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FURNITURE AND CARPETS

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We are always ready to buy a stock of choice goods under price. We have bought for cash AT OUR PRICE the entire stock of J. SPENCER, 154 and 155 MICHIGAN AVE., CHICAGO, (two six-story buildings full) of elegant Furniture, magnificent Carpets, richest draperies, excellent bedding, fine heating and cooking stoves, etc., etc. Foreclosed under Chattel Mortgage by the creditors. Spencer only opened last April. Here is a rare chance to get elegant goods 50 per cent off. That's the way we have marked them—just half of Spencer's price.

Table listing furniture items and prices: Bed Room Suits (\$11.68), Couches (\$11.64), Cheffoniers (\$8.75), Bed Lounges (\$13.50), Blankets (\$2.25), Ladies' Desks (\$4.00), Extension Tables (\$2.68), Wardrobes (\$5.50), Iron Beds (\$5.25), Rocking Chair (\$2.60), Mattresses (\$1.75), Cook Stoves (\$9.75), Dining Room Chairs (78c), Book Cases (\$3.75), Sideboards (\$9.50), Hard Coal Base Burners (\$13.75), Beds (\$1.50), Ranges (\$15.00), Fancy Rockers (\$3.00), Rattan Rocker (\$5.75).

SPENCER BANKRUPT Carpets and Rugs

Table listing carpet and rug items and prices: Hartford Axminster (\$1.00), Oil Cloth (17c), Best quality all wool, extra super, Ingrain Carpets (42c), Straw Matting (18c), 1,000 Chenille Rugs (19c), 1,000 Br. seals Rugs (80c), 100 Best Smyrna Rugs (\$2.75), Linoleum (50c).

Spencer's Furniture & Carpet Co. 315-317 FARNAM ST.

OUR USUAL EASY TERMS WILL PREVAIL DURING THIS SALE.

KEATS FAMILY IN AMERICA

The Poet's Younger Brother a Kentucky Pioneer. SUCCESSFUL IN BUSINESS VENTURES. Wreck of the Family Fortune at Home—False Stories of Neglect—American Descendants—Some New Facts in Life of Keats.

(Copyright, 1895, by John Glimmer Speed.) This is the centennial year of John Keats, who was born on the 29th of October, 1795. It is interesting to recall that at the time when in the bitterness of his heart he desired that his epitaph should be: "Here lies one whose name was written in water," there was a household on the banks of the Ohio river in which he was most tenderly and lovingly loved, and where, after his death, he was mourned with a sadness which knew no limit. He had a brother in America and in Cave Hill cemetery in Louisville, Ky., there is a monument built of boulders erected to the memory of the Keats family in America. Around this lie buried the remains of George Keats and his wife and all of their children save the eldest son, John Keats, who is still living in the northwestern part of Missouri, where he is a farmer and a civil engineer.



JOHN KEATS, THE POET.

two. Indeed, the earliest of John Keats' biographers spoke of George Keats as the eldest of his family. But John was born in 1795 and George in 1797. John Jennings, the maternal grandfather of the Keats, retired from business with a fortune of \$13,000 (\$95,000) and the business was continued by his son-in-law, Thomas Keats. Thomas Keats was killed by a fall from a horse in 1800 and his estate went to his widow. The mother of the Keats children, who, shortly after Thomas Keats died, married again, died in 1810. The next year Mrs. Jennings, being desirous of making provision for her orphan grandchildren, "in consideration of natural love and affection which she had for them," executed a deed putting them under the care of two guardians, to whom she made over, to be held in trust for their benefit from the date of the instrument, the chief part of the property derived from her late husband under his will. The value of the property so put in trust exceeded \$40,000. When Mrs. Jennings died four years later something exceeding \$15,000 more was added to this fund belonging to the Keats children. Besides these two sums they were entitled

to the \$1,000 originally left to them by their grandfather and to the principal which the \$50 annually for was derived. It will be seen, therefore, that these four children were by no means penniless, as \$13,000 in the earlier years of this century was a great sum of money. But owing to the unwise administration of the trust fund, the Keats did not reach manhood without feeling many of the embarrassments of poverty. George Keats accompanied his brothers to the school at Enfield of Rev. John Clarke, the father of Charles Cowden Clarke, who compiled the very useful concordance to Shakespeare. At this school the Keats boys learned history, Latin and mathematics, and in these they were well grounded as the generally of English lads of 16 or 17 years of age. The scholarship of John Keats in England was not only questioned, but scoffed at, but George Keats, who was less learning than his brother, was looked upon in Kentucky, which was a frontier in the United States when he went to live there, as a man of exceptional cultivation.

