

Northern Kentucky
Views presents . . .

Major Thomas Langford Butler

BUTLER, MAJOR THOMAS LANGFORD, oldest son of Gen. Percival Butler and his wife, Mildred Hawkins, was born April 10, 1789, at Lexington, Kentucky, then a part of the Territory of Virginia. His early education was obtained in Rankin's School, at Lexington, under the supervision of Revs. Bishop and Sharp. From 1804 to 1809, he acted as deputy clerk in the office of Gen. Thomas Bodley, in Lexington, and at that time attended Transylvania University for several months. In 1809, he received a second lieutenant's commission, and entered the light artillery service of the regular army, and was stationed at Fort Massac until 1811, resigning his commission in August of that year. In October, 1812, Gen. Harrison appointed him Quartermaster for the Territories of Indiana and Illinois, with his headquarters at Vincennes. In the following year, he received a captain's commission, and served in the Twenty-eighth Regiment of the regular army, in the North-western campaign, under Gen. Harrison; was retained, at the close of the campaign, as Captain in the Fifth Regulars; in June, 1814, was appointed aid-de-camp to Gen. Jackson; was present at the treaty with the Creek Indians, September, 1814; was at the capture of Pensacola; commanded the city of New Orleans during the famous battle of January 8, 1815; was brevetted major, for good conduct during the siege of New Orleans, but soon after resigned his commission in the army, and was appointed, by President Madison, Surveyor and Inspector of the Port of New Orleans. He finally returned to his home, near Carrollton, now Carroll County, where he has ever since resided. He was sheriff of the county from 1819 to 1825. In 1826, he was first elected to represent his county in the Legislature, and was again a member of that body in 1847. He has always been an active and successful farmer, and a thorough business man; and is yet, at his great age, a vigorous and active man. He is characteristically quick-tempered, brave to rashness, even; decided in his opinions, fearless in their support, and is invincibly honest. Major Butler was married, January 11, 1811, to Sarah Hawkins, and has had two children: Percival Butler, who died at Centre College, Danville, in 1835, at the age of nineteen; and Mary Ellen Butler, who became the wife of P. Osborn Turpin, an influential farmer of Carroll County, who was a member of the Kentucky Legislature in 1833, a Virginian by birth. Dr. Thomas Jefferson Turpin and Dr. Percival Butler Turpin, physicians, of Carrollton, Kentucky, are grandsons of Major Butler.