

A HISTORY OF KENTUCKY

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A history of Kentucky by Elizabeth Shelby Kinkead

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ELIZABETH SHELBY KINKEAD

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HISTORY OF KENTUCKY

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TO THE MEMORY OF MY FATHER

William Bury Kincaid

FROM WHOM WAS DERIVED

WHATEVER TRUTHFUL UNDERSTANDING OF THE KENTUCKY PEOPLE

THIS LITTLE BOOK CONTAINS

PREFACE

IN the preparation of this book, an attempt has been made to relate the events of practical, everyday life, in such a manner as to make the study of the history of our State a pleasure to the pupil. While adhering to facts as closely as they could be ascertained, the aim has been that the whole shall entertain as a connected story. Special effort has been made to portray the spirit of the Kentuckians, in order that the student may understand and revere the people from whom he is sprung. To this end, more space has been given to their characteristics as indicated by tales of particular acts, than to the statistics of battles in which they have taken part.

As this is a narration of the life of a State, and as the connection of one incident with another is of more importance in a work of this kind than the grouping of kindred topics, the chronological order of development has been followed.

The subject naturally divides itself into five clearly marked periods. And these lend themselves readily to important subdivisions. That portion of the history which extends to the close of the War of 1812 belongs to the poetic stage in the State's life; and that which follows, to the prose stage. It has been necessary in developing the later prose periods to depart somewhat

from the simple method followed when setting forth the early poetic periods. But this seems rather an advantage; for if the interest of the pupil is awakened at the outset, he will be eager to follow the fortunes of his State to the end, and will, it is hoped, patiently study the more prosaic episodes, in order to get a thorough grasp of the whole.

It has been my earnest desire that the work should be historically sincere. The difficult aim has been constantly before my mind to make it impartial in all instances, and at the same time forceful and inspiring. A Kentuckian, from my infancy I have been imbued with a knowledge and love of the State. And yet, having grown up in the New Kentucky, in her days of quietude, I have been enabled to approach the consideration of her significant periods with little individual prejudice. I have made a laborious and careful study of all available material, and I have tried to let the actions of the people, as they have been unfolded to me, speak for themselves, and reveal the Kentuckians. It is my hope that what I have written will find favor with my own people.

E. S. K.

CONTENTS



I—PIONEER DAYS

1669-1782

	PAGE
I. FIRST WHITE MEN IN KENTUCKY	9
II. EARLY SETTLEMENTS IN KENTUCKY	19
III. THE COUNTY OF KENTUCKY	29
IV. DIVISION OF THE COUNTY	40

II—THE STRUGGLE FOR INDEPENDENCE

1782-1792

V. THE DISTRICT OF KENTUCKY	50
VI. BEGINNING OF THE STRUGGLE	59
VII. THE SPANISH CONSPIRACY	69
VIII. THE END OF THE STRUGGLE	82

III—FOUNDING OF THE COMMONWEALTH

1792-1850

IX. ORGANIZATION OF THE GOVERNMENT	93
X. POLITICAL SITUATION IN KENTUCKY	105
XI. THE WAR OF 1812	116
XII. LOCAL AFFAIRS	127
XIII. CIVIL AFFAIRS AND THE MEXICAN WAR	141

IV—*THE CIVIL WAR*

1850-1865.

	PAGE
XIV. THE SITUATION IN KENTUCKY	151
XV. KENTUCKY'S POSITION OF NEUTRALITY	161
XVI. THE INVASION OF KENTUCKY	173
XVII. THE SECOND INVASION OF KENTUCKY	186
XVIII. CIVIL CONFLICTS	196

V—*THE NEW KENTUCKY*

Since 1865

XIX. THE RESTORATION OF PEACE	205
XX. THE ERA OF TRANSITION	212
CONSTITUTION OF KENTUCKY	227
INDEX	273