the time allotted for presentation precluded the briefest mention of these 58 governors and so tonight, I will deal with the 19 who served in this office from 1792 - Isaac Shelby to 1859, Charles Slaughter Morehead. Two of these governors served two terms, Isaac Shelby 1792-1796 and 1812-1816 and James Garrard 1796-1804.

Isaac Shelby was born near Hagarstown, Md., December 11, 1750. He was brought up trained in the use of arms, being active in the securing of land from the Indians and in 1775, he arrived in Kentucky (then a county of Virginia) as a surveyor for the Transylvania Company. In 1776, he returned to claim and improve his original preemption of 1400 acres. During this period, in addition to his military duties, he also served as a member of the Virginia legislature. In 1783, he moved permanently to Kentucky where he married Susannah Hart. To the union were born 11 children. In 1784, he was chairman of a convention called to consider the separation of Kentucky from Virginia. He also served on similar committees in 1787, 1788, and 1789. He was also a member of the convention April 2-19, 1792 that framed the first Constitution of Kentucky. On May 15, 1792, the electors chose him as the first governor. The constitution called for a bicameral legislature in which representatives and electors were chosen by popular vote and the electors chose the senators and the governor. He declined another term and retired to private life for the next 15 years until 1812 when he was called from retirement to once again run for governor. By this time, the convention of 1799 provided for the popular election of governor. He easily defeated Gabriel Slaughter (who later became the 6th governor). During his second term he raised and led a detachment of some 4000 troops and joined with General William Henry Harrison in the invasion of Canada, where they defeated the British forces led by General Isaac Proctor and the Shawnee Chieftan Tecumseh at the Thames River. He again retired to private life at the end of this term. In March 1817, he was asked by President Monroe to accept the post of Secretary of War but he declined. In addition to his elected and military careers



he also was president of the first Kentucky Agricultural Society and chairman of the first board of trustees of Centre College, 1819. He died September 8, 1826 and is buried at his home south of Danville.

James Garrard, Kentucky's second governor, 1796-1804, is the only one to be elected to two succeeding terms. This was made possible by the constitutional convention of 1799 where the method of election was changed to a popular vote of the people from the elector method used in the election of Shelby and Garrard. He was born in Stafford County, Virginia in 1749 and migrated to Kentucky in 1783 with his wife and seven children (5 more were to be born in Kentucky). He had served as a colonel in the Virginia militia during the revolutionary war. In Kentucky, he surveyed land, operated a grist mill, made whiskey and farmed in Bourbon County. He was an active Baptist minister. Before Kentucky became a state in 1792, he also served in the Virginia legislature.

He served in five Kentucky statehood conventions and helped write the constitution of 1792. When political parties developed, he became a Jeffersonian Republican. He was a complex man, as a planter, he opposed slavery, as a Baptist minister, he advocated religious tolerance and even Unitarian ideas; as an aristocrat, he favored democratic reforms; as a politician, he appointed many critics and rivals to political office. Character, integrity, and magnanimity explained his success. As governor, he even pardoned a personal slave accused of poisoning food in his home.

He was elected governor in 1796 in what contemporaries called "The Disputed Election". General Benjamin Logan, a frontier military hero, was favored while Thomas Todd, a lawyer who had been secretary to all ten statehood conventions was the intellectual giant. Colonel Garrard was best known as a Baptist clergyman and personable Bourbon politician. The electors failed to give a majority to any candidate. Logan had 21 votes, Garrard 17, Todd 14, and a fourth candidate 1. In the run off, Garrard received most of Todd's votes

and even though Togan protested, the result stood. However, from this arose the call for constitutional reform. In 1800, under the new constitution as adopted in 1799, he ran against ~~T~~ogan, Todd, and Christopher Greenup. He again <sup>LED</sup>~~had~~ the field. He surrounded himself with men of ability and was one of Kentucky's most honest and magnanimous chief executors.