TRUBLE WITH A GUARDIAN. Shortly after their grandmother, Mrs. Jennings, died, their guardian, Mr. Abbey, concluded that for persons of their means they had had school instruction enough, so he withdrew them from school. John, as is well known, was apprenticed to an apothecary and surgeon and a year later George was taken from Enfield and placed in Mr. Abbey's counting room. There he stayed several years and was introduced to the secrets of commercial life. But he was of a most independent nature and could not brook the servitude involved in a clerkship in a wholesale store. An altercation with a junior partner led him to throw up his position, and to quarrel also with Mr. Abbey, who appears to have been stuff-necked, as stubborn and as ignorant as it is in the nature of a British merchant to be. Some time before this John Keats had "cleared his flat" at his master's surgery at Edmonton, and so his indentures were cancelled and he moved to London to pursue his medical studies in the hospital.

Keats' death, and some English writers have been misled by this fact into the belief that one of the replicas was the original. Such, however, is not the case, as the only finished portrait for which John Keats ever gave sittings is now in America and in my possession. George Keats' ship sailed for Philadelphia, which was reached after a long voyage. The first close glimpse he had of American life was on the wharf in Philadelphia, where he saw a very black negro with very white teeth eating a watermelon. This was his first introduction to the African race, and also to the negro's favorite fruit. The beauty of the meat of the melon and the expression of complete satisfaction on the negro's face made an instant impression on him, and he was sure that he had landed in a country that flowed with milk and honey. In Philadelphia he bought a carriage and horses and set off on a journey to the Ohio river at Pittsburgh. At Pittsburgh he embarked on a flatboat and floated down the Ohio river.



GEORGE KEATS' OLD HOME IN LOUISVILLE, KY.

Keats to buy a boat and engage in trade up and down the river. In this George Keats invested all the money he had brought with him from England. The venture was not only unsuccessful, it was disastrous. The boat was lost, and the money was gone. In their correspondence over this misadventure both George and John Keats said things of Audubon that were probably undesired. It is likely that he was only unwise in his counsel. To an inexperienced young man, even though he did profit by the sale of the boat in which he had been lost. George Keats went from Henderson, after a brief stay to Louisville, where he settled permanently, living there for more than twenty years and becoming one of the first citizens of that city. After the wrecking of the boat, being without resources, he returned to England to get what remained of his share of his grandfather's estate. He got what he could—\$5,000—and returned to Louisville, where he was now embarked in the lumber business, having saw mills, and flour mills also, on the banks of the Ohio river. His business career for more than twenty years was universally successful, and he accumulated what was for that time a large fortune. If the consumption which carried off John Keats in February, 1821, could have been delayed a few years, it is not at all probable that John Keats, too, would have come to America, and quite probable also that he would have become a citizen of the great

public. George Keats' intention in coming to America was not merely to better his own fortunes, but to buy up those of his family, which had been wasted by the mismanagement of Mr. Abbey. It was his fond hope that he might make a home for his brother John either in America or in England, preferably in America, for he recognized that his brother needed near him a robust nature upon which to unburden the melancholy moods which now and again oppressed him. From boyhood George Keats had been the one upon whom John must relied in these fits of depression, and the younger brother always regretted that in the saddest time of John's life he should have been away and without power to look after him. But as we have seen, George Keats' good fortunes in America were delayed several years, and he lost about all of the money he brought to this country with him before he began making anything. When he did begin to make money it was too late for his good fortune to be shared by the young poet, who had gone to Italy as a forlorn hope and died in Rome after a few long months of painful illness.

