

A COLLECTION OF PAPERS
READ BEFORE THE
BUCKS COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY



PUBLISHED FOR THE SOCIETY

BY

B. F. FACKENTHAL, JR.

RIEGELSVILLE, PA.

VOLUME I.

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

HON. HARMAN YERKES
HENRY C. MERCER
WARREN S. ELY

MISS AGNES B. WILLIAMS
CLARENCE D. HOTCHKISS
B. F. FACKENTHAL, JR.

PRESS OF
THE CHEMICAL PUBLISHING CO.
EASTON, PA.

997

Sketch of the Life of General John Davis.

BY REV. D. K. TURNER, HARTSVILLE, PA.

(Southampton Meeting, July 22, 1884.)

For a large part of the facts and dates contained in this paper, I am indebted to General W. W. H. Davis, president of this society, who, at my solicitation, permitted me to make such use of them as I thought proper.

We ought not to allow the noble lives of those, who have adorned and improved the sphere in which they moved, and benefitted their country, to pass from our recollection. It is well to call them up from the past and rehearse incidents in them, that we may be encouraged to pursue a similar course, and cultivate the virtues they possessed, even if we do not attain to the distinction they enjoyed. Gen. John Davis was a man of whom Bucks county may well be proud. He was born and reared within its limits, and after a period of absence in his youth he returned and made it the scene of the activities of his manhood and the quiet serenity of his old age. His ancestry resided in Scotland and Wales, and the blood of the North of Ireland also flowed in his veins. It may be said, that the excellent qualities of the three kingdoms of Great Britain were mingled in his physical and mental constitution. His paternal grandfather, William Davis, probably of Welsh origin, was born in London, and came to Pennsylvania about 1740, a period when large numbers of English and Scotch-Irish crossed the Atlantic and found their home in our State. He settled in Solebury, near the line of Upper Makefield, which was the place of his residence during the remainder of his life. His son, John, father of the subject of this sketch, was born in Solebury, September 6, 1760, and spent a part of his boyhood with the family of William Neely, a relative, at what has been long denominated "Neely's mill," about four miles from New Hope. When the American Revolution commenced he was nearly sixteen years of age, and though a boy, sympathized heartily with the struggle of the colonies against the tyrannical oppressions of the British Parliament. A call was made for the militia to take

up arms, and he entered the ranks and served four months, as a substitute for his father, in a company which was attached to the battalion of four hundred men from Bucks county, under the command of Colonel Joseph Hart, of Warminster. These troops took part in what was termed the "Amboy Expedition," a branch of the operations in which Washington retreated from the vicinity of New York across New Jersey. At another time, young Davis was in a company, whose captain was Samuel Smith, but of whose services we have no particular account. In December, 1776, just after his return from the first tour as a soldier, the commander-in-chief of the American forces crossed the Delaware and encamped near Jericho Hill, in upper Makefield township, in the neighborhood where Davis then resided. He went with the Continental troops, across the river, on that eventful night, the 25th of December, when the victory of Trenton cheered the nation with hope, that all was not lost, though little but disaster had attended their efforts for several months.

James Monroe, then a lieutenant, afterwards President of the United States, was wounded in that engagement and was taken to the house of William Neely, where Davis was then living. Being under the same roof for some time the lieutenant and soldier-boy were no doubt much together, which no doubt influenced Davis to enlist. At any rate he enlisted in the company of Captain Thomas Butler, 3d Pennsylvania regiment, in the winter of 1777. In 1780 a light infantry corps was organized for General Lafayette, composed of picked men from different regiments, and Davis was one of those selected, continuing in it until it was disbanded, and the men distributed to their former places. During the five years he was in the Continental army, he participated in some of the most important actions of the war. When Lafayette was wounded at the battle of the Brandywine, he was present and assisted to carry the gallant Frenchman from the field to a place of safety. He took part in the struggle at Germantown, and spent the following winter amid the cruel privations and sufferings of Valley Forge. He aided in gaining the important victory of Monmouth Court House, in the assault and capture of Stony Point, in the attack on Block House Point, New Jersey, in 1780, when he was wounded in the foot; and in guarding the place of execution,

