

THE STOKES'
FROM THE RANCOCAS



By WILLIAM J. WORTH STOKES.
DAYTON CHIO

A D D R E S S

DELIVERED BY

WILLIAM J. WORTH STOKES

at the Second Annual Reunion of the Ohio branch of the
Stokes family, held on September 30, 1899.

MR. PRESIDENT, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

In speaking to you to-day of the "Stokes' from the Rancocas," I have seen fit to deal with events of their lives and character rather than with dates, to supply the latter, however, I have prepared and had printed in pamphlet form a complete genealogy of the William Stokes family to the present day, and each of you can be supplied with a copy at the secretary's table.

"The traditions of culture and intelligence to the present race are in the past, but they should be a har-binger for those of to-day and those to come."

WILLIAM STOKES.

William Stokes was born in Burlington County, New Jersey, January 14, 1779, being the fourth child and the second of eight sons of a family of sixteen, his parents being Jarvis Stokes and Hannah (Rogers) Stokes. In his twentieth year, on April 8, 1798, he married Hannah Hatcher of the same county, who was born August 11, 1775, and settled and resided in Burlington county until May, 1817, being a wheelwright by trade, and engaged in the manufacture of wagons. Up to this time there had been born to this union ten children, nine of them living—John E. alone having departed this life—the oldest, Rebecca, being eighteen years old, and the youngest, Elizabeth Ann, one year old. With these nine children

and their mother, William Stokes in May, 1817, left New Jersey in a train composed of two ordinary road lumber wagons loaded with movers' outfit, and after a journey of nearly two months' duration, arrived in Lebanon, Warren county, Ohio, July 4th, following.

The trip across the country, over the mountains and through the valleys, was without particular incident or mishap, and the entire family reached their destination in usual health and spirits.

The region of country over which they traveled presented new scenes daily. Over the rolling surface was the varied arrangement of woodland and field, with log farm houses and barns attesting separate possessions. There were frequent brooks and wide rivers, narrow, winding country roads, not roads lined with fences, but along which the birches, the elderberries and the sumach grew, with wild grapevines and clematis climbing to the top of the majestic and sturdy oaks that seemed to stand guard for the safety of the travelers.

This trip occurring nearly a century ago, can in no way be compared with a trip over the same route to-day. The journey was made at a time when nearly the entire trade and travel of the country was by team over dirt roads, and through a country where bridges spanned only a few of the rivers, with long and steep hills and high mountains to climb and descend, and often for days through the solid forests, the sun only to be seen for a short time at high noon, with the wagons for sleeping apartments and the roadside for a kitchen; where men, and even women and children, walked for days that the wagons might be lightened over the rocks and in the mire and mud, to the strength of the teams, averaging probably ten miles a day, and at the end of a journey, undertaken and completed under conditions requiring such heroic services, to think that it was to end in a strange country, and they to settle and make their home among strangers, and we can form some small idea of the force and character of this courageous couple, as they contem-

plated and concluded this move of leaving behind them the sacred ties of old home and all the fond recollections that clustered around it; of leaving the native hearth, fond parents, brothers and sisters, not knowing that their eyes would ever again look into the eyes of those that they were leaving; but it illustrates the strong character of William Stokes and his faithful consort, and the success of the journey measures the care with which these master hands made return of their adventure, and of that which at this time would seem to be a most wonderful undertaking.

Soon after arriving in Warren County, William Stokes moved on a farm about one and one-half miles south of Lebanon, and soon thereafter purchased a farm of 160 acres in the southeastern part of Clear Creek Township, near Utica, in Warren County, paying seventeen dollars per acre therefor, upon which there was a double log house, a log stable, and about thirty-five acres of land cleared ready for cultivation, to which place he moved and engaged in general agriculture in the spring of 1818, and where he passed the remainder of his happy life.