After his second term, he spent the last eighteen years on his Bourbon county farm where he died January 19, 1822 and was buried there.

Christopher Greenup, governor 1804-1808, was born in 1750 in Loudon County, Virginia. He was probably the best qualified of the early Kentucky governors. He had a good basic education, learned surveying, and read law. He was a colonel in the Virginia militia. He was commissioned an attorney at law and admitted to practice in 1782. In 1783, he became one of the original trustees of Transylvania University. He represented Fayette County in the Virginia legislature. He was an elector of the first governor of Kentucky and a member of the first senate. He was elected one of Kentucky's first two representatives in Congress where he served from 1792-1797. He was elected Governor in August 1804 without opposition. In retirement, Greenup remained active in business, played only a minor role in politics. He died April 27, 1812 and is buried in the state cemetery in Frankfort.



Charles Scott, Kentucky's fourth governor was born in Powhatan County, Virginia in 1739. He enlisted in Washington's Virginia regiment in 1755 and during the French and Indian war rose from private to captain. During the Revolutionary War he rose to brigadier general and served as Washington's Chief of Intelligence.

Scott visited Kentucky in 1785 and after selling his Virginia farm, returned with his family to Kentucky in 1787, where he settled on the Kentucky river near present day Versailles. He served one term in the Virginia legislature from 1789-1790 and from 1796-1808 he was<sup>A</sup> presidential elector. Scott was venerated as a hero of the French and Indian and Revolutionary War and in the gubernatorial race in 1808, he easily defeated his two opponents. Scott County, Kentucky and Scottsville, Virginia were both named for him. It is interesting to note that the first four governors all have counties named for them.

Scott's term coincided with the frenzy created by the War of 1812. He emphasized the need to uphold the national honor. Scott died in 1813 and his remains were moved to the Frankfort cemetery in 1854.

George Madison, the fifth person to serve as governor was born in Rockingham County, Virginia in June <sup>1763</sup> 1863. He was a brother of James Madison, who later became president of the College of William and Mary and the Episcopal bishop of Virginia, and he was second cousin to James Madison, president of the United States. His early life was devoted to military pursuits and he served during the Revolutionary War <sup>and</sup> the Indian wars in the northwest territory in 1791-1792. He settled in what is now Mercer County. Governor Isaac Shelby appointed him <sup>an</sup> auditor of public accounts in 1796 and he served in that capacity for twenty years. He again entered the military during the War of 1812, was taken prisoner in January 1813 and held in Quebec until 1814. He received a hero's welcome on his return to Kentucky. He was in failing health but yielding to popular demand, he announced for governor in 1816. The only other entry, James Johnson, withdrew in his favor and he was elected without opposition. He was considered one of the best qualified persons to be elected governor but he was to die after a little over a month in office. He took the oath from a justice of the peace in Bourbon County on September 5, 1816 and died October 14, 1816.

His only official act as governor was to appoint Isaac Shelby's son-in-law, Charles S. Todd, Secretary of State. He was buried in Frankfort.

Gabriel Slaughter, the seventh governor of Kentucky was born in Culpepper County, Virginia in 1767 and moved to Mercer County Kentucky in the early 1790's.

He was twice elected lieutenant governor 1808 and 1816. He ran for governor in 1812 against ex-governor Isaac Shelby and was soundly defeated by Shelby. However, as lieutenant governor, after the death of Madison, he took up the duties of governor although he was never afforded the title of governor, he operated as acting governor until the election of 1820. However, his effectiveness as acting governor was severely hampered by a hostile legislature. He had accepted the resignation of Shelby's son-in-law Charles S. Todd, Madison's appointee as Secretary of State and replaced him with former U.S. Senator John Pope who was unpopular because of his federalism and opposition to the recent war. There were a number of legislative attempts to unseat him but all failed. His administration coincided with the panic of 1819 where the economy collapsed as an aftermath of the war of 1812.