when the spy, Major André, suffered upon the gallows. He seems to have been with the army at the siege of Yorktown, and saw the British, under Cornwallis throw down their arms, and in 1781, under General Wayne, marched into the Southern States. In that year, the war practically terminated; he was honorably discharged and returned to his father's house in Solebury, and engaged in the peaceful pursuits of agriculture. During the long conflict, that ended in the establishment of our liberties, he was a brave soldier, performing his duty in the ranks with courage and fidelity, and after its close he received the commission of ensign in the Bucks county militia. He was joined in the nuptial-bond, June 26, 1783, to Ann Simpson, of Buckingham, whose father came from the North of Ireland about 1740. (As General U. S. Grant's maternal kindred were Simpsons, from the same part of our county, it is quite likely, that Mrs. Davis was of the same family with the ex-President). Her father, William Simpson, was a soldier of the Revolution, and ardently engaged in the cause of freedom. When at home, on one occasion on furlough, the Tories of the vicinity formed a plan to capture him. They surrounded the house, and he had barely time, before they entered, to rush down cellar and have an empty hogshead put over him, which effectually concealed him from their eager search.

Of these parents, John and Ann Simpson Davis, Gen. John Davis was the third child, and was born August 7, 1788. When the boy was about seven years old, the family removed to Montgomery county, Maryland, and some incidents in their journey were deeply impressed upon his memory. Their five children, father and mother, together with their goods, were all in two wagons, they crossed the Susquehanna at Havre de Grace on a flat-boat. They established themselves on a farm near Rock Creek meeting-house, and here he went to school in the winter and labored in the usual agricultural employments at other seasons, until he arrived at the estate of manhood. When about sixteen he began to drive his father's Conestoga wagon loaded with grain and produce to Baltimore. Railroads were unknown in those days, and light spring-wagons had not yet come into use. Vehicles were large and ponderous, the common roads seldom repaired, and the traveler had abundance of exercise.

In 1805, before he had arrived at the age of seventeen, he was employed to convey the effects of a family, who were emigrating to the vicinity of Pittsburg, over the mountains to their home on the frontier. A small dog alone accompanied him. The route most of the way was through a dark forest untouched by the woodman's axe. At the end of about sixty days he returned safe and sound to his father's door. In 1808, when twenty years old, he bought the remaining year before his majority from his father, and for three or four years farmed for himself. He also endeavored to cultivate his mind, gain information, and make up the defects of his early education. Instead of idling away his evening hours at the tavern, as some did, he read books and public journals, and sought knowledge from every source accessible, especially upon American history and politics. At favorable seasons of the year he occasionally visited Bucks county, the home of his childhood, and here about 1811 he first became acquainted with the young woman who afterwards joined her destinies to his in the holy bands of wedlock; Miss Amy, daughter of Josiah Hart, of Southampton. Their marriage took place March 13, 1813, Rev. Thomas B. Montanye, pastor of the Baptist church, of Southampton, officiating. His bride was a descendant of John Hart, a minister among Friends, of England, who came to this country in 1682, among the earliest settlers of Pennsylvania, under William Penn. He owned 500 acres of land in Byberry, Philadelphia county, and 500 in Warminster, Bucks county. He resided on the former tract till about 1695, when he removed to the latter and took up his permanent abode in our county. A large number of his posterity in various branches have arrived at positions of eminence and usefulness in the land.

John Davis, soon after his marriage, transferred his residence from Maryland to the farm in Southampton, which belonged to the estate of his father-in-law, recently deceased, and which with the saw-mill upon it, he purchased, and commenced the active business of life, as the head of a household. Here he remained more than half a century, energetically employed in his appropriate calling. He was almost at once recognized as a man of intelligence and force. His influence was soon felt,

and a high position awarded him in society, which he never forfeited.