William Stokes was strong physically and mentally, full of life and energy, and whatever he undertook he accomplished, if it was possible of accomplishment. He was fond of company, made himself agreeable to others, and was honored and respected by all. He took much interest in the education of his children, and had them apply themselves assiduously to their books, and provided them with works tending to broaden and strengthen their minds. He was of a jovial nature and happy turn of mind, and easily adapted himself to events and surroundings—a man of honest purpose and high character—a man among men, he transmitted to his children these same characteristics, and after his death, his memory is resplendent with these jewels that “man doth leave after him.” He died after a short illness, August 17, 1838.

The good woman who had been his constant companion and helpmate through life, was, like him, strong in

mind and body. She possessed many rare qualities, and inspired her children with ambition. She ever kept a watchful eye over them, and maintained their united confidence to the last. She was a woman of unusual energy and determination, and these qualities were slackened only by the weakness of age.

In religion, she and her husband cast their lot with the Society of Friends, or Quakers, and to the end maintained their belief that "there is a spirit in man, and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding."

After the death of her husband, she continued to reside on the farm where the family had lived since coming to Ohio, and at the ripe age of four score and three, she died on the 18th day of April, 1858, having outlived her husband nearly twenty years.

They had born to them twelve children, seven sons and five daughters, all of whom grew to manhood or womanhood except John E.

JARVIS STOKES.

Jarvis Stokes, first son and second child of William Stokes, was born in New Jersey January 6, 1801, and became a resident of Ohio with his father's family in 1817, with whom he lived until his marriage, when he moved and settled on the farm now occupied by Frank Stokes, near Lytle. Soon after, however, he purchased the farm known to all as the Dr. Stokes farm, to which he moved and continued to occupy until his death. Jarvis Stokes was large, probably weighing two hundred and twenty-five pounds, and of rugged constitution. He was full of life and energy, free, open and generous hearted. Commencing life with empty but willing hands, he was soon engaged in business for himself, and turned the nimble sixpence into action, accumulating sufficient in a short time to pay for the farm that he had purchased. In the prime of manhood, his energy and determination to succeed in life was now put to the test, and by indomitable will and the application of thorough business prin-

ciples, he accumulated a fortune estimated at one time at a sixth of a million dollars, and while in this day of multi-millionaires this sum does not seem large, yet in its day and under the circumstances of its accumulation, the small start and the short period of time, it was a vast sum. Jarvis Stokes loved action and energy. He loved noise, and in noise there was music to him. Not a sound could be made in producing something of value, that was not harmonious to his ear. With him, results were everything, and the performing of the greatest amount in the easiest way, in the shortest time, ever met with his enthusiastic approval.

In connection with his other affairs, he was engaged in the banking business in Waynesville, being associated with the late Israel Harris. Jarvis Stokes was kind hearted, and did much for the poor of his neighborhood. It has been said of him that his table was always spread, and no one ever left his residence without being served, or of having the opportunity of declining his hospitality. He was just and generous, and gave with a free hand; his liberality was as extensive as his acquaintance. He continued to reside where he had spent so many happy days, and departed this life May 3, 1868, in the full confidence and esteem of every one that knew him, and upon whose lips, and from which the truth was spoken, "a good man is gone."

JOEL A. STOKES.

Joel A. Stokes was born in Burlington County, New Jersey, December 16, 1802, and came to Ohio with his father when fifteen years old. He received such an education as was afforded by the country district school at the time, and he grew to manhood while the country was yet new and in process of settlement. He endured the hardships of an early settler, and in endeavoring to do his part in preparing the country for habitation, he seared his face and blackened his clothing at many a log-rolling. In his day he was recognized as a man of much

worth and of sterling character. He was robust in health, and transmitted to his children vigorous constitutions, and had it not been for an unfortunate accident that caused his death at the early age of fifty, in all probability he would have lived and rounded out a ripe old age.

He married Mary Hathaway, and they had four children, three of whom are still living. He was active and vigorous, cool and not easily excited, and was possessed of a calm and deliberate judgment. For nine years he was a Justice of the Peace of Clear Creek Township, filling the office to the satisfaction of all, and was in office at the time of his death. He possessed the confidence of his neighbors to a marked degree, and was freely consulted in matters affecting their interests. He settled at the old homestead after his marriage, and continued to reside there until his death in 1852.

