

Northern Kentucky  
Views presents . . .

## General Percival Butler

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**B**UTLER, GEN. PERCIVAL, Soldier, Patriot, and First Adjutant-General of Kentucky, son of Thomas Butler and his wife, Eleanor Parker, was born April 4, 1760, at Carlisle, Pennsylvania. His father was born in 1720, in the County of Wicklow, Ireland, and his mother was a native of Wexford County, Ireland. Thomas Butler possessed a large estate, which was confiscated, and he exiled, owing to his participancy in the Irish Rebellion. He came to America long before the Revolutionary War; five of his sons became conspicuous in the great struggle for independence in this country, and he himself participated. Of this family of brave and patriotic men, Washington and Lafayette both spoke in the most familiar and flattering terms. Of the five noted sons of Thomas Butler, three, Richard, William, and Thomas, were born in Ireland; and Edward and Percival, at Carlisle, Pennsylvania. Richard was Lieutenant-Colonel of Morgan's rifle regiment, which he commanded under Gen. Wayne at Stony Point; was made General, and was killed at the battle of St. Clair's defeat, November 4, 1791. Thomas and Edward were, also, engaged in that battle, and both died while in the military service of the country; the former with the rank of colonel; the latter, of captain. William arose to the rank of major; and Percival, the subject of this sketch, was a captain in the regular army. He entered the Revolutionary army as lieutenant, at the age of eighteen; was with Washington at Valley Forge, Monmouth, and Yorktown; served under Gen. Lafayette, at the last-named place, and received a sword from the hand of that General; removed to Kentucky about 1785, and first settled in Jessamine County, as a farmer; but, in 1796, settled permanently at the mouth of the Kentucky river, when the present site of Carrollton was a cane-brake. He was the first Adjutant-General of Kentucky, and held the office for eighteen or twenty years, usually performing its duties while residing at home; and when the law was enacted, requiring the Adjutant-General to live at Frankfort, he resigned. In his capacity as Adjutant-General of the State, he took part in Gen. Hopkins's campaign against the Indians, in the war of 1812. He subsequently became Clerk of Gallatin County, and held that position until his death, September 9, 1821. Gen. Butler was married, after coming to Kentucky, to Miss Mildred Hawkins, and of their large family of children, five are still living. (See sketches of their distinguished sons, Gen. William O. Butler, Major Thomas L. Butler, and Richard P. Butler.) Their youngest son, Hon. Pierce, or Percival, Butler, was born October 4, 1794; was elected to the Legislature from Fayette County, in 1820; at the expiration of his term, was re-elected from Woodford County; moved to Louisville, and represented that city in both branches of the Legislature; and, was an able and influential lawyer. He died at Louisville, in 1850. Their two living daughters are, Mrs. Dr. Urban E. Ewing, of Louisville, and Mrs. Judge James Pryor, of Covington. Three of their daughters died after reaching middle age.

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