The war with Great Britain was already in progress, when he settled at his new home in Pennsylvania. In August of the following year, 1814, the British burned the Capitol at Washington, and made an attack upon Baltimore, and then proceeded toward Philadelphia. A call was issued for volunteers to repel the enemy, and among the first to respond was the subject of this sketch. The martial spirit of the Revolutionary soldier, his father, appeared in the son. The news of the wanton outrage at Washington, reached Bucks county August 27th, two days after it occurred, and on Thursday, September 1st, a meeting was held at Hart's Cross Roads, now Hartsville, at which it was determined to organize a company and march at once toward the seat of hostilities. The name of John Davis is at the head of the list of sixty men, who volunteered that afternoon. William Purdy was elected captain; Samuel Daniels, 1st lieutenant; James Horner, 2d lieutenant, and John Davis, ensign. The company met September 3d, for drill, and was fully organized by General Harman Vanzant, brigade inspector, and directed to march the next Monday morning. At the time appointed, this company and one from Newtown, under Captain Vanarsdalen, met at Foster's Corner, now Southamptonville, and a large crowd of neighbors and relatives gathered to witness their departure. An appropriate discourse was preached by Rev. Thomas B. Montanye, of the Baptist church, after which they proceeded on their way in wagons to Frankford, whence they marched to Philadelphia. They were the first troops that came from the country for the city's defense, and their march through the streets excited no little enthusiasm. The military uniforms for the rifle company, in which Davis was, were made up by seventy young women, working gratuitously in the Masonic hall. The company of Captain Purdy formed part of Col. Thomas Humphrey's regiment of riflemen, which were in service in Delaware, three months, from September 5 to Dec. 5, 1814, when they were honorably discharged. Ensign Davis returned to his home as the war ended by the treaty of Ghent, signed Dec. 24, 1814. In the spring following, he entered the volunteer militia, in which he continued for thirty-

four years, and always during that time bore the commission of an officer. He rose gradually through the several ranks of captain, brigade inspector with the rank of major, lieutenant colonel and colonel, to that of major general, to which he was elected three times in succession. He did much to inspire spirit, interest and energy into the militia service of the country through that unusually long period. Not many weeks after his return from camp, he organized a company, called the "Alert Rifles," which was composed largely of men who had been in Delaware with him, and who were personally attached to him. Governor Snyder, of Pennsylvania, gave him a commission bearing date August 1, 1814, six months before he actually took command. This company, made up of strong, active, young men from Southampton and vicinity, dressed in uniforms of dark hunting-shirts, trimmed with green or orange fringe, and carrying burnished rifles, made a fine appearance in the field; they were proud of their captain and he of them. Sometimes, after going through their regular military exercises, they ended the day by the "Indian Ramble," which is thus described by S. D. Anderson, of Philadelphia, who witnessed it: "The company was formed in single file, and the captain placing himself at the head of the men, began the movement in a slow step. This was gradually increased, until the pace became a swift run. At the same time the captain moved in a sinuous course, and the men followed, giving the Indian yell with the full strength of their lungs. When the proper moment arrived, the movement was terminated, and the company dismissed. The sight was intensely interesting, and when the surroundings are taken into consideration, an evening drill of the riflemen, under Capt. John Davis, is not likely to be erased from the memory."

In 1821 he was commissioned by Governor Heister, for another term of seven years, but two years after he was promoted to be lieutenant-colonel, and afterwards to colonel of the first regiment of Bucks county volunteers. This body of troops bore a high reputation for discipline and soldier-like appearance. They met for drill alternately at the Black Bear hotel, or Richborough, and Newtown, and the regimental training day was a time for people to gather from far and near to witness the evolutions, to see each other, and amuse themselves. In 1824,

Marquis De Lafayette visited this country as the guest of the nation, and went through Bucks county on his way to Philadelphia. At the western end of the Delaware river bridge at Trenton, Colonel Davis met him with his regiment of 600 mounted men, and escorted him to the Philadelphia county line, where he was committed to the mayor and city councils. At Bristol, they halted on their march, and the colonel was presented to Lafayette. While they were conversing, the colonel told him that his father, a soldier in the Revolution, had assisted in conveying him, when wounded at the battle of the Brandywine, to a place of safety. The Marquis remembered the event distinctly, and cordially embraced the colonel, as a token of his gratitude for what the father had done, when his life was in peril.

In 1828, Colonel Davis was elected brigade inspector, and served in that capacity seven years. The office of major general of the division, composed of Bucks and Montgomery counties, became vacant in 1835, to which he was reported elected and obtained his commission from Governor Wolf. The legality of the election however was disputed and was submitted to a board of officers, Gen. Robert Patterson presiding. Gen. Davis, however, defended his own interests himself, and so forcibly that an officer said to him at the conclusion, "When they made you a farmer, they spoiled a plaguey good lawyer." As the election had not been free from technical objections, a new election was ordered, at which he was successful, and again commissioned by Gov. Ritner, December 5, 1835. At the end of five years he was elected a third time and commissioned by Governor Porter, August 3, 1842. During these three terms of service as major-general, he did much to create and foster an interest in military affairs, and was the means of having four encampments of volunteer soldiers held under his direction—three in Bucks and one in Berks county. One was in 1837, in Northampton, near Richborough, and was called "Camp Washington," the second, in 1838, in Southampton, near Feasterville, called "Camp Jefferson;" the third, near Doylestown, in 1842, and called "Camp Jackson." At each of these encampments, five or six hundred men were gathered in tents, handsomely uniformed and equipped with burnished arms, and were

