THE FAMILY OF LEVI JAMES AND ITS ALLIANCES[2]

By Ophia D. Smith

In the old days, according to the Psalmist, "a man was famous according as he had lifted up axes upon the thick trees." When Levi James came to Cincinnati, men had already lifted up their axes and won their fame, but there was still work to do and fame to win. Levi James brought his own peculiar gift to his chosen city, a gift of vision and enterprise. His sons married the daughters of men who were equally foresighted and adventurous. These short sketches of Levi James and the families into which his sons and one grand-daughter married afford a glimpse of the past long buried under the crowding events of more than a century.

Captain Levi James came of sturdy Welsh stock from Pembrokeshire. Both of his paternal grandparents were Jameses. There were two families of that name in Pembrokeshire — the Big Jameses and the Little Jameses — so designated because of their stature. Grandfather Levi was of the Big Jameses and Grandmother Mary was of the Little Jameses. They came to America in 1752 and settled in Pennsylvania. After Levi died, Mary migrated with her sons to Loudon County, Virginia, where she lived to the age of one hundred and five. Mary's third son, Joseph, was born at sea on the voyage to America. He was a patriotic soldier in the American Revolution, and sacrificed his health in the service of his country. He had the proud honor of being present at the surrender of Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown. Joseph James was the father of Captain Levi James, founder of the James family of Cincinnati.

In 1811, Levi James and two of his brothers-in-law,

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[1] The author acknowledges the kindness of the late John H. James, great-grandson of Levi James, for the free use of the James manuscripts at Urbana, Ohio. The fine manuscript collection left by John Hough James, son of Levi James, consists of documents, memoirs, family letters, business letters, and diaries dating from 1814 to 1880. This article is based primarily on the James manuscripts. Only the material from other sources is footnoted.

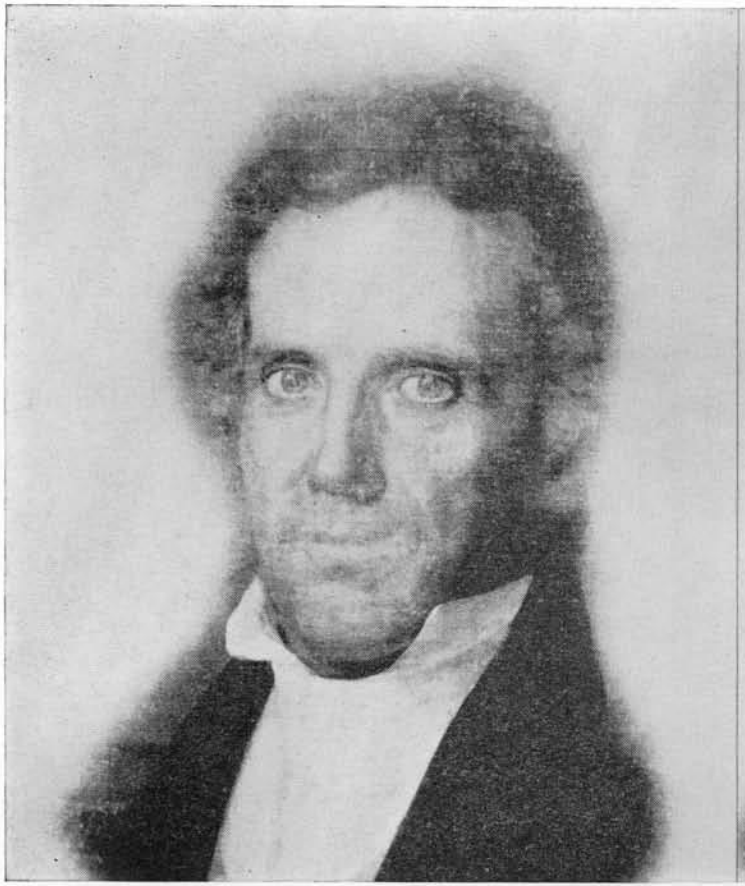
Samuel and Isaac Hough, made an exploratory trip across the mountains into Ohio. Of all the towns they visited, they liked Cincinnati best. In September, 1813, Captain James and Doctor Isaac Hough, with their families, left Loudon County, Virginia, for Cincinnati, in search of health and wealth. One large wagon bore their heavy goods. Their bedding, cooking utensils, and provisions were carried in a small one-horse wagon in which Levi and wife Rachel (Hough) rode with their four children—John, Junius, Eliza, and David, a sickly year-old babe. Doctor Hough's family rode in a carriage. The party traveled from fifteen to eighteen miles a day, the children walking much of the way, enjoying the adventure and the fine weather.

