

THIRD ANNUAL REUNION

OF THE

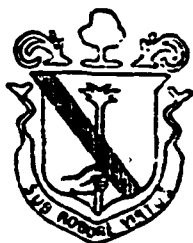
AIKMAN FAMILY

HELD AT THE

OLD HOMESTEAD

IN THE CITY OF WASHINGTON, INDIANA

Wednesday and Thursday, August 28 and 29, 1907



OFFICERS



HENRY AIKMAN, President
WASHINGTON, IND.

J. M. AIKMAN, Vice-President
MARION, ILLS.

J. B. AIKMAN, Treasurer
TERRE HAUTE, IND.

W. H. AIKMAN, Secretary
INDIANAPOLIS, IND.

Officers Elected for the Ensuing
Year



J. M. AIKMAN, President
MARION ILL.

L. F. CORNING, Vice-President
WASHINGTON, IND.

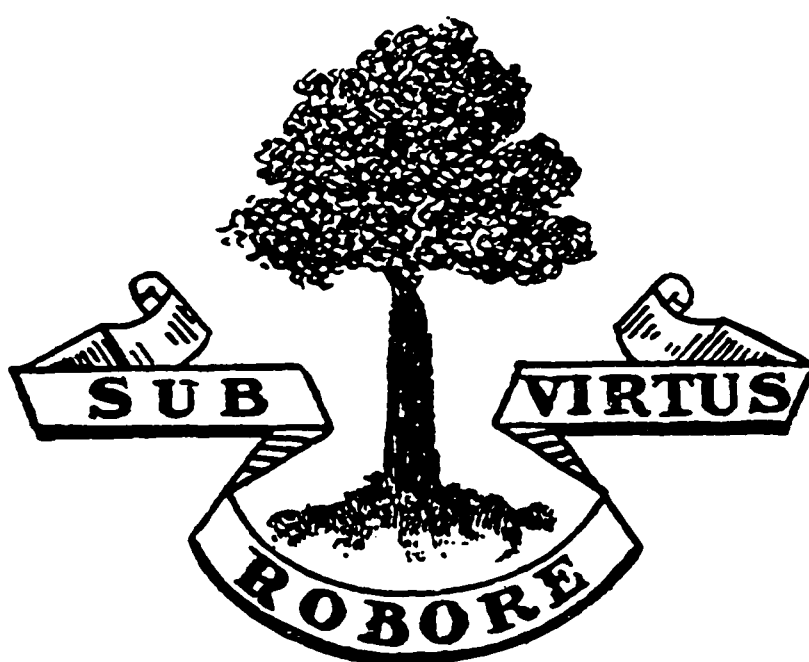
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Third Annual Reunion

of the

Aikman Family



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OLD HOMESTEAD

in the city of

Washington, Ind.

**Wednesday and
Thursday**

**August 28 and 29
1907**



THE OLD JOHN AIKMAN HOMESTEAD, built in 1833. This was the first brick house built in Daviess County. He made the brick himself, tramping the mud with oxen. This is where the 1907 Reunion was held.

THIRD ANNUAL REUNION

OF THE

AIKMAN FAMILY

HELD AT THE CITY OF WASHINGTON, INDIANA

Wednesday and Thursday, August 28 and 29, 1907

The third annual reunion of the Aikman family was held in the city of Washington, Ind., on Wednesday and Thursday, August 28 and 29, 1907.

Perhaps the most notable family reunion ever held in the State of Indiana was this one.

The arrival of every train brought Aikmans from different parts of the Western States.

The citizens of the beautiful little city of Washington threw open their doors of hospitality to the representatives of this great and worldwide family, who were influential in the development of Davis county, Indiana.

At 12 o'clock a magnificent dinner was served at the Masonic Hall, where about one hundred and fifty hungry Aikmans participated in a grand feast prepared by the ladies of the Second M. E. church and wholly at the expense of the Washington Aikmans and kindred.

After this feast the members were driven in cabs and carriages which were in waiting to the old historical Aikman homestead, north of the city, where John Aikman erected the first brick dwelling house in the county, which stands today as a monument to the memory of this grand old pioneer, built by himself and sons seventy-five years ago, and has been occupied by his descendants ever since.

The meeting was called to order by our worthy President, Henry Aikman, of Washington, Ind., at this old homestead, and he delivered an address of welcome to the visiting members.

Roll of officers called and absentees noted.

Minutes of previous meeting read and approved by the meeting.

Committee on monument of John Aikman and wife reported monument purchased and placed in cemetery and ready to be unveiled.

Report of committee received and committee discharged.

Report of John B. Aikman, treasurer, received and approved by the meeting.

It was moved and seconded that an assessment of two dollars be made on each male member of the meeting to defray the expenses of the same, which was concurred in by the meeting.

Nomination and election of officers for the ensuing year was then taken up and the following officers were elected:

JAMES M. AIKMAN, President, Marion, Ills.

L. F. CORNING, Vice-President, Washington, Ind.

J. B. AIKMAN, Treasurer, Terre Haute, Ind.

W. H. AIKMAN, Secretary, Indianapolis, Ind.

By a vote of the meeting it was decided to hold our next and all future meetings at Indianapolis, Ind., this city being a great railroad center and convenient for members to attend from any part of the country.

The time or date of our next meeting to be decided by the officers of the Society.

The meeting then adjourned to meet at the Masonic Hall at 7:30 p. m., where a reception was held and one of the grandest old love feasts that was ever held in Indiana took place and it will never be forgotten by the members present.

