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KEATS FAMILY IN AMERICA

The Poet's Younger Brother a Kentucky Pioneer.

SUCCESSFUL IN BUSINESS VENTURES

Wreck of the Family Fortune a Mome-False Stories of Neglect-American Descendants - Some

New Facts in Life of Keats.

(Copyrighted, 1895, by John Gilmer 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 writ in water," there was a household on the banks of the Ohio river in which he was most tenderly and loyally loved, and where, after his death, he was mourned with a sadness which knew no lifting. 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 sti living in the northwestern part of Missouri, where he is a farmer and a civil engineer.

INHERIT A COMFORTABLE ESTATE. George Keats was a younger brother of the poet, but on account of his larger size and more conservative temper was generally considered at school to be the older of the



JOHN KEATS, THE POET. Indeed, the earliest of John Keats hiographers spoke of George Keats as the oldest 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 (\$65,-600) and the business was continued by his son-in-law, Thomas Keats. Thomas Keats son-in-law, Thomas Keats. Thomas Keats was killed by a fall from his horse in 1894 and John Jennings died the next year. The latter left £1,000 in trust for the Keats children and 150 a year to their mother. The rest of 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 desircus of making provision for her orphan grandchildren, "in consideration of natural love and affection which she had for executed a deed putting them under the care of two guardians, to whom she made over, to be held in trust for their benefit

andfather and to the principal which the £50 annuity for their mother was derived. It will be seen, therefore, that these four

didren were by no means penniless, as il3,000 in the earlier years of this century gave sittings is now in America and in my was a great sum of money. But owing to the unwise administration of the trust fund, the Kests did not reach manhood without feelng many of the embarrassments of poverty. George Keats accompanied has 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 as well grounded as the generality of English lads of 15 or 17 years of age. The scholarship of John Keats in England was not only questioned, but scoffed at, but George Keats, who was of less learn ing 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. TROUBLE 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 se-crets of commercial life. But he

was of a most independent nature and brook the servitude involved in a clerkship in a wholesale tea house. At altercation with a junior partner led him to throw up his position, and to quarrel also with Mr. Abbey, who appears to have been as stiff-necked, as stubborn and as ignorant as it is in the nature of a British merchant Some time before this John Keats surgery at Edmonton, and so his indentures were cancelled and he moved to London to pursue his medical studies in the hospital

The three brothers lived together in the Poultry, and Mr. Abbey, their guardian, evidently regarded them as shiftless and improvident. That the two younger brothers should encourage John to lead a literary life and write poetry, in the mind of Mr. Abbey was a grievous sin, and he considered that all three of the young men were little less than mad. His disgust reached high water mark when George, in 1818, left his employnent and John published his first book of

poetry. DECIDES TO EMIGRATE. George Keats was then 23 years old, but he was also precoclous, for he had become engaged to be married to the daughter of a naval officer and had concluded to take what share of the estate he could secure from Mr. Abbey and emigrate to America. In this he had his elder brother's approval, as will be seen by this extract of a letter of John

You know my brother George has been out of employ for some time. It has weighed very much upon him, and driven him to scheme and turn over things in his mind. The result has been his determination to emigrate to the back settlements of America, become farmer, and work with his own hands, after purchasing 1,400 acres of the American government. This, for many reasons, has net with my entire consent-and the chief one is this: He is of too independent and liberal a mind to get on in trade in this country, in which a generous man with a scanty resource must be ruined. I would sooner that he should till the ground than bow to a customer. There is no choics with him; he could not bring himself to the latter. I could not consent to his going aloneno; but that objection is done away with; he will marry, before he sets sail, a young lady he has known for several years, of a liberal nature and high spirited enough to follow him to the banks of the Mississippi,"

ARRIVAL IN AMERICA. At the time this letter was written it was George Keats' intention to join the colony founded by Robert Owen at New Harmony, in Indiana, or to purchase land

been misled by this fact into the belief that one of these replicas was the original Such, however, is not the case, as the only finished portrait for which John Keats ever

George Keats' ship miled for Philadelphia which was reached after a long voyage. The brothe first close glimpse he had of American life upon was on the wharf in Philadelphia, where he saw a very black negro with very white teeth cating a watermelon. This was his first introduction to the African race, and also This was his first to the negro's favorito 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 Phil adelphia he bought a carriage and horses and set off on a journey to the Ohio river at Pittsburg. At Pittsburg he embarked on a flatboat and floated down the Ohio river. ASSOCIATION WITH AUDUBON.

Somewhere between Liverpool and Pitts burg he changed his mind as to the end of his journey and concluded not to go to New Instead of that he Harmony. Henderson, in Kentucky, and there by chance he fell in with Andubon, the naturalist. Audubon took a fancy to the young English-man because of his pluck and manly bearing and constituted himself young Keats' mentor in the new world. That was a bad thing for ough he was in the ways of birds, knew and had refused to make restitution precious little about the practical business affairs of everyday life. He persuaded George | Keats said to John in letters about hi

America was not merely to better his own ventures, but always restive under the feeling fortunes, but to build up those of his family, that he ought to do something to make his which had been wasted by the mismanage-brother, as man and poet, better known to ment of Mr. Abbey. It was his fond hope the world, and so enlarge his fame. He opthat he might make a home for his brother ! John either in America or in England, pre-ferably 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 op-pressed him. From boyhood George Keats had been the one upon whom John

most 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. FALSE STORY OF NEGLECT.