Arriving at Brownsville, on the Monongahela, they found their boat unfinished. They waited at the tavern, anxiously watching little David so gravely ill they thought he would surely die. Finally, the boat was finished and they moved in. The families were housed comfortably in the cabin, Doctor Hough's carriage and horses quartered in the bow of the boat. The water was very low that fall, and progress was slow. On November 4, 1813, the Jameses and the Houghs landed at Cincinnati. To thirteen-year-old Johnny James, who expected something wondrous and grand, the town looked "straggly, ungainly, and without taste anywhere."

Levi James opened a store on Main Street. Doctor Hough prepared to practice medicine. It was only a short time, however, before the sanguine doctor, with some other speculators, established Cincinnati's first glassworks just outside of town.

In a short time, James sold his merchandise to Abijah Meddoch. Young John James, destined to be one of Ohio's important banking figures, was fascinated by the financing of the deal. He knew that you could get money for bank notes, but he had never heard of discounts and renewals. It looked like having your cake and eating it, too. In a memoir written many years afterward, John H. James stated that at that time (1814), there were but two banking institutions in the city:

> The Miami Exporting Co. on Front Street—a brick building near the corner of Sycamore with a flat roof, and the Farmers & Mechanics' Bank on Main Street between



LEVI JAMES
(The Artist was probably Corwine)

RACHEL HOUGH JAMES
(The Artist was probably Corwine)

Front & Columbia about half way down on the west side.

Levi James next purchased the interest of Doctor John Douglass, becoming the partner of William Douglass in a general merchandising firm. When the British overran the Capital of the United States, in 1814, Levi James was over the mountains buying goods. When the goods arrived, James & Douglass removed to a store room in the Columbian Inn, next to the hotel entrance.

Some idea of an early Cincinnati store may be gained from an advertisement of James & Douglass in the *Gazette,* October 16, 1817:

> Have just received from Philadelphia, and now offer for sale, an assortment of FALL and WINTER GOODS, amongst which are Blankets, Flannels, Coatings, Florence, Levantines, Satteries, Lutestring, Senshaw and Sarcenett, Leno, Book and Mull Muslins, Long Cloth Shirting, Silk, Thread and Cotton Laces, Tartan Plaid, Figured Rattinett, Silk Shawls and Veils, Silk Lace Handkerchiefs and Capes, Women's Black and Slate Worsted Hose, do. Morocco Shoes, of the latest fashion, do. do. Bootees, do. Men's Leather and Morocco Dancing Pumps.
>
> ALSO, ON HAND
>
> New Orleans Sugar by the hogshead, Tanners' Oil by the bbl. 80 bbls. Rye whiskey, 500 boxes of Cincinnati Window Glass &c. &c.
>
> LIKEWISE, ON CONSIGNMENT
>
> A quantity of Hardware and Cutlery, which will be sold by wholesale at Philadelphia prices without carriage.