FRANKLIN STOKES.

Franklin Stokes was born in New Jersey, March 10, 1806. He received a common district school education, such as was afforded at the old log school house east of Utica. Not content with this, he employed his time well in gaining additional knowledge, and in his early life showed an inclination and desire to become a practical printer and an editor of a political newspaper. Accordingly, while yet a young man, he sought and obtained employment in the composing room and mechanical department of the *Cincinnati Gazette*, and continued there until he had thoroughly mastered that part of producing a newspaper. At the same time his mind was active in the pursuit of knowledge. He, in connection with Thomas Ross, started and published at Lebanon a weekly publication called the *Ohio Argus*, it being the first paper ever published in Warren county that gave support to Democratic principles and Democratic candidates. The paper was ably edited and very successful and influential, and moulded public sentiment by its fair presentation of public questions, and during this time the county

uniformly gave a Democratic majority. This field of labor, however, was not large enough for the active brain of Franklin Stokes, and seeking a larger place possessing greater opportunities for advancement, he parted with his interest in the *Argus* and at once removed to Hamilton, Butler County, Ohio, and began the publication of the *Hamilton Telegraph*, he being its editor and active manager.

The paper at once became a power for good, obtained a large circulation, and was influential among its readers, and to the *Telegraph* and the pen of Franklin Stokes is attributed the splendid Democratic majority that Butler County uniformly produces, for in the minds of the voters he planted the fundamental principles of Democracy. He continued the publication of the *Telegraph* for a number of years, but health failing him, he disposed of it. He was elected and served as Treasurer of Butler County, and was also elected and served as Auditor of the county. Franklin Stokes was always active in politics. He enjoyed the excitement afforded by political activity, and his business naturally led him in that channel. He attended and participated in the conventions of his party, was an able writer, modest in his bearing, and in his later years occupied a prominent position before the public as a man of rare judgment and learning.

During his life he made many warm friends, many of whom live to-day and speak in flattering terms of him. He was associated with the leading men of his day, and possessed of their respect to an eminent degree. Franklin Stokes remained single, and died April 2, 1857, in his fifty-second year; and, while he left no descendants to be with us to-day, we, his relatives, honor and respect his life and character and the results of his labors.

GRANVILLE W. STOKES.

Granville W. Stokes was born in Burlington County, New Jersey, September 26, 1810, and came by wagon to

Ohio at the age of seven, with the family of his father.

He attended the district school during the winter months, working on the farm at other times for his father until he was twenty-one years old, when he entered college at South Hanover, Indiana.

A manual training department was connected with the school, and while in attendance he learned the carpenter and cooper trade. Returning home, he read law for a time with Thomas Corwin at Lebanon.

During the next few years he was engaged at his trade in the South, and also as a railroad laborer and as a school teacher, teaching in Jefferson County, Mississippi. He afterwards attended the Cincinnati Law School, from which he graduated and was admitted to the bar in March, 1839, and practiced his profession successfully for a number of years thereafter at Lebanon, and for a time was associated with Governor Waller, practicing at Hamilton, Ohio. For five years, commencing in 1847, he was Clerk of Common Pleas Court in Warren County, Ohio. At the expiration of his term as Clerk, he removed to the country and engaged in general agriculture, which he continued until a few years before his death, he having purchased the old homestead where his father settled on coming from New Jersey, which he improved and beautified, and on which he lived to enjoy for a number of years the fruits of his labors and the beauty of the scenery and surroundings that were mainly the work of his own hand.

At the age of twenty-nine he married Jane Robinson, and to them eight children were born.

At the Presidential election in 1852, he was a member of the electoral college, when Franklin Pierce was the candidate of his party for the Presidency. He represented the Butler-Warren Senatorial District for the term beginning in 1853 in the Senate of Ohio. He was made a Brigadier General in the Ohio Militia previous to the War of the Rebellion, but was prevented from active field service in that war, by an accident that nearly cost

him his life, by having a limb almost severed by a reaping machine.