Slaughter upon leaving office in 1820 served one term in the state house of representatives, became a lay leader in the Baptist church, and in 1829 was appointed to the first board of trustees of Georgetown College. He died in 1830, survived by his third wife and was buried in the family cemetery in Mercer County.

John Adair, Kentucky's 8th governor, was born in South Carolina in 1757 went to school in Charlotte, N.C. He served in the revolutionary war and was a member of the South Carolina convention that ratified the new Constitution of the United States. He and his family, which was to eventually grow to twelve children, migrated west to Kentucky in 1786 settling in Mercer County, ~~Virginia~~. He served in both the Constitutional convention of 1792 and 1799. He served 9 terms in the Kentucky House of Representatives, and filled the United States senate seat vacated by John Breckinridge who had resigned, 1805-1806. During the War of 1812, he served as Governor Shelby's military aide.

He was elected governor in 1820 in a hotly contested race by a bare 500 vote plurality against three other candidates. His main contribution was relief for the beleaguered landowners who were bordering on bankruptcy. The legislature at his behest, created the Bank of the Commonwealth. This was to be a people's bank which in its just two years issued \$3,000,000 in paper money, loaned most of it out and if any creditor refused to accept these worthless bills the law barred him from pressing his claim in court for two years. Robert Wickliffe, a foe of this bill, called the bank "an association of bankrupts to borrow money". Adair signed the bill into law in November 1820. This was just one of the relief bills which he approved as governor. Many of these bills were declared unconstitutional by the state court of appeals, which ruled in favor of the creditor class. For the remainder of his term he was involved in controversy with the court and its supporters, but was unable to shake the court, nor could he cause a new constitutional convention to be called.



After leaving, he served one term in the United States house of representatives, 1830-1831. He died in May 1840 at the age of 83 and is buried in the Frankfort cemetery.

Joseph Desha of French Huguenot ancestry was born in Pennsylvania in 1768 and first came to Kentucky at the age of thirteen, settling in what is now Fayette County. At the age of sixteen he, with his family, moved to Tennessee. In 1792, he, his wife, and the oldest children of what would become a total of thirteen moved back to Kentucky and settled in Mason County.

Desha's military background included service under General's Anthony Wayne and William H. Harrison in the 1794 Indian War. In the war of 1812, he again served under General Harrison. However, his key interests were agriculture and politics. He served in the Kentucky House of Representatives in 1797 and 1799-1802. He was in the Kentucky Senate 1802-1807 and moved to the United States House where he served six consecutive terms 1807-1819. In 1801 he lost his race for governor against John Adair, but four years later he came back as the prorelief candidate and won.

The commonwealth was in turmoil. The key public issue for the past four years was relief for debtors. These people as you might recall were the victims of the Panic of 1819. The previous governor, John Adair had also championed the cause of relief and during his administration the bank of the commonwealth had been founded and numerous other relief measures, many of which the Kentucky Court of appeals had struck down as unconstitutional.

The election of 1824 had posed a referendum on the issue and the people of Kentucky spoke in favor of relief. Desha was elected governor and the prorelief forces captured a two-thirds majority of both houses of the legislature and could thus remove the anti-relief judges of the old court. However, in November when the new legislature convened, they failed to muster the necessary two-thirds

majority to remove them. However, in December the prorelief Desha forces successfully backed passage of a court reorganization bill that abolished the old court and created a new court. Governor Desha immediately signed the bill and appointed the new court judges. The old court was not content and began to operate politically and in the fall of 1825, they won control of the house and in 1826 won control of the senate. Shortly thereafter, the new legislature passed a bill abolishing the new court and repealing the court reorganization bill. Desha vetoed the bill, the legislature overruled the veto and the old court was returned to power. Two other issues were prominent during Desha's governorship. One related to Horace Holley, a New England Unitarian, who had assumed the presidency of Transylvania University. He was a good educator but his religious convictions infuriated Orthodox Christians. Desha, in 1826, in his annual message came out against Holley and thus hastened his departure.

