

Colonel John J. Landrum

LANDRAM, COL. JOHN J., was born November 16, 1826, at Warsaw, Kentucky, and is the son of James P. and Maria (Brown) Landram, both natives of Scott County, Kentucky. He obtained a common English education, and, at the age of nineteen, enlisted in Capt. Lillard's Company of the First Kentucky Cavalry, to engage in the war with Mexico; was made orderly sergeant; was present at the battle of Buena Vista, under Gen. Taylor, and during part of that engagement had command of his company; at the regular election of 1851, was elected to the Kentucky Legislature, on the Whig ticket, from the Democratic county of Gallatin; after the expiration of his term, was elected Circuit Court Clerk, and held that office, being at the same time Master Commissioner, until 1858; in the mean time studied law, without a preceptor, resigned his position, attended lectures in the law school of Louisville, where he graduated; entered on the practice of his profession at Warsaw, and continued successfully engaged until the commencement of the rebellion. In 1861, he again made the race for the Legislature, and, after a fierce contest, was defeated by a few votes; soon after opened a Federal recruiting office at Warsaw, and was made Lieutenant-Colonel of the Eighteenth Regiment of Kentucky Volunteers, the regiment being mustered into the United States service in February, 1862; was subsequently placed in command of the force guarding the Kentucky Central Railroad, with headquarters at Cynthiana, where a large quantity of government supplies were stored; and was there attacked, July 17, 1862, by the Rebel forces, under Gen. Morgan, having in his own command three hundred and forty home guards, including about seventy-five raw recruits, under the command of Maj. W. O. Smith, of the Seventh Kentucky Cavalry, and an artillery squadron, under Capt. William Glass, of Cincinnati, with one brass twelve-pounder. After a desperate conflict, he was finally defeated, much of his incompetent force killed and wounded, and the government stores burned, escaping

himself, with a slight wound, to Paris; and, on the following day, having united a force of home guards, delivered to his command by Hon. William H. Wadsworth, of Maysville, with Col. Leonidas Metcalfe, they attacked Morgan at Paris, but, at the favorable opening of the engagement, were ordered by Gen. G. C. Smith to fall back, under the impression that Morgan had been re-enforced during the night by Gen. Humphrey Marshall. August 30, 1862, he engaged with his regiment in the disastrous battle of Richmond, Kentucky, where, after having his horse shot several times under him, was himself severely wounded in the head by a musket ball, from which he never wholly recovered, losing, to a great extent, his left eye, by which he was forced to retire from the service, although recommended for promotion as Brigadier-General. He was elected to the State Senate from the counties of Gallatin, Boone, and Grant, serving in that body from 1863 to 1867; was Chairman on the Committee of Military Affairs, and was actively associated with some of the most earnest and valuable men of the State, in upholding the Federal Government in the most trying period of its history. In 1876, he was nominated by the Republicans as their candidate for Congress in the Sixth Kentucky District; made the race as a forlorn hope, canvassing the district in advocacy of the principles of the Republican party, and the election of Hayes and Wheeler. In politics, he was connected with the Whig party until its dissolution; was a delegate to the Republican National Convention at Cincinnati, in 1876; has taken an active interest in all matters of importance to his country; has been a member of the Christian Church since 1869; is an able lawyer, standing deservedly high in his profession; is broad and liberal in his views; brave and generous, upright in his dealings with men; is tall in person, and of admirable bearing; is easy and attractive in manners; and has been, throughout his life, one of the most enterprising and valuable men in his community. Col. Landram was married, November 27, 1849, to Miss Susan M. Swope, a native of Lincoln County, Kentucky, and they have two living children.