One of John Keats' intimate friends, Charles Armitage Brown, was of a most jealous nature, and he wished the world to believe that he had succored John Keats in a time of poverty, and that in fact for a year or so he had supported his young friend. To support this view he had the story circulated that George Keats had taken all of the young adventurer, for Audubon, learned John Keats' fortune to America with him evidence of this he quoted what George



GEORGE KEATS' OLD HOME IN LOUISVILLE, KY.

Keats to buy a boat and engage in trade up | mability to make remittance. Never did him from England. The venture was not only unsuccessful, it was disastrous. The

and was a total loss. venture both George and John Keats said things of Audubon that were probably entirely undeserved. 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 an interest. In their correspondence over this misadin interest

George Keats went from Henderson, after 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—not all that he was entitled to by more than \$5,000—and returned to Louisville, where he was now embarked in the lumber business, 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 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. Jenings died four years later semesthing exceeding \$15,000 more was added to this fund belonging to the Keats children. Besides these two sums they were entitled several made by Robert Owen at New Harmony, in Indiana, or to purchase land in the neighborhood of that settlement. He set sail from Liverpool in the early summer of 1818, his brother, John, going to the seaport to see him off. Before leaving London Joseph Severn made him the portrait of John, now in the writer's possession, and to this fund belonging to the Keats children. Besides these two sums they were entitled

and down the river. In this George Keats human being do a more cowardly or a baser invested all the money he had brought with thing than Brown in this instance. Brown in the main was a good and generous man, only unsuccessful, it was disastrous. The but his lealous desire to link his name boat lost money from the beginning, and before it could be sold met with an accident true that when John Keats died he owed true that when John Keats died he owed Brown something like f100, but it is also a fact that when Keats and Brown lived to-Keats always scrupulously paid his accounts were kept which are in existence today. It is pleasant to record the fact that George Keats paid this debt to Brown and other debt of his brother's of which he

Two years after John Keats' death George discovered that the two sums previously al-luded to, left by his grandfather to the Keats children, and for the purpose of furnishing an annuity to their mother, amounting now an annual with accumulations of interest to 14,522, 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 John could have drawn it and escaped the need of borrowing that f50 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-gether with the shares that were John's and

posed with all his might the intention that Brown had of writing Keats' life publishing the postry that had been left un-published 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 capacity to do the subject justice, and also fancied that Brown's main desire was to glorify himself. John Hamilton Reynolds, another of "John Keats" friends," was urged o undertake the work, but for some reason nothing came of it. Just before his death, in 1842, the shadow f Audubon again fell over George Keats' path. He indersed the notes of a connection

f Audubon's who failed in business. the settlement the accumulations of all of rge Keats' business life was swallowed He died a few months later, before he up. He died a few months later, before he had had time to make a fresh start. This nerchant, whose fallure involved George Keats, had been kind to the young Keatses n their early years of embarrassment, after the failure of the boat venture. George Keats' credit and all that he had was ever after at 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 Gwath-mey of Louisville. Their only child, George mey of Louisville. Their only child, George Keats Gwathmey, 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 ter. The first son, John Keats, is the only child of George Keats still living. He is a man of a very shy temperament and pre-fers 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 his liberal accomplishments admirably fit 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 GHLMER SPEED.

STORIES OF PREACHERS.

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: yourself, Mr. Milligan.

Breakfast brought an altogether different poking array of dishes. Old Jonathan looked "Well, old lady," he said, addressing Mrs Magness, "It looks as if you had something for breakfast worth thanking God for."

Turning to the preacher old Jonathan said

"Give us a touch, Brother Milligan And Brother Milligan promptly asked a lessing. Three young Methodist preachers on the way to conference stopped at the Magness house for the night. After supper old Jonathan produced a bible and a hymn book. He handed them to one of the young preachers,

asking: "Sir, will you pray in my family?"

The young preacher read and sang and prayed. As soon as they arose from their knees old Jonathan handed the books to another, asking:
"Sir, will you pray in my family?

The second preacher conducted service, and then the old man called on the third. This young man took the books and went at it in earnest. He read and sang and prayed. He opened with a general appeal for all mankind, and generally narrowed down his gether 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.

In Kentucky, from 1823 to 1843, when he brink of hell." He begged the Lord "to overed so as to be around as usual.

the face of Father Magness Zionward.' Old Jonathan asked for no more prayers The next morning the preachers asked what they owed. Mr. Magness said to the first: "Your bill is \$1." To the second he said: "Your bill is \$1." To the third he said: "Your bill is nothing. I'll be — if you didn't pray well for me."