required to drill several times a day and were otherwise under strict discipline. In 1842, General Davis was invited to command an encampment at Reading, where eight hundred men were collected, and were reviewed by Gen. Winfield Scott and Governor Porter. This seems to have won the palm over all similar attempts at representing the arts of war in time of peace, which had ever been made in the State. The soldiers received high commendation for their fine appearance and correct bearing both from their commander and the public, and the general himself was popular among the troops and citizens. This encampment was termed "Camp Kosciusko." Attention to military affairs was then more extensively manifested throughout the Commonwealth, than for a long period before or after. The organizations were entirely voluntary; no aid was given by the State, yet much enthusiasm appeared in the training and discipline of bodies of men as defenders of their country. Much of this interest was due to the efforts of the subject of this sketch.

In politics, Gen. Davis was always associated with the Democratic party. Its principles commanded his approval, and he endeavored, with zeal and activity, to promote its success. During the first part of the time he resided in the county his business required the devotion of his energies to such a degree that he accepted no public office. Though well informed on all subjects relating to the political affairs of the State and the Nation, and wielding in the community, a wide influence, he did not wish to embarrass his private concerns with the cares of any civil position. Though solicited at times to allow his name to be used for county offices and the State Legislature, he declined, until nearly twenty years after his settlement in Southampton. In 1824 he was an ardent supporter of Gen. Jackson in the Presidential campaign, which resulted in the election of John Quincy Adams, by the House of Representatives. In the country store, the blacksmith-shop and other places where the young men of the vicinity were in the habit of gathering for the discussion of public affairs, he showed himself well informed, and able to defend his views with keenness and ability. His memory retained facts he read in the newspapers with tenacity, and he used them in such a way as often to

silence, if not convince, those who opposed him. He adhered to Jackson warmly, when he was elected in 1828. The following notice of him at that period was written by S. D. Anderson, Esq., long a familiar friend.

“A favorite meeting place of farmers at that time was the local blacksmith-shop in a neighborhood, and on one occasion, John Davis was at an accidental meeting of his friends and acquaintances at the cross-roads, where Davisville is now situated. He was in the prime of life, healthy, rugged, clear-headed, and bold in the defence of his political opinions. In the gathering were Wm. Purdy, Christopher Search, John Horner, and others. Some of them were opposed to Jackson, and defended not only the means by which Adams was elected, but the details of his administration. The answers of John Davis to the defenders of Adams and opponents of Jackson, made an impression on my mind, young as I was, that is still keen and vivid. He used plain and terse language, and marshaled his facts in such compact style as to bear down all antagonism. Some notice taken of the boy, who displayed such attention on the occasion, laid the foundation of an intimacy which lasted until the death of the speaker.”

Mr. Davis was in favor of lyceums and debating schools, and regarded them as important means of educating young men, and bringing out and cultivating native talent. He was in the habit of attending them, when held in his own vicinity, and taking part in the discussion of such topics as interested him. Forty or fifty years ago there was no little excitement in the country in regard to carrying the mails on the Sabbath. Many desired to have the transportation of them on that day abolished while multitudes defended it. Among those who opposed it was Rev. A. O. Halsey, pastor of the Reformed Church, at Churchville, while Gen. Davis thought it necessary for the public welfare, and warmly advocated the continuance of it. Mr. Halsey was prevailed upon to send a challenge to the General to debate the question at the school-house near the church, of which he was the minister, which was accepted. On the appointed evening, the room was crowded with an interested audience, and many were obliged to stand outside at the door and windows. The clergyman, who was an able theologian, opened the discussion, and it seemed when he resumed his seat after a lengthy address, that little could be said in answer to his arguments for the strict observance of the Day of Rest. It was now the duty of his opponent to reply. The plain farmer arose, and by a skillful presentation of facts and forcible

display of the wants of the commercial, mercantile and business world, he made it appear to most of his auditors, that the nation could not dispense entirely with the Sunday mail.