This concluded our Wednesday's session.

The following members signed the Register as being present at this meeting:

Mrs. Maria DickinsonNew Lenox, Ill.

Dr. Robert Aikman.....Ft. Scott, Kans.

Mr. and Mrs. Peter Aikman.....Dana, Ind.

C. C. Aikman.....Dana, Ind.

Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Aikman.....Montezuma, Ind.

Mr. and Mrs. B. S. Aikman.....Newport, Ind.

Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Jenks.....Terre Haute, Ind.

John B. Aikman.....Terre Haute, Ind.

Mrs. T. T. Pringle.....Bloomfield, Ind.

Mr. and Mrs. John Hawkins.....Newberry, Ind.

Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Aikman.....Indianapolis, Ind.
 Ida B. Helphenstine.....Indianapolis, Ind.
 Jennie Helphenstine.....Indianapolis, Ind.
 Mrs. John Davidson.....Lyons, Ind.
 Mr. and Mrs. I. O. Price.....Linton, Ind.
 Edith Price.....Linton, Ind.
 Arch Aikman.....Dugger, Ind.
 Mr. and Mrs. Ed. Aikman.....Bedford, Ind.
 Helen Aikman.....Bedford, Ind.
 Mrs. Grace Aikman Bryant.....Boise City, Idaho.
 Gertrude Aikman Sanford.....Reno, Nev.
 Gertrude N. Sanford.....Reno, Nev.
 John Sanford.....Reno, Nev.
 Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Aikman.....Marion, Ill.
 S. O. Carroll.....Cornettsville, Ind.
 Grace Aikman Carroll.....Cornettsville, Ind.
 John R. Carroll.....Cornettsville, Ind.
 Joseph Barr.....Bruceville, Ind.
 Mr. and Mrs. Samuel F. Aikman.....Washington, Ind.
 Maude D. Aikman.....Washington, Ind.
 Helen AikmanWashington, Ind.
 Robert F. Aikman.....Washington, Ind.
 Mr. and Mrs. Claude Aikman.....Washington, Ind.
 Andrew AikmanWashington, Ind.
 Walter F. Aikman.....Washington, Ind.
 Mr. and Mrs. Henry Aikman.....Washington, Ind.
 Walter E. Cole.....Washington, Ind.
 Clara Aikman Cole.....Washington, Ind.
 W. M. Aikman.....Washington, Ind.
 H. C. Aikman.....Washington, Ind.
 Mayme Aikman.....Washington, Ind.
 Nelle Aikman.....Washington, Ind.
 Mrs. Permelia Aikman.....Washington, Ind.
 Mr. and Mrs. Jas. B. Aikman.....Washington, Ind.
 Mr. and Mrs. John W. Aikman.....Washington, Ind.
 George V. Aikman.....Washington, Ind.
 Mildred Aikman.....Washington, Ind.
 Dorothy Aikman.....Washington, Ind.
 James Edwin Aikman.....Washington, Ind.
 Wilbur Aikman.....Washington, Ind.
 Elizabeth Aikman.....Washington, Ind.

| | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| Mary Aikman..... | Washington, Ind. |
| Mr. and Mrs. Chas. A. Aikman..... | Washington, Ind. |
| Martha A. Aikman..... | Washington, Ind. |
| Mr. and Mrs. L. C. Aikman..... | Washington, Ind. |
| Chas. C. Aikman..... | Washington, Ind. |
| Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Waller..... | Washington, Ind. |
| Mary Waller..... | Washington, Ind. |
| Mr. and Mrs. Arch A. Waller..... | Washington, Ind. |
| Elenor Waller | Washington, Ind. |
| Roxy Waller..... | Washington, Ind. |
| Smead Waller..... | Washington, Ind. |
| Ruth Waller..... | Washington, Ind. |
| Mabel Waller..... | Washington, Ind. |
| Grace Waller..... | Washington, Ind. |
| John Waller..... | Washington, Ind. |
| Frank Waller..... | Washington, Ind. |
| Mrs. Sarah Bruner..... | Washington, Ind. |
| Mrs. Ada Keller..... | Washington, Ind. |
| Mr. and Mrs. L. P. Helphenstine..... | Washington, Ind. |
| Lew Helphenstine..... | Washington, Ind. |
| Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Keifer..... | Washington, Ind. |
| Mary Lillie..... | Washington, Ind. |
| Helen Lillie..... | Washington, Ind. |
| John Lillie..... | Washington, Ind. |
| L. F. Corning..... | Washington, Ind. |
| Mrs. Lydia G. Aikman..... | Washington, Ind. |
| Mr. and Mrs. Chas. H. Jones..... | Washington, Ind. |
| Mrs. Mary Aikman..... | Washington, Ind. |
| Robert Aikman..... | Washington, Ind. |
| Mary D. Aikman..... | Washington, Ind. |

Visitors who attended this meeting as friends of the Aikman family:

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Miss Eva Newcomb..... | Chattanooga, Tenn. |
| Miss Lissie Brooks..... | New Orleans, La. |
| Richard Amerman..... | Clinton, Ind. |
| I. W. Feagans..... | Montgomery, Ind. |
| Miss Jennie Sanford..... | Washington, Ind. |
| Miss Emma Thomas..... | Washington, Ind. |

ANSWERS TO INVITATIONS TO ATTEND THE WASHINGTON REUNION

The following sent letters of regret, they not being able to be present:

Whitewater, Kans.

