

History of the Hands Gibson House, Owned By Hagerman Estate

Seminary Once Situated There

McMurtry, Architect, Designed Remodeling For Tobias Gibson

By Elizabeth M. Simpson (Copyright, by The Herald-Leader)

Lavender water hydrangeas clogged the black waters of the bayonet. The lawn fringed magnolia blossoms came with every gentle breeze, and yellow-flowered cypresses...

A lumbering carriage swayed each time the young man stepped from the live oaks, while a southern moon dripped silver through their branches.

So did Louisiana welcome home in 1820 her namesake—Louisiana Breckinridge Hart—Kentucky bride of handsome young Tobias Gibson, planter of Terra Bone parish.

Negro voices sob and musical—Negro lullaby, gentle soothing, yielded to the closest, sweetest lines between "back home" and this fantastic, legendary land of Evangelism.

Twenty-two years before, at Spring Hill, in Woodford county, a rose-petal of a baby had been lifted from her crib by John Breckinridge, Kentucky statesman, attorney general in the cabinet of his friend, Thomas Jefferson.

"I shall name her myself," he said to the young parents, Nathaniel and Susanna Preston Hart. "She shall be called Louisiana Breckinridge in honor of the realization of my dearest dream, the Louisiana Purchase."

And for generations the name has been perpetuated in the family, worn as an ornament bestowed by a great Kentucky name.

The wedding of Louisiana Hart to the young Southern planter, a double ceremony at Spring Hill in which her sister, Virginia Hart, had become the wife of Col. Alfred Evan Shelby.

Came Back In Summer

Summers were looked forward to as times of family reunion at Spring Hill. So when June days came to Bonnie parish, the Gibsons traveled by boat and carriage back to Kentucky. Their first son, Randall Gibson, was born in 1820.

But as the family increased, Tobias Gibson no longer was willing to accept hospitality for so many, and he purchased first the Richard Chalm place as his summer residence, and a few years later, in 1844, his family then consisting of seven sons and three daughters, he purchased the property of the Theological Seminary on West Second street and engaged the architect, John McMurtry, to remodel the house and other buildings on the two-acre tract. Mason pillars were erected on the front veranda, the entire floor plan of the house was changed and more than \$20,000 went into reconditioning the mansion.

Mirrors and chandeliers and family portraits were brought from the South to enhance the beauty of the summer residence. Marble mantels were purchased in the east, and rosewood and mahogany furniture formed the first complete set of handsome furniture fashioned by a local firm of cabinet-makers. Magnolia trees were brought from the plantations for the lawn and cypress plants were cultivated in the greenhouse.

One daughter, Susanna Preston, died in childhood. The other two daughters were given every advantage available to young ladies of wealth and background. Sarah Thompson Gibson was sent to Philadelphia to the exclusive little French school of M. Charles Picot, former officer of Napoleon and one of the loyal aides who followed the general in his first career of exile.

The younger daughter, tall, blond and beautiful, was sent to Paris to the Convent of the Sacred Heart, and afterward to Vienna to study with a professor of painting. When she was presented there in opera amid wild enthusiasm, she was the belle of the evening. She stormed and pouted and pleaded, but back she came with a betrothal ring and a promise herself into marriage and died soon after.

Robert Breckinridge Gibson died in his early teens, but the other six sons were and are distinguished. Robert, Clark, Hart and McKim Gibson, Preston, Claude, Hart and McKim Gibson, were to be graduated from Heidelberg, and each of them was a commissioned officer in the Confederate army. Claude died in New Orleans as a result of exposure. Gen. Randall Lee Gibson had four horses shot from under him at the Battle of Shiloh, while Capt. Nathaniel Hart Gibson, serving with Gen. John Morgan, was imprisoned for months at Columbus, Ohio, where he and his comrades were held as prisoners or Colonel Straight and his officers who were captured in Georgia. All six of the boys were swimmers and talented musicians.

Randall Lee was outstanding among them. He excelled at every-thing he attempted, and he attempted everything. Following his graduation from Heidelberg he challenged his fencing master—an unheard-of thing—and the contest was arranged. The young Kentuckian was victorious and a magnificent hat was given in his honor at which the American ambassador presented him with a silk ring held by a beautifully carved American eagle in ivory, a token still prized in the family.