Somehow between Liverpool and Pittsburgh he changed his mind as to the end of his journey and concluded not to go to New Harmony. Instead of that he went to Henderson, in Kentucky, and there by chance he fell in with Audubon, the naturalist. Audubon took a fancy to the young Englishman because of his pluck and manly bearing and constituted himself young Keats' mentor in the new world. That was a bad thing for the young adventurer, for Audubon, learned though he was in the ways of birds, knew precious little about the practical business affairs of everyday life. He persuaded George Keats to join in letters about his

inability to make remittance. Never did a human being do a more cowardly or a baser thing than Brown in this instance. Brown in the main was a good and generous man, but his jealous desire to link his name with that of Keats overmastered him. It is true that when John Keats died he owed Brown something like \$100, but it was also a fact that when Keats and Brown were together Keats always scrupulously paid his share of the expenses. And what is more, accounts were kept which are in existence to this day. After the wrecking of the boat, George Keats paid this debt to Brown and every other debt of his brother's of which he could learn.

Two years after John Keats' death George discovered that the two sums previously alluded to, left by his grandfather to the Keats children, had been used for the purpose of furnishing an annuity to their mother, amounting now to a sum of \$1,000. He was indignant, and with accumulations of interest to \$4,522, had never been touched, and had either been forgotten or concealed by the inefficient Mr. Abbey. One-fourth of this belonged to John Keats, and had he known of its existence he could have drawn it and escaped the need of borrowing that \$50 or so which gave a slight color to the slanders which Brown circulated against George Keats. When George Keats learned of this money he took one-fourth of it, leaving her own share, to be given with the shares that were John's and Tom's, to his sister, Fanny. He was, of course, entitled to one-half instead of only one-fourth.

LIFE IN KENTUCKY. In Kentucky, from 1825 to 1842, when he died, George Keats was successful in his ventures, but always restive under the feeling that he ought to do something to make his brother, as man and poet, better known to the world, and so enlarge his fame. He opposed with all his might the intention that Brown had of writing Keats' life and publishing the poetry that had been left unpublished when Keats died. At length he secured an order of the court restraining Brown from publishing the literary remains of his brother. He did not believe Brown had the capacity to do the subject justice, and also feared that Brown's main desire was to glorify himself. John Hamilton Reynolds, another of "John Keats' friends" was urged to undertake the work, but for some reason nothing came of it.

Just before his death, in 1842, the shadow of Audubon again fell over George Keats' path. He endorsed the notes of a connection of Audubon who fancied in business. In the settlement the accumulations of all of George Keats' business life was swallowed up. He died a few months later, before he had had time to make a fresh start. This merchant, whose failure involved George Keats, had been kind to the young Keatses in their early years of embarrassment, after the death of their mother, and had given credit and all that he had was ever after in this merchant's disposal.

THE KEATS DESCENDANTS. George Keats had several children—four daughters and two sons reached maturity. The eldest daughter, Georgiana, she to whom when a baby the well-known lullaby was written by her uncle, married Alfred Gray in Louisville. Their only child, George Keats Gwatney, is the editor of a newspaper in Missouri. The second daughter, Emma, married Philip Speed of Louisville and was the mother of the present writer. She left a large family and there are now some two score of grandchildren. The two other daughters married and left children. The younger son, Clarence Keats, died young, though he was married and left one daughter. The first son, John Keats, is the only child of George Keats still living. He is a man of a very high temperament and prefers a quiet life in the far country to a more active life in the busy world. In the affairs and society of which his natural talents and attainments are admirably fitted to him to shine. He has one child, a daughter, and it seems likely that Keats as a family name will perish in America with him.

JOHN GLIMMER SPEED. It isn't in the traditions of the Ozark country, says the Globe-Democrat, that old Jonathan Magness was ever converted, but stories are told to show that he had a certain kind of respect for religion. The Magness family came from Kentucky. On one occasion, it is said, Rev. John Milligan stopped at Jonathan's house for the night. The arrival was unexpected. Mrs. Magness had made no unusual preparations for supper. As the family and the guest sat down old Jonathan surveyed the simple fare for a few moments and then said abruptly: "The first son, John Keats, is the only child of George Keats still living. He is a man of a very high temperament and prefers a quiet life in the far country to a more active life in the busy world. In the affairs and society of which his natural talents and attainments are admirably fitted to him to shine. He has one child, a daughter, and it seems likely that Keats as a family name will perish in America with him."