It will be impossible for me or any of my family to attend your reunion. With regards, I am yours truly,

JAMES W. AIKMAN.

Chrisman, Ills.

I am very sorry to tell you that I will be unable to attend this year, but will be with you next year at Indianapolis.

R. OTIS AIKMAN.

Topeka, Kans.

Owing to the warm weather my mother, Martha J. Johnson, is unable to attend the reunion, and as to myself it will be impossible on account of business.

DANIEL A. CLEMENTS.

New Orleans, La.

Greetings to Aikman reunion. Circumstances prevent me from attending. The loss of my son, Alex., on January 27th, is too fresh to enjoy any festivities. May God be with you all.

MRS. S. E. AIKMAN.

New York, N. Y.

I should be very glad to come and have a good time should circumstances permit, but am compelled to decline. Thanks for your invitation.

WALTER M. AIKMAN.

Brooklyn, N. Y.

My family start on our vacation tomorrow until September 3d. I hope to meet you and the others at some future meeting. Sorry that I will have to postpone the pleasure. Best wishes to all for an enjoyable time.

ROBT. S. AIKMAN.

Brooklyn, N. Y.

I regret that it will be impossible for me to attend the reunion of the clan. To all of whom I send greeting.

HUGH AIKMAN.

Sidney, Ohio.

I regret to inform you that neither myself or family will be able to be with you this year, but will be there sure next year unless something seriously prevents me.

E. T. AIKMAN.

Marion, Ills.

I cannot say positively at present that I will come. I assure you that it would give me great pleasure to attend.

SAMUEL T. AIKMAN.

Bloomington, Ills.

I should indeed like to be present and if it is possible I will get there. I know you will have a good time. I should also fully appreciate it.

R. H. HITCHINS.

Clinton, Ind.

I will not attend the reunion this year. I am not very well; think it best to stay at home.

LAURA B. AIKMAN.

Rulo, Nebr.

We are sorry to say that we cannot attend the reunion. My family joins me in sending love and good wishes to all who may be present.

T. M. AIKMAN.

Cincinnati, Ohio, August 22, 1907.

Mr. Lom Helphinstine, Washington, Ind.

Friend Lom—I am very sorry that I cannot be with you on the 28th of this month at the annual reunion, but pressing business makes it so that I cannot be there.

Wishing you a pleasant meeting, I remain,

Yours respectfully,

C. N. WANI.

Walla Walla, Wash., Aug. 17, 1907.

Mr. W. M. Aikman, Washington, Ind.

My Dear Sir—I am in receipt of your postal card, announcing the date of the Aikman family reunion. I wish to have you feel well assured that it gives me much pride to belong to a family tree whose branches possess the progressive spirit necessary to the promotion of such an institution. It is with much regret that I have to advise you of my inability to be present at the meeting on August 28th and 29th.

At the time of your last reunion I was living in Denver, Colo., and on January 1st moved to this place, going into business, the

duties of which tie me down at the present time. I hope to be able to have the pleasure of joining you in this estimable work at some future date, not far off.

I should be glad to have you inform me what the membership fee is, and my proportion of any other expense toward keeping up the society.

You have doubtless been informed by my brothers in El Dorado, Kansas, of the death in December last of our beloved father, W. A. Aikman. He departed, peacefully and beautifully, the life he had lived so usefully to his family and friends. His grand old personality has made a lasting imprint upon the lives of the four sons he worked so manfully to inspire.

He was born January 27th, 1828; died December 16, 1906.

With best wishes for an enjoyable meeting, I remain,

Fraternally,

JOHN S. AIKMAN.

El Dorado, Kan., July 12th, 1907.

Mr. W. H. Aikman, Indianapolis, Ind.

My Dear Mr. Aikman—I have received your kind invitation to be present at the 3rd Annual Reunion of the Aikman Family on August 28th, but on account of our Court being in session on the 31st day of August, it will be impossible for me to enjoy the privilege of meeting with the people who bear the same name as myself.

I had hoped that the Reunion would be held at a time when I could attend, for I am sure there could be no greater pleasure than that of meeting with the "Aikman family."

On page 20 of the last Annual Report appears a letter from my father, W. A. Aikman, to Dr. Aikman, of Fort Scott. My father departed this life on December 16, 1906. I enclose a clipping from the El Dorado Republican regarding his death. He had intended meeting with the Aikman family this year, and had looked forward to the time of meeting with great pleasure.

There has recently moved to this county from Illinois a Mr. J. W. Aikman. His postoffice address is Potwin, Kans.

Our immediate family consists of Mrs. Martha A. Aikman, widow of W. A. Aikman; G. P. Aikman, C. L. Aikman and C. A. Aikman, of El Dorado, Kans., and J. S. Aikman, of Walla Walla, Wash.

G. P. Aikman has two daughters, Hattie and Elinor; J. S. Aikman, one son, Paul A.; C. A. Aikman, one son, C. A.

Even though I cannot be with you in person, I will be with you in thought and spirit, and you certainly have my best wishes for a most enjoyable time at your August meeting. Extend to all of the Aikmans the love and esteem and best wishes of the Aikmans in Kansas.

I enclose to you my check for one dollar, the assessment.

With kindest regards, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

C. L. AIKMAN.

New Orleans, July 17, 1907.

