

Andrew McConnell January

ANDREW McCONNELL JANUARY

(1794-1877)

When the town of Lexington was laid off in lots in 1781, a number were purchased by Peter January, Sr., a descendant of a Huguenot refugee, Pierre Janvier. Born in 1725, Mr. January was married in Pennsylvania to Deborah McMichan in 1753, who survived him as his widow in 1789. He had established a store in Lexington in 1784.

On coming to Kentucky from Pennsylvania in 1780, his son, Ephraim January, 1759-1823, and his wife, Sarah McConnell January, 1763-1850, had to live for three years in a series of forts, Spring Station on Beargrass, Fort Harrod, and Lexington, before it was safe enough to move to their Jessamine County land.

Named for his maternal grandfather who was killed at the Battle of Blue Licks in 1782, one of their eleven children was Andrew McConnell January. Apprenticed in 1812 to a Lexington silversmith, he set up his own shop in 1816, but moved to Maysville to enter into partnership with his uncle in the commission business, afterwards buying it. Exerting his energy toward getting the town streets paved and good roads to the river landings, in 1828 he was organizer of the movement to build a road from Maysville to Washington. Later this was extended to Lexington, largely through his efforts in finding private subscribers to two-thirds of the cost, the state supplying the rest. Thus, it became the first macadamized road in the United States. Although Jackson's veto denied federal aid as a post-road from Zanesville, Ohio, to Florence, Alabama, and New Orleans, it was completed by private and state efforts.

Mr. January's portrait still hangs in the handsome home he built in 1838, now the property of his great-granddaughter.