

JOHN B. McEWEN.

After more than four score years of unceasing usefulness, Col. John B. McEwen, a lifelong resident of Williamson County, died at his home in Franklin, Tenn., January 4, 1903.

John Brown McEwen was born October 12, 1820, being the second son of C. E. and Rebecca Brown McEwen. His early life was devoted to rural employments on his father's farm, and for years he was actively engaged in the old mill where he learned the many practical lessons of industry which influenced his future years—shining lessons that have served as lights for the paths of many of Williamson County's citizens, and that have radiated to greater distances through those of Franklin's sons who have journeyed far from her boundaries.



In October, 1842, Col. McEwen married Miss Cynthia Graham, and he is survived by two of the children of this union, Mrs. A. M. German and Mrs. Newton Cannon. In 1841 he entered as a student the law office of Hon. John Marshall, in Franklin, and in 1842 he began the practice of law, the firm being Campbell & McEwen, which later assumed a third partner, with the title, Campbell, McEwen & Bullock.

The deceased was for four years mayor of Franklin, and for a number of years attorney for the Louisville and Nashville Railroad. He was a man who cheerfully devoted his best energies to the advancement of the interest of his townspeople, and had no ambition to hold public office.

He was extremely fond of agriculture and farm pursuits, and was one of the organizers and chief directors of the several county fairs that made Williamson County stock and products famous.

He was essentially a home-maker, and possessed the rare faculty of putting into his personal life and the lives of those about him an impetus productive of good to the atmosphere of home and of material and lasting benefit to the community in which he lived.

Col. McEwen worked for educational advancement, and at one time was a director in the Franklin public school. In his deep and reverent regard for the formative influences of life, he gave unstintedly of his bounty in the rearing and education of young men. He lost his only son in 1859, and at different periods after this sad event he took into his household no less than twelve boys, who shared under his affectionate influence the sweet gifts of his genial board. Three of these boys he equipped for the Confederate service, and they fell bravely for the cause which he taught them to defend. While Col. McEwen did not engage in any battle of the war, his service was active in that he furnished food, raiment, and shelter for the soldiers;

and with the gentle ministry of his wife and daughters he cared for the wounded and dying, hence his home was often invaded and his life endangered.

His was a religion devoid of ostentation, and his liberality and hospitality extended to the ministers of all denominations. The story of his life might be told in a few words: He gave the best part of eighty-two years in teaching by practice the deep and holy meaning of the golden rule.

ELIJAH MILTON WATKINS.

At Versailles, Ky., February 23, 1903, Mr. E. J. Watkins died at his home on the Lexington road, aged eighty-two. He and his brother, Ebenezer Watkins, both bachelors and successful farmers, have lived for a great many years at the old Milton homestead, on land settled by their maternal grandfather, Elijah Milton. The deceased was a man of high intelligence and strong character, who lived an exemplary life as both man and citizen. He was a Confederate soldier in Gen. Morgan's command.

POLK P. ERWIN.

This exemplary young man, son of J. J. Erwin, Omega, La., who was a member of the Fortieth Mississippi Volunteers, and one of the Sharpshooters' Army of Northern Virginia until the surrender, died in September, 1902. He contracted fever while with a surveying party on the Memphis, Helena, and Louisiana railroad, and soon succumbed. He was born in



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June, 1882, and after living an exemplary life passed away in the vigor of his young manhood. He leaves, besides his parents, three brothers and seven sisters.

GEORGE MELTON WEEDEN.

A record of useful and valiant service appears with the death notice of George Melton Weeden, who passed away October 3, 1902. The deceased was born in