

John H. Nelson

NELSON, JOHN H., Lawyer, was born August 22, 1801, in Campbell County, Kentucky. His parents were Covington and Thirra Nelson, both natives of Spottsylvania County, Virginia. His father was a farmer by pursuit; came to Kentucky in 1760; first settled in Fayette, but, in 1795, removed to Campbell County, where he died, in 1840. His mother was the daughter of John Hayden, one of the early Virginian settlers of Fayette County. John H. Nelson was educated in such schools as the country afforded during his boyhood, and, at the age of twenty-three, began to read law at Falmouth, under Edward Holden. He soon after temporarily abandoned the study of the law, and, from 1825 to 1850, was engaged in the lumber business, merchandising, and other pursuits; during 1833, commanding a steamboat on the Ohio and Mississippi rivers. In 1850, he was admitted to the bar, and at once entered upon the practice of the law, in Campbell County. He was for eight years Justice of the Peace in that county; in 1854, was elected Judge of the County Court; held the position four years; and was elected to the State Senate, in 1853, but was fraudulently prevented from taking his seat in that body. In politics, he is a Democrat, although his first Presidential vote was cast for Henry Clay. He is a member of the Christian Church, and has been distinguished throughout his long, busy life, for his deep sense of justice, his great integrity, and many sterling traits of character. Mr. Nelson was married, June 20, 1827, to Miss Maria Sallee, daughter of Abraham Sallee, a farmer of Bracken County, Kentucky. One of their sons, R. W. Nelson, is a lawyer of Newport, and member of the Kentucky Legislature.