AN ADVENTURE WITH LIGHTNING. Captain Fred Wallace of Small Point, Mo., had a thrilling experience recently during a thunder shower. He was out in a dory when a flash of lightning struck the dory. He was surrounded by a ball of fire and then something like a ball of fire danced along the crest of the wave in his direction. There was a dreadful roll of thunder that seemed to break over his head and then he knew no more for some time. When he revived he was at first unable to move, but at last half tipped over, his hands going into the water. He then discovered that his dory was gone and his rifle lay in the bottom of the boat completely shattered. He also found that he was bleeding freely, but, recovering somewhat, he paddled ashore with a piece of board, reaching there after several hours of hard work. Then it took the doctor a long while to stop the raising of blood, but Captain Wallace has now recovered so as to be around as usual.

THE POET SCOUT.

Captain Jack Crawford's Experience as a First Nighter. On the evening of August 13 Captain Jack Crawford gave his entertainment at the People's National park, Staten Island, relates Talent of New York. Just before commencing he caught sight of T. W. Keene, the tragedian, in the audience with a dozen or more professional friends, when he began by telling this story.

"When General Grant had completed his tour around the world I had the honor of playing the star part in the first dramatic performance he witnessed after landing in America. I see some of you smiling, which would indicate to me that you believe me to be a descendant of the Annanias family, and yet it is true, although I have never told it before in public, nor would I now were it not that there is present tonight a comrade, friend and brother who performed for me one of the most magnanimous and generous acts ever performed by one man for another. It is eighteen years since I have met them, and perhaps I can never show my appreciation of what he did for me better than now and in his presence. Some months prior to General Grant's return I was left in Virginia City badly wounded through the drunken carelessness of a man named 'Tommy' Grant. I was very much devoted. When I recovered I was penniless and in debt. My lodge of Elks took care of me, and the party of Bartock was one of the best in amateur theatricals at which I had displayed some talent, my friend and brother, who was almost as good as dead, was ordered by the way, and who was leading man of the California Stock company, without my knowing it, went to the managers, General Grant, Barton Hill, and asked them if I was allowed to play the leading part, guaranteeing that I would do it justice. 'Why,' said the two, 'you don't mean that you would give up this part to an amateur and actually support him in an inferior part?' 'No,' said my friend, 'I will do as well as the part of the federal captain, and there will be no star part.' The result was that I did play it. The piece was a military play and the part of the federal captain was the hero of the drama, was a Tennessee mountain scout. On the first night, near the end of the performance, the actor who was to play the part of the general in his box. The first verse is as follows:

Dear General, I ain't no great scholar, And I ain't no great scholar neither, 'Cept this—I wor one of the outfit. An' you, while you're toasted by scholars, An' his bugs, as make a great noise, An' his bugles, as make a great noise, An' his bugles, as make a great noise, An' his bugles, as make a great noise. The house was full of old soldiers and it is needless to say that every verse was cheered to the echo. This poem appeared in 'Grant's Tour of the World,' published in Chicago, and with the exception of 'The Heathen Child,' by Bret Harte, was the only poem ever wired across the continent at that time, and said Harte, 'Well, to make a long story short, that was the greatest boom I ever had. I received a personal note from General Grant through Colonel Fred Grant, saying that he appreciated the compliment, coming as it did from the boys, more than anything that had happened since his return. Need I mention the name of the noble friend who did this for me? The following extract from Mr. Keene's letter to Captain Jack explains itself: 'I cannot tell you how pleased I was in listening to you talk on the rostrum—as you did this evening—so interesting—so full of genuine American character—so unique, and, without so intensely dramatic. Your true and stirring series of the west are quite a lesson to the people of the east, and only one who has been a participator therein can tell them as you do.' 'Go on in this work, my dear Jack, for I candidly think that you are the right man in the right place. With all good wishes to you and yours, believe me to be, sincerely yours, THOMAS W. KEENE.'