I received your kind invitation to attend reunion. I am very sorry to state myself or family cannot attend. Give my kind regards to all the Aikmans. With best wishes for yourself and family, all join in hoping one and all will have a good time, I am respectfully,

G. E. AIKMAN.

613 Philip St., New Orleans, La.

P. S.—I appreciate your kindness in sending me the invitation and pamphlet.

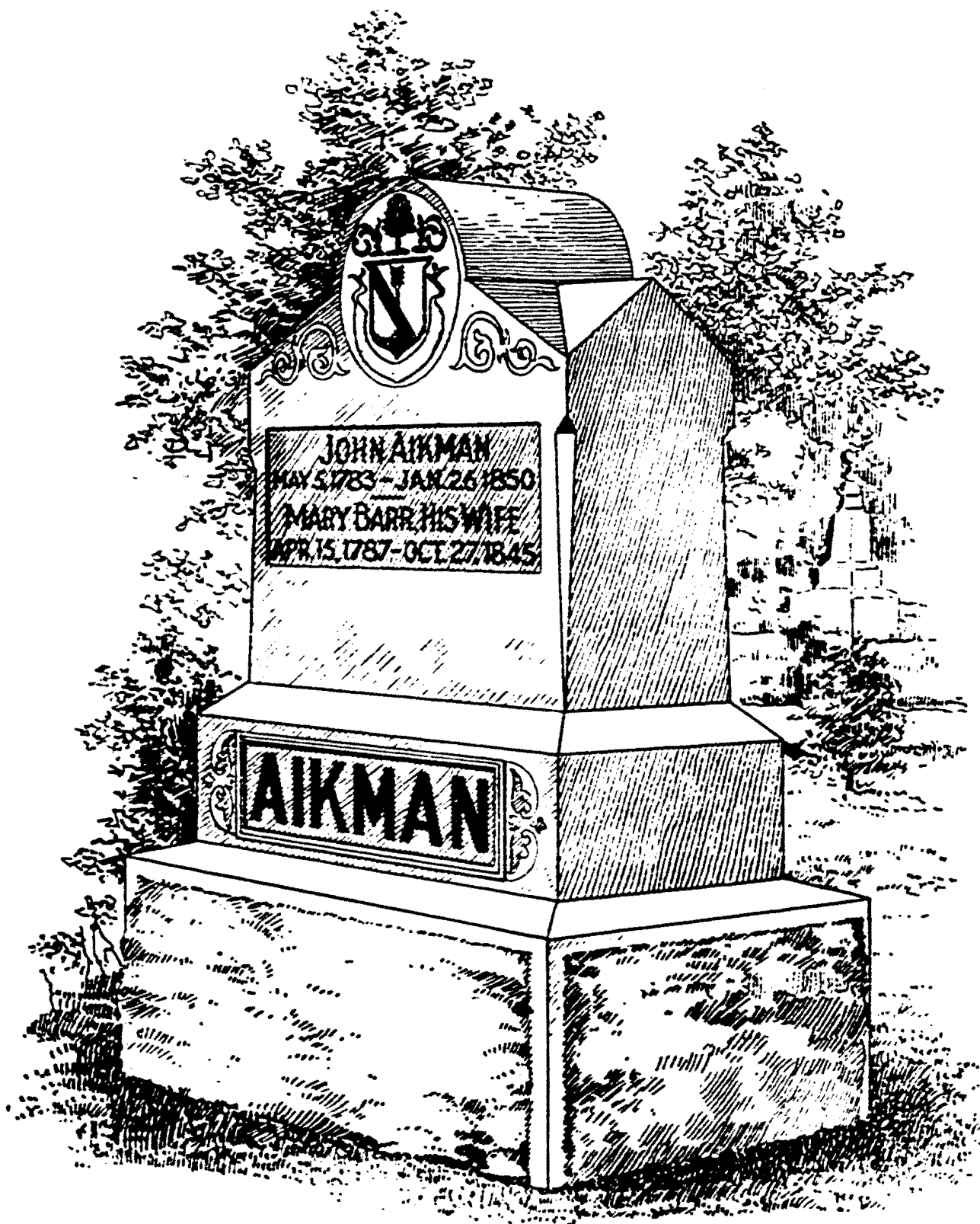
THURSDAY, AUGUST 29.

The members numbering over one hundred met at Oak Grove cemetery at the grave of John Aikman and his faithful companion, his wife, for the purpose of unveiling the monument erected there by his descendants on the beautiful lot so generously donated by Mr. Charles Davis, of Cincinnati, Ohio, whose wife was a granddaughter of John Aikman.

This meeting was called to order by President Henry Aikman, who introduced Hon. B. S. Aikman, of Newport, Ind., who delivered an address, which is published in full, as follows:

MEMORIAL ADDRESS OF B. SCOTT AIKMAN

Mr. President, Brothers. Sisters, Kindred and Friends—We have met today upon a very pleasant occasion. It may seem strange to say pleasant occasion, but it is a pleasant occasion. It is a pleasant thought to know that we remember our dead. There is a time for speech and a time for silence, and it seems to me as we stand at this grave, that this is a time for silence. It is difficult to speak at the grave of a relative. This is the first time in my life that I have stood in the presence of my kindred, and at the grave of an an-



Monument Erected at the Grave of JOHN AIKMAN AND HIS WIFE
by his descendants

cestor, and tried to talk. There is a time and there are occasions when human speech and human utterances are entirely incommensurate with the deep feelings and emotions that spring up within us. What a sweet consolation to know that after we have been dead for fifty-seven years, so long after the earth has closed above us, even after our ashes have returned to earth again, that our blood should stand about our grave, a hundred in number from the four winds of the earth, and dedicate a monument to our memory. What a beautiful thought, and what a sweet dying consolation to know that our descendants fifty-seven years after the earth shall close above us will come again and stand at our graves and do honor to our name.

