

JOSEPH HENRY LUMPKIN KING

1855-1905

By Robert L. Williams

Joseph Henry Lumpkin King was born at Marion, Perry County, Alabama, on April 6, 1855, and died at Anniston, Alabama, on August 8, 1905; interment in Hillside Cemetery. He was the son of Judge Porter King (see below) and his wife, Callender McGregor Lumpkin King, who was born September 26, 1826, whom he married February 19, 1852.

The places of residence of Joseph Henry Lumpkin King were Marion and Anniston, Alabama; Leadville, Colorado; and Perry, Oklahoma. In 1893 he was appointed by President Cleveland receiver of public moneys for the United States Land Office at Perry, Oklahoma Territory, which position he held from the opening of the Cherokee Outlet to settlement in September, 1893, until May, 1897. After the termination of his services as receiver of the Land Office at Perry, he removed to Anniston, Alabama, and thereafter served as Solicitor of the City Court of that City.

Joseph Henry Lumpkin King was married on February 8, 1883, to Eva (Evelyn) Thornberry, of Coolidge, New Mexico, who was born at Wheeling, West Virginia, on April 10, 1865, and who died at Anniston, Alabama, on November 15, 1937; interment in Hillside Cemetery. To this marriage came the following children:

Callender McGregor Lumpkin King, born at Leadville, Colorado, March 7, 1884, and died at Anniston, Alabama, on December 14, 1890;

Joseph Henry Lumpkin King II, born at Marion, Alabama, on November 6, 1885;

Porter King II, born at Anniston, Alabama, on July 24, 1890; assistant to the President of I. C. R. R. of Central America, Guatemala;

Thomas Cobb King, born at Anniston, Alabama, on November 30, 1891;

James Fitzgerald King, born at Anniston, Alabama, on March 4, 1894;

Knox King, born at Anniston, Alabama, on August 21, 1898; died in infancy;

Evelyn Bush King Wheeler, born at Anniston, Alabama, on December 25, 1899;

Edwin Davis King II, born at Anniston, Alabama, on November 19, 1902.

Joseph Henry Lumpkin King was related by consanguinity to William Rufus DeVane King, Vice President of the United States (see below). They were descended from a common ancestor, William King, of Sampson County, North Carolina.

Woody King, the son of William King, married Sarah Cartwright. They were the parents of General Edwin Davis King (see below), and also of Elisha F. King, who married Margaret Moore.

William King (son of William King, the common ancestor), married Margaret DeVane. They were the parents of William Rufus DeVane King, the Vice President, and also of Thomas D., Margaret, Tabiotia, Helen, Ann, and DeVane King.

William King, the father of William Rufus DeVane King, the Vice President, rendered important services to the Colonies during the Revolutionary War, was a member of the State Convention called to adopt the Federal Constitution, and was several times a delegate from his county to the General Assembly of the State.

William Rufus DeVane King¹ was born in Sampson County, North Carolina, on April 7, 1786. He graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, in 1803, and entered upon the practice of law at Clinton, North Carolina. He was a member of the State House of Representatives 1807-1809, and was elected as a Democrat to the Twelfth, Thirteenth, and Fourteenth Congresses. Later he moved to Alabama, and located at Cahaba. He was a delegate to the Constitutional Convention that organized the State government of the State of Alabama, and upon admission of the State into the Union he was elected as a Democrat to the United States Senate, and was re-elected in 1822, 1828, 1834, and 1841, serving from December 14, 1819, to April 15, 1844, when he resigned. He was Minister to France from 1844 to 1846. Thereafter he was again elected to the United States Senate, and served from July 1, 1846, until his resignation on January 18, 1853. He was elected president pro tempore of the Senate on many occasions. He was elected Vice President of the United States in 1852, and took the oath of office on March 4, 1853, at Havana, Cuba, where he had gone for his health, the taking of the oath in Cuba being in accordance with a privilege extended to him by special Act of Congress. He died on his plantation at King's Bend, Dallas County, Alabama, on April 18, 1853. Reinterment was in a vault at Selma,² Dallas County, Alabama. He was never married. A whole room of the World War Memorial Building, at Montgomery, Alabama, is devoted to things of historical value that formerly belonged to William Rufus DeVane King, including his father's gold watch.

General Edwin Davis King (son of Woody King and Sarah Cartwright King, and grandson of William King, the common ancestor) was born in Greene County, Georgia, in 1792, and died

¹ *Biographical Directory of American Congress, 1774-1927*, p. 1185; William Garrett, *Reminiscences of Public Men in Alabama* (Atlanta: Plantation Publishing Company Press, 1872), pp. 675, 680.

² Wm. R. D. King was one of the founders of the city of Selma, Alabama.—Anson West, *History of Methodism in Alabama* (Nashville, Tenn.: Publishing House of Methodist Episcopal Church, South, 1873), p. 534.

at Marion, Perry County, Alabama, in 1862; interment at Marion. In 1814 he married Ann Alston Hunter, who was born in 1793, and who died in 1853.

In Georgia General Edwin Davis King³ was a Captain of Militia in 1810, and served in War of 1812 under General Andrew Jackson, with the rank of Major, by promotion, and fought in the Battle of New Orleans. He was a cofounder of Judson (female) College and Howard College, both at Marion, Alabama, the latter being afterwards relocated at East Lake, in the suburbs of Birmingham. He was also a member of the Board of Trustees of the University of Alabama from 1836 to 1852.