The other issue concerned his son Isaac who brutally murdered a Mississippian who was visiting in Kentucky. Local juries twice found him guilty of murder and sentenced him to hang. Finally in 1827, Governor Desha used his constitutional power to pardon his son.

After Desha left office he retired to his farm where he died in 1842.

Thomas Metcalfe, Kentucky's tenth governor was born in Fauquier County, Virginia and with his family moved to Kentucky in 1804. His education was rather skimpy but he became a skilled stonemason, where he picked up his nickname "Stonehammer".

Metcalfe began his public sector career with service in the state house of representatives 1812-1816. He served as a captain in the War of 1812 and in 1819 was elected to the United States Congress serving until 1828. During this period, he allied himself with Henry Clay and his American System and in 1827, the Adams-Clay forces turned to Metcalfe as their candidate for governor. As a result in December 1827, Thomas Metcalfe became the first Kentucky gubernatorial candidate nominated by party convention rather than the caucus system. He was elected by the narrowest of margins 38,930 votes to 38,231 for William T. Barry, the candidate on the Democratic ticket.

Metcalfe must be ranked as one of the better governors of the era. He denounced nullification as well as Jackson's spoils system, and his recommendations usually became law. Later he served as a state senator 1834-1838 and in 1839 he was a member of the Whig National Convention. He served in the United States Senate from June 1848 to March 1849. There he denounced secession and declared that Kentucky would always uphold the Union.

Shortly after this he retired to his farm where he died of Cholera on August 18, 1855.



John Breathitt was the only Jacksonian Democrat elected as Governor during the state's Whig era, 1828-1850, and was the second governor to die in office.

Breathitt was born in 1786 near New London, Virginia and arrived in Kentucky with his parents in the early part of the nineteenth century, settling in Russellville. Education was almost non-existent in this area, but John availed himself of that which was available, taught himself surveying and read law in the office of Judge Caleb Wallace. He was admitted to the bar in 1810. In 1811, he was elected to the state house of representatives from Logan County and served until 1815. In 1828, he was elected lieutenant governor and in 1831 he was nominated by the democrats as their candidate for governor in the 1832 election. Richard A. Buckner was the Clay-Adams national republican candidate opposing Breathitt. The election was close - Breathitt won by 1242 votes out of 80,188 votes cast. The Jackson Purchase counties gave him a majority which was 338 votes larger than his statewide margin. The honors for illegal voting went to Oldham County which cast 162.9% of its potential vote 2-1 in favor of Breathitt.

Governor Breathitt devoted most of his 1832 address to the General Assembly to the question of internal improvements and he included strong support for completing the Lexington-Ohio Railroad. In February 1833, the railroad was authorized to borrow \$300,000 in construction costs. A state loan of \$150,000 was approved but the road was not completed to Louisville until 1851.

By this time he was a very sick man and he was ineffective in his dealings with the legislature for the remainder of his governship. He died of tuberculosis on February 21, 1834. He was a stalwart defender of the union. He is buried in Maple Grove Cemetery at Russellville.

James T. Moorehead, became Kentucky's 12th governor at the death of Governor John Breathitt. He was the first native born son of Kentucky to serve as governor. James Moorehead's grandfather was also the grandfather of Charles S. Moorehead (governor 1855-1859) as well as the great grandfather of Simon Bolivar Buckner, governor 1887-1891. He was born near Shepherdsville in 1797 and shortly thereafter the family moved to Russellville where he received his primary education. He attended Transylvania University 1813-1815. He was admitted to the bar in 1818 and opened his practice in Bowling Green.

In 1828 he was elected to the Kentucky house of representatives serving until 1831. He was nominated by the National Republican Party for lieutenant governor at the Frankfort convention in 1831 and succeeded to the governorship on the death of Governor Breathitt.