How I wish that this beloved old ancestor and his faithful companion could behold this scene today. If his faith was well founded, if the faith of our own John Knox was well founded, then John Aikman, this hour, from some preeminence beholds with undimmed eyes this beautiful ceremony of his faithful descendants. This scene is beautiful and inspiring: it makes us all better and happier. I have made no special preparation for this address. Perhaps I should have written what I have to say, for at a time like this, when the heart is so full it is difficult for the brain to act. But the emotions which fill us all at this sweet time seem too precious to put into cold type. It was only six or seven hours before I started here that I thought it was possible for me to come, but I felt irresistably drawn by the ties of kinship, and any personal sacrifice I may have made to be present here has been doubly repaid. I shall long remember this occasion. It teaches us that there is a tie of blood. It teaches us that there is something more than money. It teaches us that there is more in life than business cares. It impresses us that the most important consideration in life is the love and esteem of our fellow citizens, especially those of our own blood.

Yes, this should be an hour of silence. We should bow our heads in silence as we stand here at this grave and let the mind picture scenes of the past. The simple story of this old pioneer's life has been written in this soil and in the hearts of the people of this community and of this State. He came into this country when it was a waste of undiscovered forest: when he heard the howl of the hungry wolf and the merciless war cry of the Indian. Today the air is filled with the ringing of church bells, the music of civilized industry, and the laughter of children, but in the silence of the grave, he hears it not. This hour teaches us that memory follows

work. John Aikman, at whose grave we now stand, came to this country poor but strong. No inheritance was his save the inheritance from his Maker—an honest heart, and two strong arms. No gift, but the gift of God. With these he helped to make this a civilized community; with these, he builded for him and his a home in the forest, and with these, he builded for himself and for posterity an honored name. And from his works we have a rich inheritance, and as we meet now at this grave, let us remember the lesson of his life as devotedly as we remember him. We must work not only for ourselves, but for posterity.

His life was full of toil, and deprivation. The love of wife, the love of children, and the modest country home was all he had, and his life was spent in their service and the service of posterity. For all these rich fruits of civilization which we enjoy today, he sowed the seed. We stand today amid the rich and golden harvest of his hands. He worked that we might rest. He sacrificed that we might enjoy. He despaired that we might hope. From day to day, from spring to fall, from year to year, he labored for you and me, until at last, weary of life's toil, he sank into the grave, leaving to his descendants a rich legacy of lands, and a far richer legacy of an honored life.

As we stand here today, the sweet strains of that old pioneer hymn comes welling up in our hearts:—

“When the springtime touch is lightest,
When the summer eyes are brightest,
Or the autumn sings most dear,
When the winter hair is whitest,
Sleep, old pioneer.
Safe beneath the sheltering soil,
Late enough you crept,
You were weary of the toil,
Long before you slept.
Well you paid for every blessing,
Bought with grief each day of cheer.
Nature's arms around you pressing,
Nature's lips your brow caressing.
Sleep, old pioneer.

When the hill of toil was steepest,
When the forest's frown was deepest,
Poor but young you hastened here.
Came where solid hope was cheapest,
Came a pioneer.

Made the western jungles view
Civilization's charms;
Snatched a home for yours and you,
From the lean tree arms.
Toil had never cause to doubt you,
Progress' path you helped to clear;
But today forgets about you,
And the world rides on without you,
Sleep, old pioneer.

Careless crowds go daily past you,
Where their future fate has cast you,
Leaving not a sigh or tear.
And your wonder works outlast you,
Brave old pioneer.
Little care the selfish throng
Where your heart is hid,
Though they thrive upon the strong
Resolute work it did.
But our memory eyes have found you,
And we hold you grandly dear;
With no work day woes to wound you,
With the peace of God around you,
Sleep, old pioneer."

And now, in the name of every one of the tribe wherever he may be, in the name of all the Aikmans, present or absent, and with hearts full of love and devotion to our dead, let us dedicate this monument to the memory of John Aikman, and his wife, Mary Aikman. Let it stand as a memorial. Let it stand as a memorial to his honored name. Let it stand as a memorial to a man who was devoted to his family, devoted to his country, and devoted to his God. And in a thousand years, when cruel time, and ruthless hands shall devastate this holy spot, then let his memorial be a mansion fair, not made with hands.

The following resolution was adopted:

WASHINGTON, IND., August 29, 1907.

Be it Resolved by the visiting Aikmans at this, our third annual reunion, that we express our appreciation of the splendid management of this reunion and the cordial greeting and generous hospitality extended to us by the Aikmans' kindred in and about the city of Washington, Indiana.

Signed:

COMMITTEE.

Receipts and expenditures as per our treasurer's report as follows:

TREASURER'S REPORT
AIKMAN FAMILY REUNION ASSOCIATION

MAY 1, 1907

RECEIPTS.

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| Balance on hand as per last report..... | \$ 61.64 |
| Cash Rec'd on monument subscriptions at third annual meeting, August 28, 1907..... | 167.00 |
| Dues Rec'd at third annual meeting..... | 58.50 |
| Deficit supplied by treasurer..... | 66.44 |
| Total | <u>\$353.58</u> |

DISBURSEMENTS.