During his eventful life he had collected many specimens of different kinds, which he highly prized, and took great pleasure in reciting their history and in exhibiting them, among which was a musket that Mrs. Stokes's grandfather had carried through the Revolutionary War; also a brick that was taken from the first house built by William Penn in Philadelphia, being made in London; also a six-pound cannon ball, presented to him by General De La Mar, aide-de-camp to General Jackson at the battle of New Orleans.

Granville W. Stokes was a man of broad mind and superior ability, a man of general information upon all questions; he could quote the Bible at will, repeat his political party's platforms from the time the first one was made the fundamental principle of his party by Thomas Jefferson, to the day of his death. He was possessed of a wonderfully retentive memory, recalling incidents and language with the utmost ease. He was a thorough student, a deep thinker and absolutely original in his expressions, and gave them such force that they carried with them admiration and conviction. He was a master of his pen and the English language, a remarkably ready and fluent speaker, and as an orator had but few equals. He was frequently on the stump for his party during the campaigns, and delivered many stirring addresses. He was attractive in form, feature and address; he could mingle with a crowd of a thousand strangers, and in an exceedingly short time he would have every one of them at his mercy, and they would surround him and listen with eager attention to every word he uttered. He was magnetic, broad, liberal, tender hearted. I say it not in disparagement of the others, but as being their thought, when I say he was the pride of his parents, the pride of his brothers and sisters, the pride of his neighborhood, the pride of his acquaintances, the pride of his family, universally admired and

fervently loved. Between him and his family there was a chord that could not be broken; he loved his children, and this in return was reciprocated by them. He lived a great man, and as such he died, May 19, 1882, in his seventy-second year.

BENJAMIN A. STOKES.

Benjamin A. Stokes was a native of Burlington County, New Jersey, born September 3, 1812, and was the last of the seven sons of William Stokes to depart this life. He became an inhabitant of Ohio when four years old, in 1817, by the removal of his father to this State at that time. Until his majority he gave his services to his parents upon the farm, and during the winter months he attended the district pioneer school. For a number of years he taught school in different States of the Union, mostly, however, in Mississippi. At the age of twenty-six he became a trader on the Ohio and Mississippi rivers, buying wheat, corn, flour and pork in Cincinnati and vicinity and shipping them by flat boat, and selling and trading them as the boat moved with the current on its way to New Orleans, at the towns where stops were made, finally selling and exchanging the residue of his cargo for cotton, sugar and molasses in New Orleans, which he brought North and sold and traded at the towns on the return trip, usually disposing of the remainder of his stock in Cincinnati. In 1839 he began a mercantile life, purchased a stock of general merchandise of William D. Mulford, located at Utica, and continued in the mercantile business there until 1853. During this time, however, he also packed pork and shipped it to Cincinnati, and was engaged in trade in general in whatever in his judgment formed a legitimate business, and out of which a legitimate profit could be reasonably expected. His business was successful from the start, and up to the time that he disposed of his stock, he had accumulated sufficient means to purchase from Nathan Graham this farm, to which he moved in 1853, building this house and making all these im-

provements, and where he continued to reside for forty-six years and until his death. He was one of the organizers of the National Bank at Waynesville, and at the first meeting of the stockholders for organization, he was elected a director and was chosen vice president, which position he held continuously until his death. He conducted a bank for a time in Lebanon under the name of B. A. Stokes & Co., finally selling the same to the Lebanon National Bank, and at the time of the organization of the latter, in which he became a large stockholder, he was elected a director and chosen vice president, which positions he also held continuously until his demise. He was a member of the Board of Directors of the Orphans' Home for a number of years, and until he voluntarily resigned. He was a Justice of the Peace of his township for eleven years, refusing a further re-election. Although he had never sought office, he had been frequently the candidate of his party, against his wish, for various positions, and came near being elected Treasurer of Warren County on the Democratic ticket early in the sixties, although the county was strongly politically against his party. He was recognized as a man of splendid business attainments, and possessed the confidence of his acquaintances, and in important business matters was frequently consulted. He was conservative, yet aggressive, a man of rare judgment in business matters, and at one time was one of the largest landholders in the county. He easily detected the sham from the genuine, making his decisions quickly, yet almost unerringly. He was keen and shrewd, and was always able to take care of himself and guide his financial ship safely through threatened disaster. He was broad in his views, a man of much general information, and a great reader. He had taken the Cincinnati *Enquirer* continuously for more than forty years, and was thoroughly posted on the current events of the day. He investigated thoroughly every subject that interested him. He was an independent thinker; he received and adopted no one's ideas that

