



C  
A  
R  
L  
I  
S  
L  
E

John Griffin Carlisle was born in Campbell (now Kenton) County, Kentucky on September 5, 1835. He was one of eleven children and the son of a farmer. He was educated in common schools where he developed a strong interest in history. At the age of sixteen, Carlisle began a career in teaching and studied law with Judge William B. Kinkead in his spare time.

When he was eighteen Carlisle left his family's farm and became an apprentice to the law firm of John White Stevenson which was then located at the corner of Third and Scott Streets. In 1858 Carlisle was admitted to the bar and later opened his own law office at 521 Madison Avenue. A year earlier, on January 15, Carlisle married Mary Jane Goodson. She bore him two sons who later followed in their father's footsteps and also became lawyers.

Carlisle became involved in politics on both the state and federal levels. He began in 1859 in the House of Representatives, then moved on to State Senator in 1866 and 1869. He then became Lieutenant Governor to close out his state services in 1875.

He became speaker of the United States House of Representatives three consecutive terms and then advanced to the United States Senate to fill the vacancy caused by the death of James B. Beck. On February 21, 1893 he resigned as Senator to accept an appointment by President Grover Cleveland to the office of Secretary of Treasury. Carlisle made his son, Logan, his private secretary and served in that position until 1897.

At the conclusion of his term, Carlisle, pushing politics aside, moved to New York where he established a highly successful private law practice. On July 31, 1910 Carlisle died at the age of seventy-five. His body was then returned to Covington for burial in Linden Grove Cemetery. Though he was well known and highly respected throughout the state, no ceremonies were held, his grave was modestly marked, and no local newspapers reported his passing.

The Carlisle home is located on a large wooded lot at 1533 Garrard Street. The twelve room structure was purchased by Carlisle and his bride in 1859.