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| Stafford Engraving Co., cuts for last report..... | 13.93 |
| W. W. Hampton, printing last report..... | 51.30 |
| W. H. Aikman, secretary, stamps and stationery..... | 13.35 |
| Wash. Monumental Works, monument..... | 275.00 |
| Total | <u>\$353.58</u> |

Respectfully submitted,
JOHN B. AIKMAN,
Treasurer.

Terre Haute, Ind., May 1, 1907.

TO AIKMAN MONUMENT FUND
LIST OF SUBSCRIBERS

| | |
|--|----------|
| Dr. Robt. S. Aikman, Ft. Scott, Kan..... | \$ 10.00 |
| Wm. H. Aikman, Indianapolis, Ind..... | 10.00 |
| B. Scott Aikman, Newport, Ind..... | 10.00 |
| John B. Aikman, Terre Haute, Ind..... | 10.00 |
| Alonzo Helphenstine, Washington, Ind..... | 10.00 |
| Lewis Aikman, Washington, Ind..... | 10.00 |
| Henry Aikman, Washington, Ind..... | 10.00 |
| W. A. Helphenstine, Indianapolis, Ind..... | 10.00 |

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| Sam'l. F. Aikman, Washington, Ind..... | 10.00 |
| J. E. Waller, Washington, Ind..... | 10.00 |
| Jno. Walsh, Washington, Ind..... | 10.00 |
| Levi Aikman, Dana, Ind..... | 5.00 |
| H. M. Aikman, Dana, Ind..... | 5.00 |
| Hugh Aikman, Montezuma, Ind..... | 5.00 |
| Rev. S. S. Aikman, Greenfield, O..... | 5.00 |
| Peter Aikman, Dana, Ind..... | 5.00 |
| C. C. Aikman, Dana, Ind..... | 5.00 |
| Lucian Corning, Washinton, Ind..... | 5.00 |
| W. M. Taylor, Dana, Ind. | 5.00 |
| T. T. Pringle, Bloomfield, Ind..... | 5.00 |
| W. M. Aikman, Washington, Ind..... | 5.00 |
| Chas. H. Jones. Washington, Ind..... | 5.00 |
| C. A. Aikman, Washington. Ind..... | 5.00 |
| Geo S. Lilly, Washington, Ind..... | 5.00 |
| Claude Aikman, Washington, Ind..... | 5.00 |
| I. O. Price, Linton, Ind..... | 5.00 |
| Mrs. Grace Aikman Bryant, Boise City, Idaho..... | 5.00 |
| J. M. Aikman, Marion, Ill..... | 5.00 |
| Mrs. John Davidson, Lyons, Ind..... | 5.00 |
| Miss Martha A. Aikman, Washington, Ind..... | 5.00 |
| John A. Hawkins, Lyons, Ind. | 3.00 |
| W. J. Aikman, Marion, Ill..... | 1.50 |
| Mrs. Rosalie Hendrickson, Marion, Ill..... | 1.50 |
| Miss Mary D. Aikman, Washington, Ind..... | 1.00 |
| Total | \$212.00 |

The meeting closed with a beautiful and able prayer by Mrs. T. T. Pringle, of Bloomfield, Indiana.

COMMUNICATIONS

Letter in Part From Scotland.

12 KINGSBOROUGH GARDEN,
GLASGOW, SCOTLAND, July 5, 1907.

W. H. Aikman, Sec'y.
Indianapolis.

Dear Mr. Aikman:

Many thanks for pamphlet of the Aikman family received this week. I enclose postal order for two dollars as subscription to your publishing fund. I expect to be a fortnight in the States in October and may take a run to Indiana. It will be a pleasure to me to meet some of the American Aikmans.

With kind regards and many thanks for the pamphlet which I find very interesting.

Yours sincerely,

W. G. AIKMAN.

287 Broadway.
NEW YORK, N. Y., Nov. 20, 1907.

Mr. John Aikman,
Terre Haute, Ind.

Dear Sir:—

I have learned that during the latter part of 1906 there was a gathering at Terre Haute of those named Aikman.

For the past two years I have been endeavoring to get some trace of a cousin, Robert MacGregor Aikman, whom I understand went west about three years ago, presumably to Indiana, but without success.

I am unaware of the methods in which these reunions are conducted, but imagine that those who attend are in some way registered. Such being the case, perhaps you could ascertain whether or not my cousin was in attendance.

If you can learn that my cousin was at Terre Haute during the period mentioned, and will advise me, I will greatly appreciate your kindness.

Respectfully,

ALEX M. AIKMAN.

The following members of the Aikman family have been called to their eternal home since our last reunion:

W. A. AIKMAN

OF ELDORADO, KANSAS.

W. A. Aikman died Sunday, December 16, 1906, at 2 a. m., at his home on South Main street, of general debility.

William Allison Aikman was born in Laurel county, Kentucky, January 27, 1828 and was married to Miss Martha Graves of Madison county, Kentucky, November 6, 1854, who still survives him. To this happy union were born seven children, four of whom are living. They are Judge G. P. Aikman, County Attorney C. L. Aikman, and C. A. Aikman, of this city and J. S. Aikman of Denver, Colo., all of whom were present during his last illness.

Deceased came to Butler county December 22, 1871, locating near Towanda, being engaged in farming and stock raising until three years ago, when he moved to El Dorado. Before coming to Kansas he was in the drug business in London, Ky., twenty-five years, and during the Civil war he was in the employ of the government in capacity of manager of the government post at Pittsburg, Ky. He was a profound student of history and well posted on all subjects.