were not approved by his deliberate judgment. He was original in his expressions, and was ever ready to defend with argument what he believed. He was free from deception, open hearted, and as true as steel. He was honest, economical, industrious, thrifty and full of energy, and he liked these qualities in others. He was the foremost citizen of his neighborhood, possessing the confidence and admiration of all. He admired nature in all its manifold and multiplying form. To him it was always beautiful. The bird that chirped upon his doorstep and the fowl that ate from his own hand were dear to him, and he loved them. He clung tenaciously to life and beat back the wave of disease and the infirmities of age with a wonderful vitality, his vigorous constitution finally yielding to the inevitable, and even in his last sickness and but a few short hours before his death, he said: "I won't give up; I won't surrender the fort yet." He loved his home and home surroundings, and the door was always open to all comers of whatever station in life, humble or otherwise; his hospitality was a part of his nature, and no one ever left his hearth feeling that they had not been welcomed. He married Maria L. Mulford March 31, 1841, and was the father of ten children, all of whom reached their majority, and eight of them survive him. He gave them all a good common school education, inspired them with ambition and retained their confidence and fatherly love until the last. He loved his family, and was always happiest when surrounded by them in an unbroken circle of the living. Having lived a just and generous life, he passed away, retaining the esteem of every one, dying on the 14th of August, 1899, nearly eighty-seven years old.

WILLIAM HATCHER STOKES.

William Hatcher Stokes was born in Warren County, Ohio. His father died when he was but eighteen years old, and he was thrown early in life upon his own resources. The small patrimony that had been left to him

by his father was largely used in his education. He attended Miami University at Oxford, Ohio, and applied himself industriously to his books at odd times, and at the age of twenty-one was recommended by Governors Corwin and Morrow, receiving an appointment to West Point as a cadet, and entered that military school soon thereafter, and remained a student there until April 18, 1844, leaving the school, however, before graduating. Soon after his return from West Point he began the study of medicine, and graduated at the Ohio Medical College in Cincinnati in 1848, and immediately began the practice of medicine in partnership with Dr. M. H. Keever, residing and having his office in Ridgville, and continued the practice of his chosen profession until 1861, when he settled on a farm northeast of Utica, where he resided until the spring of 1869, at which time he moved to the Jarvis Stokes farm near Lytle, which he had, in the meantime, purchased, and where he continued to reside until his death. Dr. Stokes was a man of energy, refinement and good taste, and at once began extensive improvements upon his farm until it was looked upon and recognized from all points of view as the model farm of the county.

Dr. Stokes was elected from the Butler-Warren District, and served his constituents well and favorably two terms in the Ohio Senate, retiring voluntarily at the end of his second term. He took much interest in politics, and was thoroughly posted upon all public questions. He was an industrious student, and burned much midnight oil reading standard works.

He married Susanna Thøcdmorton January 31, 1849, that union being blessed with twelve children, seven of whom, with his aged consort, are still living.

He was an admirer of good, substantial stock and fowls, and had the choicest of these continually upon his farm. He loved the animal creation and made great pets of them, and in their use they were his companions rather than his beasts. He loved nature in all its beauty,

from the sturdy oak to the daisy that grew beneath its protecting limbs. He loved the birds and their music, and gave them a welcome habitation as near his own as their nature allowed them to venture; he loved flowers in all their radiant beauty and fragrance, and the bees that sipped the nectar from their folds. Nature was full of perfume to him, and his every sense reached out to embrace it. He loved music, and its melody soothed and gave him rest, and under its strains he could find repose in sleep.

