

Gen. George Baird Hodge

Northern Kentucky Views presents . . .

HODGE, GEN. GEORGE BAIRD, Lawyer and Soldier, was born April 8, 1828, in Fleming County, Kentucky. His father, William Hodge, was a native of Mason County, followed agricultural pursuits, lived for many years in Fleming County, and died in Mason, in 1862. His mother was Sarah Baird, daughter of Absalom Baird, an officer in the Revolutionary army, for some time Inspector of the forts of Western Pennsylvania, and grandfather of the present Gen. Absalom Baird, of the United States army. Gen. Hodge received a fine education at the Maysville Seminary, and the Naval Academy, at Annapolis. He was midshipman, and acting lieutenant in the Navy for nearly six years; was aid to Commodore David Connor at the siege of Vera Cruz; made several voyages around the world; resigned in 1851; in 1853, at the age of twenty-five, made a remarkable race for Congress, as the Whig candidate, against Hon. R. H. Stanton, a most popular Democrat, of Marysville; was unsuccessful, but greatly reduced the usual majority; studied law; was admitted to the bar; soon afterward located at Newport, where he was married to Miss Katura Tibbatts, daughter of Col. John W. Tibbatts, and granddaughter of Gen. James Taylor; was elected to the Legislature in 1859, and was Chairman of the Committee of Federal Relations, and was candidate for Elector for the State at large, on the Breckinridge ticket, in 1860. He left Kentucky in September, 1861, with John C. Breckinridge and William Preston, and entered the Southern army, as a private, under Gen. Buckner; was elected member of the "Executive Council" of the Confederate Provisional Government of Kentucky, assembled for the first time in December, 1861, at Bowling Green, within the lines of the Confederate army; resigned, and was chosen to represent Kentucky in the Confederate Provisional Congress; was afterward elected and served in the first permanent Confederate Congress, at Richmond; while not at the Confederate seat of government, was actively engaged in the field; was made Captain and Assistant Adjutant-General in Breckinridge's division; was engaged in the battle of Shiloh, and was promoted Major for gallant and meritorious conduct on that field; was promoted Colonel, in 1864; served for a time as Inspector-General; was made Brigadier-General in the same year; participated in the battle of Chickamauga; and subsequently commanded the district of East Louisiana and Mississippi, until the close of the war; soon after which he resumed his law practice at Newport. In 1872, he was elected Presidential Elector for the State at large, on the Greeley ticket, and was President of the Electoral College. In 1873, he was elected State Senator, term expiring in 1877. General Hodge is a fine writer, a forcible and polished speaker, an able lawyer, a man of great natural dignity of character; could not, in any ordinary sense, be termed a politician, and is a man of magnificent and attractive personal appearance.