James & Douglass, having to take country produce in exchange for their goods, needed a barge to carry it down to New Orleans and bring back merchandise for their store. In 1814, they built the *Eliza* to operate in the New Orleans river trade. In those days, a barge could make only one or two trips a year. The *Eliza* was a staunch one-hundred-ton vessel commanded by Captain Alanthin Ruter, one of the best river pilots in the Western Country. On one of her early trips, the *Eliza* made the voyage from New Orleans to

Louisville in sixty-three days, the shortest trip on record at that time—two days under the record established in 1811 by the barge *Cincinnati.* Captain Ruter brought her up from New Orleans on her last voyage in the spring of 1818. She was a bit worn and full of fleas, but still a gallant boat. That year she was converted into the Steam Boat *Comet,* a trim little vessel of 115 tons, owned by Doctor Isaac Hough and James W. Byrne of Cincinnati. In 1823, she was snagged and lost near Gallipolis.[2]

In 1820, the partnership of James & Douglass was dissolved. James then became a partner in Glenn, James & Company at Number 31, Lower Market Street. The company immediately built a new steamboat, the *Vulcan,* the first of five fine steamboats built and operated by the James family over a period of thirty years.

Levi James was a man who paid strict attention to business, though he did not let it "engross his mind to the exclusion of the study of authors, upon many useful subjects." He was soon recognized as a man of character and intelligence. In February, 1815, he was among those "respectable citizens" who met at the Columbian Inn to consider the causes and effects of the suspension of specie payments by the Cincinnati banks. He was placed on the committee to write the report. In 1816, he was elected a director of the Cincinnati Insurance Company. In 1818, he was appointed solicitor for subscriptions to the Jeffersonville-Ohio Canal. In 1819, he was elected township trustee, and Doctor Hough was elected to the City Council.

Levi James was one of the first trustees of the Cincinnati Lancaster Seminary. He was secretary of the Board in 1816

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[2] *Liberty Hall and Cincinnati Gazette,* Dec. 27, 1817, Apr. 22, 1818; *Western Spy,* Mar. 27, 1819; J. G. Flugel, "A Voyage Down the Mississippi in 1817," edited by Felix Flugel, in *Louisiana Historical Quarterly,* VII, No. 3, pp. 427-31; "Steamboats Fifty Years Ago," undated clipping from Cin. *Commercial,* in Samuel F. Covington Scrap Book, 1879, at Miami University Library, Oxford, Ohio.

The *Eliza* had a tall mast with a yard arm and square sail to be used only when the wind was blowing upstream. The body was fifteen or sixteen feet wide—the cargo box set inboard about fifteen inches on each side, to afford a path for the men as they pushed the boat upstream with their poles. David A. James, unpublished memoir in possession of his grand-daughter, Mrs. Stephens L. Blakely, Fort Mitchell, Kentucky.

when Jacob Burnet, O. M. Spencer, William Corry, Daniel Drake, Joshua L. Wilson, Samuel W. Davis, and William Lytle were unanimously elected to the directorate.[3]

In 1821, there were about 250 children in attendance at the Lancaster Seminary.[4] Levi James, being a trustee, sent his son David to that school. Trustees had to send their own children there, in order to make the poor children feel respectable. David James never forgot the day that the teacher, Edmund Harrison, rapped on his desk and sang out in a menacing tone of voice, "All those boys who have the *itch* will come up in front of my desk." Harrison's speech was brief and to the point: "Children, I have received complaints from the parents of many boys who have caught the itch from some of the scholars of this school, it is not to be endured . . . You will all stay away until you are cured." David did not go up to the desk, but he went home to stay till he was well again. David's most vivid memories of that school were of the two attacks of "Scotch Fiddle," more commonly known as "itch," which he contracted there. The scathing tongue of his older brother John, no doubt, impressed it upon his mind, for David once had the misfortune to give the disease to that elegant young beau.

David's recollections of the Seminary are highly informative:[5]

> Lord Lancaster must have been an economist. His plan contemplated one head master, a sufficient number of monitors and an indefinite number of scholars. The higher boys taught those in classes below them. The floor was of brick laid over flues fired from outside. The school seemed to work tolerably well, but there was one bad feature of it which could not be known nor checked by the head master and that was what was called by the

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[3] The minutes of that meeting, written by Levi James, are in the Lytle papers in the Library of the Pennsylvania Historical Society at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

[4] Letter, Condy Raguet to Robert Vaux, Cincinnati, Ohio, June 15, 1821, in Library of Pennsylvania Historical Society, Philadelphia. The letter was written by Raguet in the schoolroom of Edmund Harrison, "conductor" of the Lancaster Seminary.