In 1827 he was nominated as a candidate for sheriff, but owing to some disaffection in the Democratic ranks, he was defeated at the election by a popular candidate of the Whigs, Stephen Brock. In 1829 he advocated the elevation of Wolf to the Gubernatorial chair, and in consequence of his influence and practical judgment, the Governor, in 1830, appointed him one of the "Appraisers of Public Works." It was the duty of these officers to view and assess the damages done to private property by the canals and railroads built by the authority of the State. He continued in this office three years, and in the performance of his duty visited all parts of the State on horseback, and was frequently in Harrisburg, and in company with many of the most noted and prominent men. This was a theatre of action in which he found scope for all his mental activity, discrimination, and sound sense. He enjoyed it much and was enabled to accomplish much for the welfare of the Commonwealth. He endeavored to act justly toward all parties; the interests of the State and of private individuals, being alike weighed in the balance of integrity and discernment. Among the numerous letters he wrote to his family, while absent from them at this period, a portion of one to his son Watts, (Gen. W. W. H. Davis) now president of this society, then a small boy at school, may well be quoted here, as it illustrates his sense of the value of honesty and uprightness:

HARRISBURG, Jan. 30, 1833.

"As I promised to write you from Harrisburg, I now take up my pen to perform that promise; believing as I do, that we ought to make no engagement or promise we do not intend at the time to fulfil. As it is important to instill this principle into the youthful mind, it is therefore my desire that you should adopt it as the rule of action in your intercourse with all your schoolmates and others, and not make any promise but what you intend to perform."

In 1836, an election was held for delegates to a state convention to revise the Constitution, and General Davis was one of the four nominees of the Democratic party in Bucks county, but through the failure of the party, he was defeated. His political associates, however, had undiminished confidence in him, and

two years afterward, in 1838, he was nominated for Congress, in opposition to Hon. Matthias Morris, a prominent lawyer, then a member of the House of Representatives, who sought re-election. The General was elected by a handsome majority over his competitor, and took his place in the capitol, at Washington, December 1839. During his term he was a member of several important committees, among which was that on manufactures, its chairman being John Quincy Adams. In 1841 he made a speech in the House on the "Independent Treasury Bill," which was spoken of as one of the most forcible and convincing speeches of that session, and had no little influence in securing the success of the measure, by which the control of the money of the United States was taken from the banks, and centered in the treasury of the government. He was subsequently nominated for Congress on two occasions, but failed to receive a majority of the votes cast. Just previous to the election of Francis R. Shunk, as Governor of Pennsylvania, General Davis was suggested as a suitable man to be chosen to that high office. In the political campaign, which resulted in the election of James K. Polk as President of the United States, he rendered most effective service, speaking from the rostrum in numerous public meetings, and laboring with great energy and zeal to secure the triumph of principles which he deemed important to the prosperity of the country; and when the new administration came into power, among the first appointments made was that of General Davis to be Surveyor of the Port of Philadelphia. He was in this office four years, and discharged its duties with scrupulous fidelity, and in such a manner as to meet the entire approval of the President and Secretary of the Treasury. For his own private correspondence, he always used stationery bought with his own money, and not with public funds. During this time, he continued to reside at Davisville, driving to the city on Monday morning and returned Saturday evening, with Colonel David Marple, whom he had appointed his clerk. He chose as his deputy, a young man, who was an intimate friend of James Buchanan, and who afterwards became distinguished as an author and journalist, John W. Forney. In the political campaigns which culminated in the election of Mr. Buchanan, and the defeat of Stephen A. Douglas, he supported both these

eminent men, the nominees of the Democratic party, with much energy, speaking at mass meetings in this region and other parts of the State. The policy of Mr. Buchanan in regard to the Southern portion of our country and the system of slavery did not satisfy his views of justice or expediency, and the warm attachment, which he had felt for the veteran statesman, was interrupted and never renewed. Though he lamented the civil-war that arose in our land, yet when the existence of the Union was imperiled, he advocated the maintenance of our government, and the overthrow of rebellion, and encouraged his fellow-citizens to enlist. His son, the president of this society, with his smile and benediction, placed himself at the head of the 104th Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteers, and exposed his life and health in insalubrious districts, on the march, in the tented field and in battle, to preserve our institutions from threatened ruin.