Dr. Stokes was a man of character, and his word was the height of honor. His friends were as numerous as his acquaintances. He lived quietly and in peace and harmony with his neighbors.

He was active, full of energy, and loved his family, and did much for his children, dying in his seventy-sixth year universally honored and respected.

THE DAUGHTERS OF WILLIAM STOKES.

Of the five daughters of William Stokes, much might be said, but time forbids. Rebecca, the eldest, was the mother of two children, both of whom however, are dead, and no issue survives.

Unity, the second daughter, married David Wills, and was the mother of one child, who is yet alive. She died when twenty-five years old, and ten descendants at this time survive her.

Caroline, the third daughter, if she and her descendants were all living, could stand at the head of a column of seventy-one, sixty-three of whom are still living. She was a noble woman, performed her part well, and the generations that follow can look back with pride. She died in her eightieth year.

Elizabeth Ann, the fourth daughter, was married but died without descendants at the age of eighty-one.

Hannah, the fifth daughter and youngest child of William Stokes, and the only survivor, lives in Lebanon

in too feeble health to be with us to-day, and is now in her seventy-seventh year.

These daughters were all women of pure lives, and worthy of the name of Stokes.

I would like to speak of the husbands of these daughters and of the wives of the sons of William, but we must leave these characters for reunions hereafter.

THEIR RELIGION.

The Stokes' were all a very religious people; a religion of their own, and in speaking of it, I speak in that sense: but few of them, however, were of the orthodox church. They all recognized a Supreme Being and a power beyond and above themselves, an infinite power that created the universe and made matter out of nothing; a power that impressed upon that matter certain principles from which it can never depart, and should it depart, would cease to exist; a power that gives us spring with all its development and unfolding of nature; that gives us summer with the ripening of the harvest; that gives us autumn that sears nature into the colors and beauty of the rainbow; that gives us winter that covers all with its mantle of white; a power to produce and to end. The children of William Stokes were born of Quaker parentage, and nearly all maintained a very friendly feeling for that church. Some of them took much interest in the Universalist Church, and on the whole, the belief of that denomination probably more nearly coincided with the views of the larger part of them. Granville is complimented with having written the articles of belief of this denomination for the Ridgeville Church. Not all, however, were of that belief, for Hannah, the only survivor, is a member of the Baptist Church, although it is doubtful if any of the others ever formally united with any denomination.

Their views were broad enough, as Ella Wheeler Wilcox has written: To believe "that a man who makes

a good husband and father and citizen, will make a good angel when his time comes. That the woman who renders her home the most peaceful and lovely place on earth, will adorn heaven when she reaches there, and its gates will be wide open to receive her; that if the clergy would talk more about the home life to the people, and less about the future, that the latter would take care of itself."

They, or some of them, believed in a reasonable religion that brought into harmony the entire creation of a Supreme Being. To them, nature formed one of the foundation principles and the handiwork of God. reaching out in every direction and preaching its own sermon from every valley, hilltop and mountainside: from every sheet of water, brook and rivulet; in fact, from all creation and growth which was often termed in its succession of seasons as being "immutable, immortal, everlasting and glorious." For, under similar circumstances, it was alike to all, high or low, rich or poor, and the dew of the morning, as it sparkled with diamond-like brilliancy from nature's growth, added luster and beauty in perfecting this nature and making it the more worthy of admiration. They were broad enough to believe that rewards and punishments, if any there be, will not be determined by what they believed, but by what they did: that the murderer will always be a murderer, and that the good and just man will always be treated as such, and with this belief they were always ready to be judged.

THEIR POLITICS.

A biography of the Stokes' cannot be complete without speaking of their politics, and in doing so, I do it not from a partisan standpoint, only as they were partisan, giving their views impartially.

William Stokes, our original Ohio ancestor, was a school boy at the time of the adoption of the Federal Constitution, and the active part of his life was during the trying days of the young republic, and the opinions

he formed of policies and measures during this time fixed and established his political belief.