[5] David A. James, unpublished memoir in possession of Mrs. Stephens L. Blakely.

> boys "parshality." I myself made but little progress for a long time, my monitor taught me to spell Hannah pretty correctly and whenever the boy above me succeeded in spelling his word, I got Hannah and was pretty safe against being turned down. In the days of the Lancasterian Seminary, school books were relatively costly and one of the provisions for economizing the cost of "schooling" was a series of wall cards each containing the spelling lessons of the day—I might rather say of the month—counted by the progress of the pupils. As I said above, the pavement was of brick, and there was a series of brick arches along two sides of the room, each one for a class, a monitor and a recitation card.
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> The sand class was very cleverly provided for. There were 8 or 10 or 12 children on a form and instead of a desk, in front of them was a shallow trough containing a light sprinkling of river sand. Immediately in front of this trough was a light housing, with a dozen little peepholes enclosed with glass—perhaps about four inches square. Within this housing was a long wooden cylinder resting on journals and having a crank at one end . . . it could be controlled by the monitor, who had a peephole of his own and who, at the proper time called out A if that respectable leader of all knowledge showed at the peepholes.
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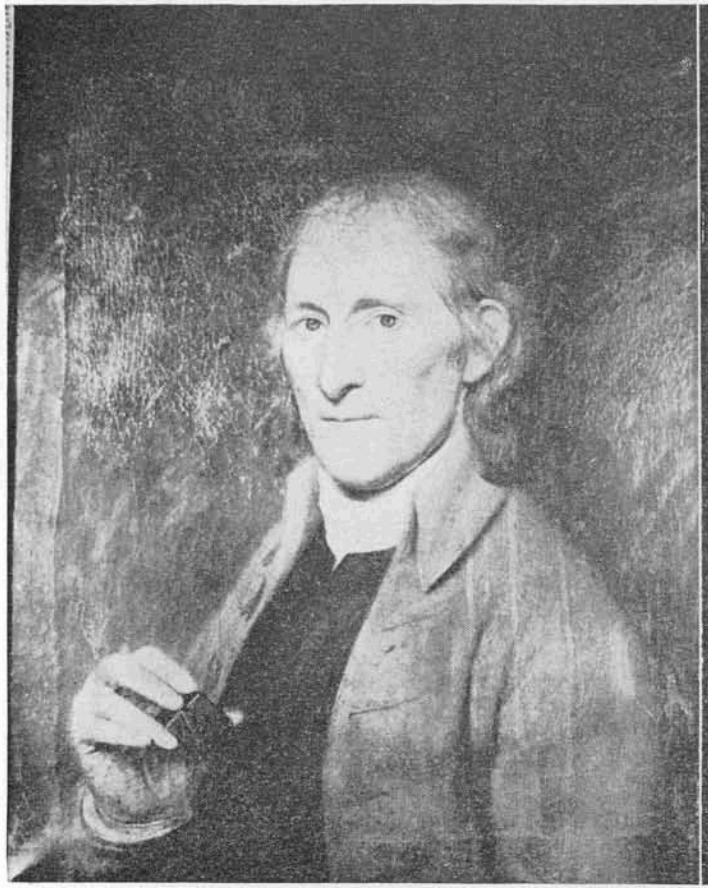
> When the children had made the best imitation of the letter they were capable of, there was an inspection and the lesson was obliterated by rubbing a light piece of board from end to end. My first acquaintance with that door to endless knowledge was a grief, but I learned to feel a great respect for its powers.

Levi James was a faithful supporter of some of Cincinnati's most important educational institutions. He was elected a director of the Cincinnati College in 1816. James supported Doctor Drake throughout his troubles with the Medical School and was very active in the establishment of the Commercial Hospital and Eye Infirmary of Cincinnati. In fact, he was active in all important civic affairs.

