



Photo Courtesy of Kenton County Library

## STEVENS

John White Stevenson was born in Richmond, Virginia on May 14, 1812. Stevenson received his early education at the Hampden-Sidney Academy and later graduate from the University of Virginia in 1832. Interested in law, he studied under Willoughby Newton and eventually went west to Mississippi and started a private practice in Vicksburg.

Stevenson migrated to Covington in 1841 and was admitted to the bar that same year. He began his practice as a partner of James T. Morehead whose office was located over the Cooper, Berry and Company building on Market Street. Two years later, in June of 1843, he married Sibella Winston of Newport.

Stevenson soon became a very successful lawyer and leader in the Covington community. He served a brief period as Kenton County Attorney, and also as a member of the City Council. In 1845 he was elected to the House of Representatives and was a participant in the Constitutional Convention of 1849. He was also chosen one of three commissioners who revised the Kentucky Civil and Criminal Code in 1850. In 1857 he was elected to Congress, and in 1864 he became Lieutenant Governor under Governor John L. Helm. When Helm died in office in 1867, Stevenson assumed the duties of governor. Stevenson was then elected governor in 1868 and held the office until 1872. At the end of his term, he campaigned for and was elected to the office of United States Senator. He served in this capacity until 1877.

Besides his numerous political achievements Stevenson also served as president of the following institutions: the Cincinnati University law school, the American Bar Association, the Covington Literary and Library Association, and the Covington and Vicinity Bible Society.

On August 10, 1886 Governor Stevenson, a member of the Trinity Episcopal Church, died, leaving his wife and five children. His estate was valued at over \$300,000.