He believed in Thomas Jefferson, he who drafted and gave force and character to the greatest instrument the world ever knew, the Declaration of Independence, and William Stokes at the first Presidential election at which he was eligible to vote, cast his first ballot for that great man who will live in history as long as the world lives.

William Stokes and his children believed that the general government possessed only such powers as were delegated to it by the Federal Constitution, and such as might reasonably be inferred, and that the other powers were reserved to the States respectively. They believed that such a construction of that instrument gave to the National Government sufficient power to quell any insurrection, maintain peace at home, and successfully meet any foreign enemy, and at the same time gave each State the right of local self-government and the power to control their own internal affairs. They believed that the nearer the government was to the people that a greater interest would be taken in that government by the people, and that local self-government, therefore, became the cradle of patriotism. They believed that with such a construction of the Constitution, that the evil of trusts and monopolies would and could not exist. They believed in an income tax as the most equitable and just of all taxes; that a government that had the right to draft and take by force a boy from the family circle and stand him up before the enemy's guns in defense of the nation, had the right to demand of the millionaire that a part of his income should go to support that boy while he is at the front, baring his breast to the bullets of the enemy.

They, or the older ones, supported President Monroe, who gave to the world the now celebrated Monroe doctrine that is to-day recognized everywhere—except at the White House.

They supported President Jackson, and the wisdom of such support is emblazoned indelibly upon the pages

of every impartial history of our grand country. Jackson's fight and final victory over the money power, by which the greatest octopus in its time was removed from the body politic, gave the Stokes' especial cause to rejoice. These beliefs and achievements and the principles that underlie them were inculcated and became a part of the very existence of the Stokes', and each and every one of them have been earnest advocates of the cause of Democracy.

They recognized in Jefferson, in Monroe, in Jackson, and in a long line of Democratic statesmen, and the only survivor of the sons of William Stokes in the campaign of 1896 recognized in Bryan a wisdom of governmental affairs and policies that if enacted into laws would be far reaching in favorable results.

They were always in accord with these learned men for their sympathy for the common people, and for the masses as against the classes, and having given their assent to these doctrines in all the political contests thereafter, they ever remained true to their principles, and never lowered the flag of Democracy, and he who but a few short days ago departed this life in full mental activity at the age of nearly eighty-seven, held high the banner of his party, defended its principles with vigor, and raised high his voice in condemnation of monopolies, trusts, extravagance and imperialism.

The children of William Stokes all took an active part in politics, attended the conventions of their party, and did what they could as citizens and patriots to have the principles of their party become the fundamental law of the land.

As a family, we find Granville eminent as a lawyer, William as a doctor, and both of whom were Senators, Franklin eminent as a writer and editor, and Jarvis and Benjamin eminent bankers and financiers. In all your acquaintances, where is this family equaled? The eminence and success of their lives should be a fitting

ambition for each descendant. Let every one here to-day, while he has yet time, seek to outshine and eclipse the success of William Stokes' sons, and in that way carry the colonial family of Stokes still higher on the ladder of fame, and thereby bring greater credit and character to all whose blood can be traced to or through the Stokes, for eminence in any profession or calling by any member of the family adds to and each receives benefit by that success and relationship.

The Stokes' have always regarded character as essential in a successful life. They have always been an honest, sober, industrious, debt-paying family. They have not been a charge upon charity. None of them have ever been convicted of any crime, nor sent to the penitentiary or to Congress. We are proud of a noble ancestry, and proud of the blood that courses through our veins!

Why should we not, then, gather in annual reunion and indulge in fond remembrances of those that have passed away, and rekindle the fires of relationship?

These reunions lengthen life and strengthen the ties of blood, make us a brotherhood, united as one by a common ancestry. (Applause.)

[A rising vote of thanks was extended to the speaker for the address, and as secretary he was directed by a unanimous vote to have the same printed in pamphlet form and, sent by mail to the members of the reunion,]