Captain James was deeply patriotic. Back home in Virginia, he had commanded a company of militia. He prided himself on his precision in military drill. On the Fourth of



FRANCIS BAILEY
(Artist was Charles Willson Peale)

ELEANOR MILLER BAILEY
(Artist was Charles Willson Peale)

July, 1822, Captain James commanded the Cincinnati Guards in the procession; in September, he was elected major of a militia regiment. His soldierly bearing and integrity of character commanded respect.

Levi James was a prominent Whig, zealous in politics but not interested in holding office. He was a friend and ardent admirer of Henry Clay. He named his second steamboat the *Patriot* in honor of Clay, and placed a bust of Henry Clay as a figurehead on the bow of his new boat. Members of the Clay family called on the James family when passing through Cincinnati. On at least one occasion, Levi James gave a party at his home for Henry Clay.

John Hough James—Abbe Bailey.

Levi James's eldest son, John Hough James, was a zealous Whig and a loyal friend of Henry Clay. He married into a Whig family when he married Abbe, the youngest child of Francis and Eleanor Miller Bailey's eleven children. The wedding took place at the Cincinnati home of the Baileys at Number 65 Broadway, on August 10, 1825. The next year, John and Abbe removed to Urbana, Ohio, where John entered upon a distinguished career as a lawyer, legislator, scientific farmer, banker, and railroad builder. In 1835, they built a twenty-two-room mansion house at Urbana. It was a home in the truest sense, spreading its comfortable wings wide to shelter any Bailey or James in need of a home.

John had been attracted to Abbe and her family because of their cultural background. They brought Philadelphia erudition, etiquette, and fashion to Cincinnati. They set examples of correct deportment and dress in their home, at the theater, at balls and parties. The Baileys organized the first reading parties in Cincinnati. A number of ladies and gentlemen met regularly at the Bailey home to read and discuss the best in literature and the arts. John and Junius James were faithful members of that group. Junius exercised his skill on the flute by accompanying Abbe whose singing was a delight.

The Baileys were an acquisition, indeed, to the First New Jerusalem Society in Cincinnati. Their Swedenborgian friends in Philadelphia were happy to see them settled in "a lovely [New Church] society." They were sure the Baileys

would find there "a heaven of congenial company." One ardent Newchurchman hoped they would "try to introduce Philad. modes among them." Margaret Bailey corresponded faithfully with New Church leaders in Philadelphia who depended upon her to bring the societies of the Western Country into felicitous accord with the Philadelphia Society, then the dominant New Church organization in America.

Francis Bailey had been among those who heard the first Swedenborgian lectures in America given by James Glen in Philadelphia in 1784. Bailey became deeply interested in the writings of Emanuel Swedenborg, and became convinced that the New Church as revealed by Swedenborg was the only true church. He severed his connection with the old Pine Street Presbyterian Church, of which he was a trustee, and began to publish for gratuitous distribution Hindmarsh's *Summary View of the Heavenly Doctrines.* This was the first Swedenborg work ever printed in America. The Bailey home became the meeting place for a reading circle formed among the receivers of the new doctrines.[6]

Bailey continued to print the works of Swedenborg as fast as his time and means would permit, though he lost a great deal of money on the Swedenborgian publications. Philip Freneau must have been induced by his friend Bailey to read Swedenborg, for in 1794, Freneau's poem, "On the Hon. Emanuel Swedenborg's Universal Theology," was published in Bailey's paper, the *Freeman's Journal.* Much of Freneau's poetry and prose appeared in the *Freeman's Journal* through the years. For a time, Freneau assisted Bailey as editor of the paper.

Francis Bailey was one of the most powerful journalists of his time. He belonged to that circle of Philadelphia journalists which included William Goddard, Hugh Brackenridge, Eleazar Oswald, Mathew Carey, Benjamin Franklin Bache, Thomas Paine, James Carey, and William Cobbett.