The crowning glory of the Gibson mansion was to have been the wedding of Sarah Gibson to her cousin, Dr. Joseph Alexander Humphreys. Invitations had been sent by the hundreds to relatives, friends and friends in America and abroad, for the prospective bridegroom had friends in practically every county in the confederacy. He was graduated first from Centre College when he was only 15, going from there to Yale and then to Princeton where he took degrees in literature and medicine. His medical studies were continued for several years in Europe, and he returned to Kentucky to marry the sweetest heart of his boyhood.

As preparations were being made for the nuptials word was received of a serious accident at Spring Hill. Randall Lee, who was to have been best man at his sister's wedding,



The mansion that was once the summer residence of Tobias Gibson, southern planter, and his wife, Louisiana, who was named by the great Kentucky statesman, John Breckinridge, in honor of his Louisiana Purchase.

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Beta Society Reorganized

VERSAILLES, Ky., Nov. 12.—The Beta Society, national honorary organization, has been re-organized at the Versailles high school under the sponsorship of Mrs. Ebbie Tiller, officers of the club are Miss Pottie Batts, president, Franklin S. West, vice president, Miss Rosalie Lancaster, secretary, and Herbert Curry treasurer.

The Study Club met Thursday afternoon at the home of Mrs. R. R. Fishback in the country. Mrs. Robert McCormick was in charge of the program.

The heading circle of the Woodford County Woman's Wednesday afternoon at the club rooms. Mrs. W. E. Dixon reviewed the book "With Malice Toward None."

William H. Fishback, son of Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Fishback, of Versailles, who has been in charge of a store at Columbus, Ohio, has been named to the position of manager of a store at Cleveland. He and Mrs. Fishback, the former Miss Peggy Hays, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Haupt of Versailles, will move to Cleveland soon.

Mrs. and Mrs. A. Roberts entertained with a surprise birthday dinner Sunday in honor of Robert's mother, Mrs. Maggie Prather of Lexington. Guests included Mrs. Prather, Mrs. E. C. Prather, J. W. and Harold Prather, and Mrs. Raymond Drake, Mrs. Hays and Miss Elizabeth Prather, all of Lexington; Mrs. Hays and son, Junior, of Richmond; and Mrs. Lizzie Dunn of London.

Mrs. George Christian of Nicholasville is the guest of Mrs. Louise Cahill and Miss Edith Marshall. Mrs. Harlin Fields, Mrs. Mamie Edley, Mrs. R. N. Brock and Harlin Fields Jr., will spend Monday and Tuesday at Cincinnati.

Miss Dorothy Wilson has returned from a visit with her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Major, at Lawrenceburg.

Mr. and Mrs. Will Spurrier spent the week-end at Cynthiana. Mr. and Mrs. Alex Edwards entertained.

Mr. Frank Tindler and Mrs. R. E. Turley entertained at luncheon Wednesday at Boone Tavern, Boone, in compliment to Mrs. W. O. Martin and Mrs. J. C. Eubank, house guests of Mrs. Robert Bruce.

Nancy Shelton Sauley, little daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Shelton M. Sauley Jr., is ill at her home.

Among those from out of town who attended the funeral of Mr. Jesse Evans, Hills were Mrs. and Mrs. Kenneth Bissell, Akron, Ohio; Mrs. and Mrs. W. O. Martin and Mrs. Mitchell, Lakewood, Ohio; Mr. and Mrs. James Hale and daughters, Hills; Mrs. and Mrs. W. O. Martin and Mrs. Jess Burgess, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Young and Mrs. Donald

entertained with a dinner Sunday for Mr. and Mrs. Thomas E. Horton and Mr. and Mrs. J. Dudley Henton of Lexington and Mr. and Mrs. Wade Henton.

Mrs. D. L. Thornton Jr. and daughter, Lora Caroline, left Wednesday for a visit with Mr. Thornton's parents, Mr. and Mrs. James L. Jeffers, at Sparta, Sparta, S. C.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Montgomery and Mrs. M. A. Roberts, accompanied by their daughter, Miss Margaret, attended the homecoming celebration last Saturday at Kentucky Military Institute, Lexington, where their son, Bobbie K. Montgomery, is a student.

Mrs. Robert Glasgow of Columbia, S. C., was a recent guest of Mrs. Donald Garret at her home near Pigeon.

Mrs. Claude S. Williams and Mrs. Fayette Johnson and Mrs. Julia Spurr of Lexington, will arrive Tuesday for a visit at Middletown, Ohio.