Gen. John Davis was a warm patriot. He loved his country, and was earnest in upholding every measure, by which he believed its prosperity would be promoted. About the year 1852, I accepted an invitation to deliver an address before the Hatborough lyceum, in Loller Academy, and chose as my subject, "The Perils of Our Country." Gen. Davis soon after, perhaps the next week, delivered a lecture in the same place on the "Remedy for National Evils." I did not hear it, but was told that it was forcible and displayed intellectual power and acquaintance with public measures and the wants of our widely extended land. In business he was industrious, a hard worker, and endeavored to employ his time in such a manner as to bring to pass the most desirable results. On his farm, which he cultivated with his own hands many years, he was a pattern of diligence and energy. The saw-mill on his property, which he frequently ran himself, proved a source of large pecuniary profit, and on one occasion he remarked to some of his family, that if he ever adopted a coat-of-arms he would design on it a picture of a saw-mill. Office-holding was merely an incident in his career, not his main dependence. In 1826 he built a store in what is now Davisville, subsequently adding a dwelling, whither he removed his family in 1830, and there he resided about forty-five years. Davisville received its name in 1827, when the post-office, which had been for four years in the house of

Joseph Warner, on the Street Road, just above the Southampton line, and called "Warminster," was removed to the store of Gen. Davis, and he was appointed postmaster.

His wife being at their marriage a member of the Southampton Baptist church, he associated himself with that congregation, was an intimate friend of its pastor, Rev. Thomas B. Montanye, took a warm interest in all its affairs, and was a member of the board of trustees several years. When the Baptist Association met there, he welcomed ministers and other strangers to the hospitality of his home, and very many in the sacred profession have, at different periods, been entertained under his roof. Rev. Dr. Rice, formerly a missionary to India, once visited the Southampton church, and was the guest of General Davis. The General delighted to have his friends visit him, especially on occasions of interest in the church, and had a heart warm with sympathy toward any who were trying to promote the welfare of their fellow-men. He was one of the vice-presidents of the Bucks County Bible Society, and after his death appropriate resolutions of respect were adopted by the society. For particular reasons arising from the choice of a pastor, he withdrew from the church, at Southampton, and attended the Baptist church at Hatborough, of which he became a communicant member in 1869, under the ministry of Rev. W. S. Wood. A division having occurred in the Southampton church, a branch withdrew and built a house of worship between Southamptonville and Davisville, which was enlarged and rebuilt afterwards, when Rev. W. H. Conrad was pastor. As this was near his home, while Hatborough was several miles distant, General Davis removed his church connection to this new organization, and remained a member of it till his death. When eighty-two years of age he was appointed a delegate to a Baptist convention, at Boston, which he found great pleasure in attending. Not only the church, but the whole village of Davisville and the surrounding vicinity are much indebted to his foresight, enterprise and liberality, in the promotion of improvements of public utility. The turnpike to Southamptonville, and the railroad from Philadelphia to Newtown, received the warmest encouragement from his voice and pen, and most generous aid from his purse. When the subject of building the North

East Pennsylvania railroad was agitated in Bucks and Montgomery counties, he advocated its construction at various gatherings of the people, and when the Newtown railroad was opened in February, 1878, he was present and made a speech in the open air, though it was frosty and the ground covered with snow. A battle took place in the Revolutionary war with Great Britain, May 1, 1778, at the Crooked Billet, now Hatboro, between some British troops who came from Philadelphia, and a detachment of American soldiers under Brigadier General John Lacey, and as the scene of the action was but three miles from the home of General Davis, he was anxious to have a monument erected on the spot to commemorate it. An association was formed to carry the project into effect, in which he took great interest, and to which he liberally contributed, and he was much gratified, when in 1860 the marble shaft, now standing, was reared to remind us of the perils, sufferings and bloodshed our fathers went through to secure for us the priceless blessing of national liberty.

During the last few years of his life, his health gradually failed; his naturally strong constitution lost its energy, and after being confined to his couch about three weeks, he peacefully closed his eyes in death April 1, 1878, resting by faith upon the atoning merits of the Lord Jesus Christ. His funeral was attended by a large concourse of his neighbors and friends, many of whom were distinguished in military affairs, at the bar, in the pulpit, political life, and in other avocations. This venerable church, in which we are now assembled, was crowded to overflowing during the exercises. His mortal remains repose in the silent graveyard near by, awaiting the morning of the resurrection. He was an affectionate son, husband, and father; a sincere patriot; a public spirited citizen; an humble christian; courageous in danger, wise in counsel, prompt in action; an excellent military and civil officer, and a judicious and disinterested legislator. May society and our beloved country enjoy the presence and services of many like Gen. John Davis.