Moorehead must be ranked as an adequate caretaker governor. During his short tenure, state revenues came to little more than \$400,000 annually versus the recently announced 12 billion dollar budget for the biennium 1992-1994. He did nothing to hinder education (or to help it either), presided over the birth of the Whig party in Kentucky (The anti-King Andrew Jackson party). Through factionalism within the party, he was not nominated as the Whig candidate for governor in 1836.

He again served in the house in 1837-1838. In 1841, he was appointed United States Senator, serving until March 1847. In his later years, he practiced law in Covington where he died a relatively young man in 1854.

James Clark, the thirteenth governor, was born in Virginia in 1779 and was brought to Kentucky by his parents where they settled in Clark County. He was educated privately and then went back to Virginia and studied law under his brother. Eventually he returned to Clark County and opened his office in Winchester having been admitted to the bar in 1797 at the age of 18.

In 1807 and 1808, he was elected to the lower house of the General Assembly. In 1810, he was appointed a judge of the Kentucky Court of Appeals and served for two years. He was then elected for two terms to the U.S. House of Representatives and served from 1813 until his resignation in 1816. In 1817, he was appointed judge of the circuit court and while serving in this capacity in 1822, rendered his historic decision in the case of *Willimas vs. Blair* declaring the stay law for the benefit of debtors to be unconstitutional. You will recall that this occurred during the tenure of Governor Joseph Desha and led to the turmoil created by the legislature creating a new court of appeals and the eventual rescinding of this law and the return to power of the Old Court.

In 1825, Clark again was elected to the United States House of Representatives when Henry Clay resigned to join the cabinet of John Quincy Adams. He served in the house for three terms. In 1832, he was elected to Kentucky State Senate where he served until elected governor on the Whig ticket in 1836. His first message to the legislature in 1837 proposed a constructive and far-sighted program. He stressed the importance of keeping finances on a sound footing, concern about fugitive slaves, but by far his strongest appeal was made in the interest of education. He strongly urged the legislature to establish a public school system in every

county. The assembly responded by passing an act establishing the first common schools in the state.

Clark discharged his duties as chief executor of Kentucky with dignity and honor until his death, while still in office on August 27, 1839.



Upon the death of Governor Clark, Charles A. Wickliffe, the lieutenant governor, became governor on September 5, 1839 and served the one year remaining on Clark's term. Wickliffe was born in 1788 near Springfield. His primary education was limited but at an early age he began the study of law and was admitted to the bar in 1809. Prior to his election to the office as lieutenant governor he had seen public service as Commonwealth Attorney of Nelson County, served seven years as a member of the Kentucky House of Representatives, was elected to five terms as a United States Congressman and was unsuccessful in his candidacy for the United States Senate. At the conclusion of his year as governor, he was appointed postmaster general of the United States by President Tyler serving in this capacity until 1845. He again was elected to Congress for one term and unsuccessfully ran for Governor again in 1863 being defeated by Thomas Bramlette.

As a point of personal interest upon his marriage in 1813, he built a home in Bardstown which still goes by the name Wickland. This house remained in the Wickliffe family until 1919. In the century of Wickliffe family ownership, it was home to three governors - or future governors - Wickliffe, his son Robert who became the governor of Louisiana, and his grandson J.C.W. Beckham, governor of Kentucky 1900-1907.

Wickliffe was a political independent when it took real courage to support one's beliefs instead of one's political party. He remained an active and vital part of the public sector until his death at the age of 81 in 1869.

Robert Perkins Letcher, governor from 1840-1844 served Kentucky politically from 1813 to 1852 as a congressman, legislator and governor. He was the eleventh Kentucky governor to claim Virginia as his state of birth. His parents moved with their brood to Kentucky about 1800 and settled in Garrard County where the father opened a brick yard. Young Robert reluctantly helped him in the brickyard until he gained admission to the highly regarded school of Joshua Fey near Danville. He studied law and began his practice in Garrard County.

