

**MEMORANDUMS OF A TOUR
MADE BY JOSIAH ESPY IN THE
STATES OF OHIO AND
KENTUCKY
AND INDIANA TERRITORY IN 1805**

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Memorandums of a Tour Made by Josiah Espy in the States of Ohio and Kentucky and Indiana Territory in 1805 by Williams Josiah Espy

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WILLIAMS JOSIAH ESPY

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CINCINNATI
ROBERT CLARKE & CO
1870

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Introductory.

JOSIAH ESPY was born in what is now the county of Cumberland, Pennsylvania, in the year 1771, and died in the city of Columbus, Ohio, in the year 1847.

His father emigrated to Kentucky in the year 1787. Having a large family of children, Mr. Espy, at the urgent request of his brother, Colonel David Espy, at that time prothonotary at Bedford, Pennsylvania, left Josiah with him, and he was received and treated by him as one of his own family. This gave him some social and educational advantages, which he would not otherwise have had. He entered his uncle's office as clerk, and served him faithfully until the year 1791, when he received an appointment as clerk in the War

Department of the Government, at the then capital, Philadelphia, under Edmund Randolph, Secretary of War.

Returning to Bedford, after a few years, he became somewhat prominent as a politician, attached to the Federal party; was elected to the Legislature, and was a member during the violent party strife, which ultimated in an effort on the part of the Federalists to impeach the newly-elected Republican governor, McKean. Mr. Espy, though opposed to the governor politically, did not agree with his party on the question of impeachment, and ever afterward kept aloof from partisan politics, though he remained a decided Federalist, and later in life acted with the Whig party.

In 1805, allured by the enthusiastic accounts he had heard of the beauty and richness of the Ohio valley, and urged by the desire to visit, after so long a separation, his mother and his brothers and sisters, he made the trip, the journal of which is here printed, with the intention of seeking a place to settle. Owing, however, as he *naively* acknowledges, to the "secret influence of a fixed and tender attachment," he returned to Pennsylvania.

He was married in the year 1812, to Maria Mur-

doch, daughter of Judge Murdoch, of Cumberland, Maryland. At the date of his marriage he adopted the family name of his wife, and ever after signed his name Josiah M. Espy.

At this period of his life he was engaged in mercantile pursuits, but did not give to the business that attention which insures success. He was too fond of books, and gave too much time to writing contributions to the local newspaper and the periodicals of the day.

In the autumn of 1826 he was elected cashier of the Franklin Bank of Columbus, Ohio, and in the following spring removed his large family to that place. He continued to hold this office until the final winding up of the bank, after the expiration of the charter in 1843.

Early in life, "after a long and sober investigation," he became a convert to the doctrines of the New Jerusalem Church, as promulgated by Emanuel Swedenborg. He remained a zealous member of that church through life, and was an earnest and active advocate of the peculiar religious views of that body. These were quite novel to his new associates and friends in Columbus, and oftentimes were made the subject of jest by persons toward whom he felt esteem. For the

purpose of placing his religious convictions frankly before the community, he wrote and published a work called "The Contrast," in which the tenets of the old and new churches were contrasted. This work he distributed over the counter of the bank, and it, together with the example of his pure and *practical* religious life, disarmed all prejudice against the new doctrines. He was a true gentleman.

MEMORANDUMS

OF A

Tour in Ohio and Kentucky.

IN 1805.

June 30, 1805. Left Bedford and, passing through Somerset, Greensburgh, Pittsburgh, Canonsburg, Washington and Charleston, I arrived at Wheeling on the

11th July, where I remained three days in company with my friend, Mr. James Reynolds, awaiting his boat, the building of which was not yet finished. On Monday, the

15th July, sailed at noon in the keel-boat *Mary*, commanded by Capt. James Reynolds, and on the

25th July, landed at Columbia, where I bade farewell to Mr. Reynolds with regret, feeling myself much indebted to him for his politeness and hospitality during the voyage. Next day, I set off for my brother Thomas', who resided about seventeen miles up the Little Miami river, where I arrived on the