Judge Porter King⁴, (son of General Edwin Davis King and his wife, Ann Alston Hunter King) was born at Marion, Alabama, on April 30, 1824, died January 30, 1890, and was interred in the City Cemetery at Marion. He was a graduate of the University of Alabama, and was admitted to the Alabama Bar in 1849. On February 19, 1852, he was married to Callender McGregor Lumpkin King, who was born September 26, 1826. In 1851 he represented Perry County in the State House of Representatives. He continued actively in the practice of law until appointed Circuit Judge in 1858, which position he filled until he entered the Military Service of the Confederate States of America, as Captain of Company G of the

³ W. Brewer, *Alabama, Her History, Resources, War Record, and Public Men, from 1540-1872* (Montgomery: Barrett & Brown, Steam Printers, and Book Binders, 1872), pp. 573, 792. General Edwin Davis King was a Director of the Central City Insurance Co., and Director of the Commercial Bank of Selma, and President of the Selma, Marion & Memphis Railroad, as it was known at that time. The construction of railroads ceased during the war except where it was for the movement of armies. Soon after the close of the war the railroad project was revived and then known as the Selma & Memphis Railroad. In the *Commercial Appeal* for March 29, 1946, the following heading appeared: "News of Bygone Days, 75 years ago, March 29, 1871: 'Directors of the Memphis & Selma Railroad elected at a meeting of stockholders are: N. B. Forrest, Jacob Thompson, John C. Fizer, R. A. Meudock, W. W. Troup, S. M. Meek, C. C. Huckabee, Robert Crawford, A. C. Jones and A. G. Mabry. Gen. N. C. Forrest was elected president.'"

A. G. Mabry was a prominent physician of Dallas County and a member of the Legislature from that county from 1857-1867.—Garrett, *Reminiscences of Public Men in Alabama, op. cit.*, p. 666; Brewer, *Alabama, Her History. . . ., op. cit.*, pp. 223-4; and Wm. E. Yerby, *History of Greensboro, Alabama*, pp. 69-70.

Allen C. Jones went out as Captain of the Greensboro Guards, Co. D, 5th Alabama Regiment, Confederate States of America. Two hundred and nine left Greensboro on the 1st day of May, 1861 and participated in the first battle of Manassas, and he became Colonel of his regiment. He died at his home in Greensboro in 1894 at the age of eighty-two years.

It was contemplated that the railroad would go from Marion to Greensboro and through Eutaw on to Memphis. The other railroads mentioned were the Selma, East Tennessee, and Virginia to go by Rome, Georgia; and that road, as the Selma and Mobile road, and the road from Selma to Meridian by the way of Marion Junction and from Marion to Akron are now a part of the Southern System.

⁴ B. F. Riley, D.D., *Makers and Romance of Alabama History* (n.d.), pp. 23, 573.

Fourth Alabama Regiment.⁵ After the war he resumed civilian life at Marion, taking an active part in the affairs of the community, and in guiding the State through one of the most troublesome periods of its history. He spent his remaining years at Marion, respected and honored for the services rendered by him to the community, to the State, and to the Nation.

Many who took part in the activities of the pioneer days of Oklahoma and Indian Territory were relatives, kindred, and descendants of those who actively participated in our early national life. For illustration, Fielding Lewis, a great-grandnephew of George Washington, first President of the United States,⁶ (*Chronicles of Oklahoma*, Vol. V, No. 3, [September, 1927] pp. 357-59), Joseph Henry Lumpkin King, kinsman by blood of William Rufus DeVane King, Vice President of the United States; Horace Speed, United States Attorney for Oklahoma Territory, a kinsman of James Speed, Attorney General in Abraham Lincoln's and Andrew Johnson's cabinets; W. F. Hendricks, member of Oklahoma Constitutional Convention, a cousin of Vice President Thomas A. Hendricks; Sydney Clark, a Representative in Congress from Kansas (1865-1871), member of Oklahoma Territorial Council (1898-1902).

⁵ General William C. Oates in his history, *The War Between the Union and the Confederacy* (New York & Washington: The Neale Publishing Company, 1905), pp. 775-76, stated: "The regiment [4th Alabama] composed of the very best material was the only regiment I ever saw that would fight about as well without officers as with them." An epitome of its organization and services during the war was set out by General Oates in this volume, *ibid.*, pp. 776-81.

General Oates stated further than "Dr. Wm. O. Hudson, First Sergeant of Company D was made Regimental Surgeon and the Brigade Surgeon in which he served with great success and distinction and aided in the amputation of my [Oates'] arm August 16, 1864." Doctor Hudson was the brother of the grandfather of Judge R. H. Hudson of Bartlesville, Oklahoma who was connected with the Land Office at Perry during the time that Joseph Henry Lumpkin King was Receiver of Public Moneys, and remained in Oklahoma Territory and engaged in the practice of law and at the erection of the State of Oklahoma became District Judge of District 24 composed of Osage and Washington counties and continued in that office until he became attorney for the Phillips Petroleum Company. His father, Thomas Hudson, left the University of Virginia at the age of nineteen years and reached Union Town in Perry County, in time to join the Canebrake Rifle Guards under the command of Captain Richard Clark, Company D, 4th Alabama Regiment.

⁶ Brewer, *Alabama, Her History*. . . , *op. cit.*, p. 594; Garrett, *Reminiscences of Public Men in Alabama*, *op. cit.*, pp. 223-4. See, also, "Louis Davis," (*The Chronicles*, Vol. XX, No. 1 [March, 1942], p. 100) who was Registrar of the Land Office at Perry.