Mr. Aikman was a Butler county pioneer, a good all round citizen and neighbor, a devoted husband and father and will be greatly missed. He was a member of the M. E. church but during his residence here he attended the Christian church.

The funeral services were held from the home, Tuesday at 2 p. m., conducted by Rev. S. W. Brown, and the remains were interred in the east cemetery.

The Masons had charge of the body at the grave.

OBITUARY OF MRS. WILLIAM AIKMAN

PREPARED FOR THE AIKMAN FAMILY REUNION ASSOCIATION.

Mrs. William Aikman, wife of the Rev. William Aikman, D. D., of Atlantic City, New Jersey, was of Scotch-Irish and Highland Scotch lineage and connected in various ways with the Grants, MacGregors and MacDonalds of Scotland.

Mrs. Aikman was born, as were both her father, David Renwick Burns, and her mother, neé Anna Maria Grant, on Leonard street, near Broadway in the city of New York.

She was carefully educated in private schools, the best that the city afforded. She made a public profession of her faith when about fourteen years of age in the Park Street Presbyterian church of which her father was an officer and superintendent of its Sabbath school.

In her eighteenth year she became engaged to be married to William Aikman, a member of the same church, his father being a ruling elder in it. He was at the time a student in the New York University. They were married immediately on his graduation in the Union Theological Seminary of New York, July 25, 1849.

In October of the same year, they together began in Newark, New Jersey, their life work which lasted for fifty-seven years.

It was frequently said, as these years went on and to the end of her long life, that "Mrs. Aikman was born to be the wife of a clergyman." Her exceptional discretion and her amiability as well as her inborn refinement kept her from mistakes of judgment or words, her delicacy of apprehension led her to be evermore saying kind and helpful things, while her natural reticence made her a safe repository for individual and even family confidence. So it came about that wherever her residence might be and whatever the characteristics of the people with whom she became associated.



MRS. WILLIAM AIKMAN

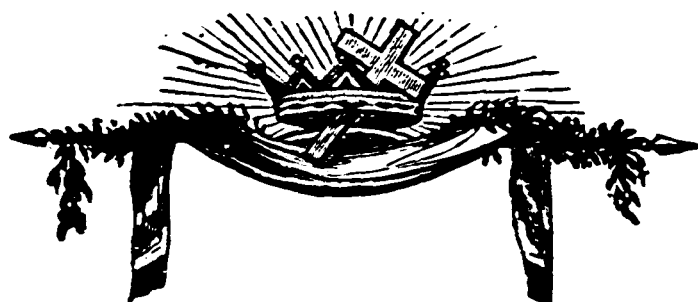
whether it was among the wealthy or refined, or among the more lowly, she was equally welcomed and at home, becoming a mother to the younger and a sister to the older among her husband's people, enlarging and strengthening his ministry, and leaving behind her a memory whose fragrance will abide with them who knew her well.

In person Mrs. Aikman was of petit and pretty figure, weighing when she was married about eighty-six pounds, becoming more rounded out as the years went on, with a face made beautiful by an ever present and engaging smile.

Her delicacy of constitution made her an object of loving and perpetual care from her infancy through all her life, yet her energy and will made her activities and usefulness conspicuous often above those of greater bodily strength. While always recognized as an admirable housekeeper, more by a complete and wise oversight than by her own hands, she always found time and strength to do all the work, which, sometimes unreasonably, is looked for in a pastor's wife.

Mrs. Aikman was mother of seven children, four sons and three daughters, all of whom, with the exception of a daughter who died in infancy, attained to mature years. Her husband, two sons and two daughters survive her.

Mrs. Aikman died just after she had passed her eightieth birthday, April 28, 1906. Her ashes lie in the family plot in a beautiful cemetery—Slumber Place—in Detroit, Michigan.



NOTES OF THE REUNION

With pulsating handshakes, pleasing smiles and warm hearts, the Aikmans met in their third annual reunion in Washington today. Members of the family from other parts of the State arrived in the city last night and at noon and gathered at the Masonic hall where dinner was served. Fully one hundred and fifty were seated at the dinner table. This afternoon the Aikmans are at the old homestead in Sugarland. This evening they will meet at the hall for a few social hours and tomorrow morning the monument over the grave of the progenitor of the Aikmans in Indiana, John Aikman, will be unveiled at Oak Grove cemetery.

The association of Aikmans in Indiana, almost all of whom are descendants of the early Daviess county pioneer, was formed in Indianapolis two years ago. The second reunion was held at Terre Haute. After the meeting here the reunions will be held in Indianapolis on account of the many conveniences that city affords.

THE LOCAL DESCENDANTS.

John Aikman, the pioneer, was the father of thirteen children. His fourth child was the first white child born in Daviess county. Mrs. Aikman gave birth to this child, Hugh, March 12, 1812, in a fort where the Aikman family had taken refuge in the trouble with the Indians. The children of the pioneer were: Barton S. Aikman, Sicily Robertson and James Aikman, born in Kentucky; Hugh Aikman, Samuel Aikman, John B. Aikman, Thomas Aikman, Elizabeth Hawkins, Maria Helphenstine, Mary McCormick, Robert Aikman, William M. Aikman, Martha Johnson. The last named is the only living child. She lives in Topeka, Kansas.