The Rev. and Mrs. W. G. Hammock of Peevree Valley were visitors here Monday and Tuesday. Mr. Hammock was the guest speaker at the Rotary Club meeting Monday night.

Miss Louise Gibson of Frankfort was the week-end guest of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Howard and Mr. and Mrs. Roy Krabill.

Mr. Bayer Gives Buffet Supper

RICHMOND, Ky., Nov. 12.—Concluding a series of pre-nuptial festivities, Mr. Jack Bayer was host to a buffet supper at his home on West Main street Wednesday, honoring Miss Keen Shackelford and Mr. Kirk Moberly on the eve of their wedding day. His guests for the evening were the honorees and Dr. and Mrs. Harvey Blanton, Mr. and Mrs. S. MacBryer Burrum, Miss Nancy Evans, Miss Esther Bennett, Miss Ida Greenlee, Miss Louise Rutledge, Mr. Clay Shackelford and Mr. Harold Hoyerhaus.

Mrs. Grant E. Lilly, honorary state regent of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Mrs. S. B. Hume, Mrs. Walter Bennett, Mrs. Tut Burrum and Miss Florence Burrum went to Louisville Tuesday to attend the semi-annual meeting of the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in Kentucky.

Master Tombridge Ford entertained a few friends Wednesday at his home with supper and refreshments in honor of his ninth birthday.

Mr. Frank Tindler and Mrs. R. E. Turley entertained at luncheon Wednesday at Boone Tavern, Boone, in compliment to Mrs. W. O. Martin and Mrs. J. C. Eubank, house guests of Mrs. Robert Bruce.

Nancy Shelton Sauley, little daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Shelton M. Sauley Jr., is ill at her home.

Believe It Or Not - By Robert Ripley

A large advertisement for the Suez Canal featuring a cartoon illustration of a man holding a sign that says 'THE SUEZ CANAL WAS PAID FOR WITH WATER'. The cartoon includes a portrait of Joe Louis and a drawing of a rubber tree. Text in the ad includes '40,000 LABORERS DIED DURING ITS CONSTRUCTION', 'THE CANAL IS NOT OWNED BY ENGLAND!', and 'IT IS THE PROPERTY OF "CAMPAIGNE UNIVERSELLE DU CANAL MARITIME" AND THE MAJORITY OF THE STOCK IS HELD BY FRENCH INVESTORS'. At the bottom, it says 'ALL ITEMS SELF-EXPLANATORY'.

house and returned to his Louisiana plantations.

The Gibson-Humphreys wedding finally took place in June, 1838, and the young doctor took his bride to Sumner's Forest, in Woodford county, to make their home. Just eight years later, at the age of 36, Dr. Humphreys died in New York, leaving a widow and five young children. That was in the early days of the War Between the States, and Mrs. Humphreys, boarding the Yankee steamer, "Morning Star," started her long journey back to the Louisiana home of her father. As a Southern sympathizer, she was expected to take the oath of allegiance before debarking, but the officer in command, Major Farnsworth, was a former soldier and gallantly set aside the rules, seeing her safely back to Confederate protection.

The first deed to the Second street property was written in December, 1789, when Thomas January bought five acres from John Martin, January in all probability, built the first house on the land, selling in 1820 to the Bank of the United States.

In 1827 the house was occupied by Major William S. Dallas and the family who had living with them Dr. Charles Caldwell, distinguished professor in Transylvania Medical School, and his wife.

In 1834 the place was bought from the bank by the Rev. Benjamin O. Peers for the Episcopal Theological Seminary, trustees of which were Bishop E. B. Smith, Charles H. Page, W. F. Bullock, Dudley M. Craig and the Rev. Edw. Martin. The school was incorporated by the legislature of Kentucky in February, 1834, and the seminary was named after the Rev. Charles Caldwell, distinguished professor in Transylvania Medical School, and his wife.

The professors were arranged so that the bishop of the diocese presided over the department of theology and the pastoral duties. The school was chiefly financed by contributions from churches in Philadelphia and New York, while the parishioners of the Church of the Assumption in New York supported the chair of sacred literature.

A short time later Mrs. Gibson became ill and accompanied by her older daughter, and a nurse she went to Cuba where she died of a heart attack while a guest at the governor's palace.