He was a consummate politician and a gregarious man with a gift for friendship. President John Quincy Adams described him as " a man of moderate talents, good temper, playful wit and shrewd sagacity".

He assumed the office of governor in the midst of an economic depression. In spite of the depression, he was able to report a surplus in the state treasury each year of his term and when he left office Kentucky bonds, worth about eighty cents on the dollar when he took office, were above par.

On his retirement, Letcher continued to live and practice law in Frankfort where he died in 1861.

Governor William Owsley was born in Virginia in 1782 and the next year his parents moved to Kentucky and settled in Lincoln County. He became a school teacher, a deputy surveyor, and a deputy sheriff prior to being admitted to the bar. In 1809, and 1811 he was elected to the lower house of the legislature. In between - in 1810 he was appointed to the Court of Appeals for a brief stint before being removed when the number of justices was reduced. Two years later he was appointed to the Court of Appeals where he served until 1828. He was a member of what we have previously referred to as the Old Court. He resigned from the court in 1828. He again was elected to the house in 1831 and from 1832-1834 served as a state senator. Subsequently, Governor Morehead appointed him secretary of state, an office he held from 1834-1836. He practiced law in Frankfort then, until he was elected governor in 1844. He was characterized by his contemporaries as a "born jurist" and a "stern and unbending man". He considered his chief accomplishment the fact that "for the first time, the debt of the state was being decreased". He urged the legislature to support education. They responded with a small tax. Owsley's main contribution to education was the appointment of Robert A. Breckinridge as superintendent of public instruction. Breckinridge is generally recognized as the architect of public schooling in Kentucky. He was not a popular governor and some of his actions are purported to have led to the constitutional convention of 1849. Owsley told his last General Assembly that the approaching end of his term "excites in my breast no emotions of regret" and his evaluation of his administration was "more than justice, I neither expect nor desire".

After leaving office he lived for fourteen years and died in 1862, a forgotten man.

John Jordan Crittenden, 17th governor of Kentucky was born near Versailles in 1781. He was educated in private schools, and attended college at Washington - later Washington and Lee University, and law at William and Mary College. When he returned to Kentucky he began his practice in Russellville. He was active in the war of 1812 serving as aide - de - camp to Governor Isaac Shelby. He served six consecutive terms as a state representative from Logan County and in 1817 was elected to the U.S. Senate serving until 1819 at which time he resigned. In 1834, he became Secretary of State under James T. Morehead and in 1835, for the second time he was elected to the U.S. Senate - before his public life was over he was to be sent to the U.S. Senate four times. In 1841, he was appointed Attorney General of the United States by President Harrison, who died after only a month in office. Unable to agree with President Tyler, he joined the complete cabinet with the exception of Webster, and resigned.

He was elected governor in 1848 but resigned his post in 1850 to again accept the post of Attorney General from President Filmore. He also served for a period as Secretary of State. In 1854, for the fourth time he was elected to the United States Senate. He served in this capacity until 1861. In this capacity he worked hard to keep Kentucky in the Union. Later as a member of the House of Representatives, he authored and secured the passage of the famed Crittenden Resolution that declared the war was not being fought for the purpose of interfering with the established institutions of the states - primarily slavery. He was married three times, had five sons and four daughters. In the civil war he struggled so hard to prevent, one son George B. Crittenden was a major general in the Confederate army and another Thomas L. became



a major general in the Union army.

John J. Crittenden was truly one of the greatest statesman Kentucky has produced and was preparing for re-election to Congress when he died in 1863 at the age of seventy-five.

John Larue Helm, the 18th and 24th governor of Kentucky served two brief terms, the first for thirteen months when as lieutenant governor, he succeeded to the governorship upon the resignation of Governor Crittenden, and the second some seventeen years later for a period of only five days. He was the first governor born in the nineteenth century, being born in 1802 in Hardin County. He received his education in the common schools and studied law under several prominent lawyers in Elizabethtown. He was admitted to the bar in 1823.