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A Rucyrus, O. clergyman, with an eye to usiners, publishes a weekly program of the church services, interspersed with advertise ments. A paragraph exhorting the people to praise the Lord is followed by a rattling "ad." of a hardware house. An "ad." be-ginning, "Good butter a specialty," follows a paragraph beginning, "What owest thou unto the Lord?" After an exhortation that ends, "In the next world no offerings are needed," comes an "ad." beginning, "Trade with Meyer & Hirsch." After a paragraph referring to the world to come there is an 'ad." about "Fresh and smoked meats."

England, says Harper's Round Table, wishing to address the young ladies of his con-gregation after the morning services, remarked from the pulpit that he would be very glad if the female brethren of the congregation would remain after they had gone home. He was almost as badly mixed, the narrator of this says, as another preacher, who, after describing a pathetic scene he had witnessed, added, huskily: "I tell you, brothers, there was hardly a dry tear in the house."

An absent-minded young preacher in New

Rev. W. Williams, in tils "Personal Reminiscences of C. H. Spurgeon," tells an anecdote about the great preacher as a smoker Some gentleman wrote to Mr. Spurgeon, say ing "he had heard he smoked, and could no believe it true. Would Mr. Spurgeon write and tell him if it really was so?" The reply sent was as follows: "Dear ----, I cultivate my flowers and burn my weeds. Yours truly, C. H. Spurgeon."

MORNING GLORIES.

My Marion, when she lived, so loved these owers-ere's many must remember how she tripped, ch morning, when they all hung rainy dripped,
Across the meadow to the heather bowers;
Where sinking sadly from the midnight showers, They hung storm-beaten in the early hours.

Until the sunlight, or my Marion came.

And lifted them to their accustomed place,
Where the would twine again and inter-And bear quite proudly their old-fashioned name; Their rainbow colors flaunting with such The paler, pining primrose drooped for

And sometimes she would place them in he Purple and gold in royal challenging: A lovelier crown no courtier could bring Then she would come to meet me; not Upon the upturned face so young and fair, Nor in the eyes which held me captive ther

But that was long ago! Sweet Marion wed
I knew not whom nor made a single quest;
But then a song had died within my
breast!
From every scene of boyhood hope I fled
Yet did forgive; and when my love iny dead
These blossoms kissed again her sunny head.

—Kathryn Rush.

An Adventure with Lightning. Captain Frank Wallace of Small Point Me., had a thrilling experience recently dur-Me., had a thrilling experience recently during a thunder shower. He was out in a dory after ducks when the storm came up and suddenly there came a flash of lightning that seemed to surround his boat with its flame, and then something like a ball of fire danced and their something the wave in his direction, 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 oars
were gone and his rifle lay in the bottom of
the boat completely shattered. He also
found that he was bleeding freely, but, recovin the right place. With all good wishes to

Captain Jack Crawford's Experience as a First Nighter.

17e

19c

80e

50e

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. Kcene, 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 magnaminous and generous acts ever performed by one man for another. It is eighteen years since I have met him, and perhaps I can never show my appreciation of what he did for me better than new and in his presence. Some months prior to Gen-eral Grant's return I was left in Virginia City badly wounded through the drunken

carelessness of a man I was very much devoted. When I recovered I was penniless and in debt. My lodge of Elks took care of me, however, and having had some experience in amateur theatricals at which I had displayed some talent, my friend and brothes Elk, the man who initiated me into the or-der, by the way, and who was leading man of the California Stock company, without my knowing it, went to the managers, General Barton and Barton Hill, and asked them that I be allowed to play the leading part, guar-anteeing that I would do it justice. "Why," said Barton Hill, "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 in
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 for which I was cast—the here of the drama, was a Tennesee mountain scout. On the first night, near the end of the per-formance I recited the "Mountain Boy's Letter." directly to the general in his box. The first verse is as follows:

"Dear General, I ain't no great schoilar
And never done nothin' to brag
"Cept this—I wor one o' the outfit
As fought for that star-spangled flag.
An' today, while you're toasted by scholars
An big bugs, as make a great noise,
I thought it the squar' thing to write you
An' chip in a word for the boys."

The house was fall of old soldiers and it is

The house was full of old soldiers and it is to the coho. This poem appeared in "Grant's Tour of the World," published in Chicago, and with the exception of "The Heathen Chinee," by Bret Harte, was the only poem ever wired across the continent at that time, and perhaps since. 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 an almost obscure brother. There was no glory in it for him and not one man in ten thousand would have permitted an amateur to play even a small part." Then looking down to the group of professional people, Capitain Jack said with much feeling: "God bless you, Tom Keene—brother Tom, you are the fellow that did it." The roof seemed to go up with the applause and it was fully two minutes before the "poet scout" could speak another word. The following extract from Mr. Keene's letter to Captain Jack explains itself:

"I cannot tell you how pleased I was in listening to your talk on the rostrum-so newso novel-so interesting-so full of genuine American character—so unique, and, withal, so intensely dramatic. Your true and stirring stories of the west are quite a lesson to the people of the east, and only one who has been an east to be an a participator therein can tell them as you

you and yours, believe me to THOMAS W. KEENE.

Cook's Extra Dry Imperial Champagns is the pure juice of the grape naturally fer-mented. For boquet it has no superior.