In 1854 Tobias Gibson sold the property to Frank Sumner who sold it in 1888 to Joseph Clark. The house was the scene of the brilliant wedding reception of Mrs. Kettie Lewis Clark and George Keene Graves following a church ceremony on the evening of Nov. 26, 1899, and on Christmas Day, 1901, another daughter of the house, Miss Mary Clark, became the bride of Dr. John William Cole, of Middletown, Conn.

After the death of Thomas Bradley the property was owned for a short time by Frank Sumner who sold it in 1888 to Joseph Clark. The house was the scene of the brilliant wedding reception of Mrs. Kettie Lewis Clark and George Keene Graves following a church ceremony on the evening of Nov. 26, 1899, and on Christmas Day, 1901, another daughter of the house, Miss Mary Clark, became the bride of Dr. John William Cole, of Middletown, Conn.

McKee-Thomson Wedding Plans

CYNTHIANA, Ky., Nov. 12.—The marriage of Miss Elizabeth McKee, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jesse M. McKee, and Mr. Joe Thomson, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Thomson, will be solemnized at 4:30 o'clock Tuesday afternoon at the home of her parents on Pine street. The Rev. E. B. Wootton of the Presbyterian church will be the officiating minister. Mr. Thomson is the son of Mr. and Mrs. K. C. Thomson and is in partnership with John Wood in the garage business.

The Cynthiana Parent-Teacher Association will meet at 3 o'clock Tuesday afternoon at the Marshall school. Miss Mildred Focant will talk on "Safety in the School" and will present her sixth-grade pupils in a play. Mrs. E. C. Sorensen will speak on "Safety in the Home."

The Rev. and Mrs. E. Keel Judy are at Excelsior Springs, Mo., where Mr. Judy is under treatment. Their daughter, Miss J. E. Blanton, will be during their absence.

The Rev. and Mrs. J. R. Savage have returned to their home in Louisville after a visit with Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Thomson. Their nephew, Lieut. T. E. Renaker, at Washington, D. C.

Mrs. K. C. Hall of Stamping Ground is the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Stone and daughters.

Mrs. W. C. Endicot entertained her bride club Tuesday afternoon at her home on Elmarch avenue. Miss Thro Riggs received the highest score prize.

Mrs. John Reynolds has returned to her home in New York City after spending two weeks here with Mrs. J. T. Reynolds and other relatives. Mrs. Reynolds was the guest of honor at several social functions while here.

The Berry bridge club entertained with a luncheon Monday at the home of Mrs. Karl Foster, later going to the Rols theater. Those in the party were Mrs. Dillie Craig, Miss Louisa Vest, Mrs. E. O. Blicher, Mrs. M. J. McNeely, Mrs. Milton Caldwell, Mrs. Ralph Hutton, Mrs. Norma Berry and Mrs. Lillie Conner.

Mr. and Mrs. John S. Sherwood of Washington, D. C., came home Tuesday to vote and spend a few days with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. S. L. Sherwood and Mr. and Mrs. Rola VanHook.

Louise Madisen Jewett, Alice Owsley, Mary Louise Panton and Mrs. John Curisinger, and Mrs. Curtis.

Miss Geneva Ferrill of Covington will be at home Friday to spend the week-end with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. D. T. Ferrill.

Miss Jennie Taylor is in Harrodsburg as the guest of her brother, Mr. John Curisinger, and Mrs. Curtis.

Mr. A. S. Kidd was in Richmond Monday to see his wife, Mrs. Kidd, who is with her mother who is recovering from a recent fall.

Back Pain and Kidney Strain

Wrong foods and drinks, wrong overwork, colds often put a strain on the kidneys and back. This strain may be the true cause of Backache, Rheumatism, Nervousness, Headaches, Stomach Troubles, Urinary Disorders, etc. Help your kidneys partly your blood and nerves, usually in a very simple way. Start helping your kidneys clean out and get rid of the poisons that are building up in your system. Under the microscope, they cost nothing. Get Cystex today. It costs 15c. See your druggist and the guarantee returns.

Advertisement for MOROLINE hair tonic. Text includes 'Soothing Dressing for MINOR BURNS', 'Dress minor sunburns, scratches and tender skin with MOROLINE', 'It's the most wonderful petroleum jelly. Finest quality money can buy.', 'World's Largest Seller at 5c Economy size 1oz! ALWAYS DEMAND MOROLINE', 'You'll also like Moroline Hair Tonic, 12c'.