John Helm was an early advocate of railroad development, especially a north-south line through Hardin County. As lieutenant governor, he worked to secure a charter for the L & N railroad and in 1854, became the company's second president. He was an effective stock salesman for the line but resigned his position in 1860 soon after the line was completed between Louisville and Nashville.

He was a state leader when he was still in his twenties and served almost without interruption in the Kentucky legislature, the house, or the senate from 1826-1849. During the Civil war he advocated neutrality for the state and was an outspoken critic of Lincoln.

During his first stint as governor, he was a fiscal conservative. He was quick though to commit the powers of the state to stimulate economic growth. He advocated improved salaries for judges to help insure an independent judiciary, election reforms, and laws against carrying concealed deadly weapons.

In the campaign of 1867, Helm ran for governor against the republican candidate Sidney M. Barnes. He won by a margin of some

57,000 votes out of a total vote of 137,000. However, he became ill during the campaign and the oath of office was administered at his bedside on September 3, 1867. Five days later he died.

Lazarus Whitehead Powell, governor from 1851-1855 was a strong supporter of the public school system. He was born in Henderson county in 1812, educated in the local schools by tutors, and at St. Joseph's college in Bardstown. He studied law at Transylvania school of law in Lexington. Upon being admitted to the bar, he returned to Henderson and practiced law with Archibald Dixon. In 1836, he won a seat in the state house of representatives where he served one term.

In 1848, as the democratic nominee for governor, he lost to John J. Crittendon, 65,000 votes to 57,397. The democrats nominated Powell again for governor in 1851. His opponent was his friend and former law partner, Archibald Dixon. As they campaigned, they stayed at the same taverns, dined together, and spoke from the same platforms. Powell won by 850 votes, the first democrat elected governor since 1832.

With Powell, Robert J. Breckinridge had a strong supporter of public education. Breckinridge as superintendent of public instruction since 1847 had made excellent progress toward establishing a public school system. In 1855, under Powell's leadership, the voters approved a school tax increase from two cents <sup>To</sup> ~~for~~ five cents per one hundred dollars. It was approved by a landslide - 82,765 for - 25,239 against. Powell had made a significant contribution toward the development of one of the two strongest state school systems in the antebellum south. North Carolina was the other.

In 1858, Powell was elected to the U. S. Senate and served until 1865. At the end of this term he returned to the practice of law in Henderson where he died in 1867.



Those of you who attended last month's meeting of the Athenaeum Society were privileged to hear Tom Riley's excellent paper devoted <sup>To</sup> ~~at~~ Kentucky's 20th governor, Charles Slaughter Morehead 1855-1859. As a result of Tom's all inclusive paper on Morehead, I will be brief in my remarks concerning him. He was born in Nelson County in 1802. His first cousin James Turner Morehead, served as governor 1834-1836. He graduated from Transylvania University with both a baccalaureate and law degree. He practiced law in Christian and Franklin Counties.

His chief accomplishment as governor was the establishment of state supported teacher education at Transylvania. The bill was passed in 1856. Two years later in 1858, the next legislature withdrew the funding for the program.

After his term, he practiced law in Louisville. He was a vocal critic of the Lincoln administration and was arrested and imprisoned. Upon his release he fled to Canada, Europe, and Mexico. After the war, he returned and lived on his plantation in Mississippi until his death in 1868.

Fear not, this paper is soon to end. A brief mention of all 58 governors would not be a humane gesture among such an intellectual body. Unless divinely prevented, when my turn next comes up I will write paper two on Kentucky governors. I considered in this bi-centennial year, that it would be appropriate to begin what will in all probability be a series of three such presentations. As a note which most historians never saw fit to calculate, these nineteen men married twenty-seven times and with four having no children, the remaining fifteen produced one hundred and ten.