James Aikman, the third child, died in Daviess county. His living children are Samuel and Henry Aikman, Sr., and Miss Mattie Aikman of this county. L. C. Aikman is the only living child of Hugh Aikman. John A. Hawkins and Arch A. Hawkins of Newberry are the children of Elizabeth Hawkins. Lon and John Helphenstine of this city are children of Maria Hawkins. Mrs. T. T. Pride is the only daughter of Mrs. McCormick. Mrs. Charles Jones is the daughter of Robert Aikman. Mary D. Aikman is the daughter of William M. Aikman.

DAVIESS COUNTY AIKMANS.

A history of Daviess county without mention of the name Aikman would not be complete. In fact, it would be no history at all. For in the settlement days that historic and time-honored pioneer, the progenitor of almost all the Aikmans in Indiana, was part and parcel of county history; more, he helped make county history. To be a red-skin fighter, the first school teacher, a leader in politics, rich in worldly holdings and a natural leader in the primitive progress of those days meant a position of eminence that can not be held by any man in the thickly settled Daviess county of today. It was different then. The rich land between the forks of White river had just been opened when John Aikman came from sparsely settled Kentucky with his wife and three children. He was preceded by pioneers not more than ten years and when he built his home with the determination to enter the struggle for existence in this strange and rough country, there were only a handful of men in a radius of a score of miles, excepting the trading post at Vincennes, which then had a history.

John Aikman made history and so have the Aikmans that came after. Like the Indiana pioneer, the Aikmans have been prolific, bringing into the world large families of active and energetic men and womanly daughters. From the day that John Aikman entered upon the duties of a member of the first board of county commissioners and previously held the rod in the little old log hut used as the first school house and probably the first church, the Aikmans have had a part in the official and educational life of the county. The attributes of mental, moral and physical strength, capacity for hard work, the enriching qualities of honesty and integrity, persistency and frugality have been born again into his descendants, among whom we find farmers, business and professional men, all standing high and respected in the community. The Aikmans are good citizens.

The Indiana pioneer came to Daviess county from Kentucky in 1810. He settled on a tract of land near the juncture of the forks of White river, but a year later moved to a two hundred acre tract in Sugarland. This latter piece of land is still in the hands of the Aikmans and on it stands the brick home erected by this sturdy man in the years 1833 and 1834. He was born May 5, 1783. His wife was Mary Barr, born April 15, 1787. Both were Virginians. Their birthplaces are not known, but no doubt are in Virginia.

Hardly had the Aikmans settled in Daviess county, when trouble with the Indians broke out. Following the battle of Tippecanoe the redskins in the neighborhood of the settlement here assumed the most threatening attitude. There had been erected five forts and in one of these Aikman took his family until he could provide protection for his property. He constructed two forts, each 150 feet square, one near the site of the Lettsville school house north of the city and another in the Prairie creek bottoms to the northeast. Several settlers lost their lives in skirmishes. The trouble with the redskins did not last long. By a united effort the aborigines were driven from the State for all time.

John Aikman was a man of peace and after the trouble with the Indians turned his strength to providing for his increasing family and to affairs of a private and public nature. His natural ability and smattering of education, obtained largely without assistance, made him at once one of the leaders in the settlement. Besides teaching the first school of any kind in the county he was a member of the first board organized to transact public business in Daviess county, then comprising the larger part of what are now Martin, Greene and Owen counties and all of the present Daviess county. Daviess County was formed with these boundaries in 1816, the year that Indiana became a State. The first election was held the following year in February. That same year the first court was held in Daviess county and John Aikman was a member of the first grand jury.

Although an unpretentious man, the pioneer was a power. He had the capacity for work never surpassed in those days. Untiring, he led a life of activity until his death. His mind ever was in accord with the higher spirit of the times, progress—better homes for his children and the advantages of schools and law and order. No greater monument could have been erected to his memory than the brick building erected by his own hands, a true inscription of the life and works of the pioneer Aikman.

CONCLUSION

The reunion terminated has made a lasting impression upon all who attended it and when it is reproduced in print and distributed broad cast to the Aikman kith and kin, it is a foregone conclusion that it will sow the seeds of love and good fellowship.

And that sowing, dear kindred, was what inspired the promoters of our first reunion, held in Indianapolis, Ind., October 17, 1905, being the one hundredth anniversary of the birth of Barton Aikman, the oldest son of John Aikman, the head of the Aikman families in Indiana.

How well this call for a general gathering was answered has been evidenced by the successive gatherings, this being the largest of all. When the first reunion was inaugurated, none of its promoters realized what a tremendous large tribe the Aikmans were, but once started, communications came from not only all over the United States, but from foreign countries also. And as these communications arrived, they opened the eyes of the Indiana promoters to the fact that God had planted the Aikman family tree over a vast amount of territory, distributing the fruit of industry and high character even among nations.

The further we investigate our kindred the more good things in the human race we find and this, our third reunion, leaves no one in doubt of the fact that we have just reasons to be proud of our blood—a blood handed down to posterity by old King Malcom whose life showed that fearlessness and daring so strong in the Scottish kith and kin.

These reunions greatly strengthen the ties that bind us, and the good seed that is sown at each of these gatherings will distribute itself broad cast over a great territory, bringing helpful comfort and good cheer to members of the race we are all so justly proud of.

Let this spirit of close association abide with all so long as our merciful Father gives us life.

We extend to you all a cordial invitation to meet with us at our future meetings.

Fraternally submitted,

HENRY AIKMAN, Pres.

W. H. AIKMAN, Sec'y.