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[6] *New Church Repository,* Oct. 1817, pp. 326-28.

The heads of the Presbyterian Church did everything in their power to dissuade Bailey from publishing the writings of Swedenborg, but he was certain that every one who could be persuaded to read, would become receivers of the doctrines. The Pine Street Church parted with him reluctantly. The Swedenborgian works that Bailey printed sold slowly; most of them were distributed gratuitously.

Bailey's printing shop was back of his house on Market Street, a very important street. The Constitution of the United States was printed for the first time on Market Street,

MRS. JOHN H. JAMES (nee Abbe Bailey)
(Unbending Philadelphia Decorum)

and Thomas Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence on that street. Joseph Bonaparte, Doctor Priestley, and Doctor Wistar lived on Market Street.[7] Publishers, booksellers, painters, editors, writers, were all around. The Court House and City Hall were but little more than a block away from

[7] Joseph Jackson, *Literary Landmarks of Philadelphia* (Philadelphia, 1939), pp. 11, 28, 98, 187, 314.

Bailey's shop at the sign of Yorick's Head. Men of distinction stopped at Bailey's shop to read the papers, to buy books, and to talk politics.

When General Lafayette visited America in 1784, he dropped into Bailey's office to read the papers. Nowhere could a certain paper be found. Bailey, in a harassed tone of resignation to the inevitable, remarked that he supposed the children had been playing with it.

Both Francis Bailey and his father had been active and prominent in the American Revolution. Francis served in the army and served with his pen. One week after the surrender of Cornwallis, the front page of his weekly *Freeman's Journal* bore, in large print, the following:

BE IT REMEMBERED!

> THAT on the 17th *Day of October,* 1781, Lieut. Gen. Charles Earl CORNWALLIS, with above 5,000 British troops, surrendered themselves prisoners of war to his Excellency Gen. George Washington, commander in chief of the allied forces of France and America.

LAUS DEO!

In his *Continental Almanac* for 1782, he printed an engraving of Cornwallis wearing a nurse's garb, attending a mistress who, in soldier's dress, was wearing a sword at her side and carrying a "musquet" on her shoulder. In 1779, in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, Bailey had patriotically printed in his almanac a portrait of General Washington under which he placed the inscription, "Des Landes Vater." This was the first time that Washington was called "The Father of His Country," in print.[8]

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[8] *Ibid.,* 11.

Other printing done at Lancaster during the Revolution included *A Sermon on Tea* (1774), a fourth edition of Thomas Paine's *Common Sense* (1776), *The Articles of Confederation and Perpetual Union* (1777) the newspaper, *Das Pennsylvanische Zeitungs-Blat* (Feb.-July, 1778).

Francis Bailey was a brigade-major of state troops at Valley Forge, 1777-78. Late in 1778, he joined Hugh Brackenridge in the publication of the *United States Magazine,* the first number appearing in January, 1779.

In 1788, Francis Bailey gave much space in his *Freeman's Journal* to the letters of John Fitch defending his priority as inventor of the steamboat. Bailey said that his paper was open to all people and all parties. Whether he sided with Fitch or Rumsey is not known.

When Francis Bailey died in 1816, his large estate had dwindled away. His son, Andrew, hoping to better their fortunes, took his mother and four unmarried sisters to Cincinnati in 1818. The sisters immediately established a female boarding school, one of the earliest in the city. Andrew went into business. The Baileys had little money, but they never forgot what was genteel and proper, according to Philadelphia standards. In fact, they found Cincinnati a little crude, which fact they mentioned only among themselves.

Their father had been printer to Congress and the State of Pennsylvania. His friends were among the most distinguished men of his time. The Baileys had lived only two doors from Benjamin Franklin on Market Street. At the close of the day, when Benjamin was being carried home in his sedan chair, he often ordered it set down at Bailey's gate, where he discussed the affairs of the day with his friend. It is a Bailey family tradition that when Benjamin Franklin took unexpected company home to dinner, that his wife ran to Eleanor Bailey for help; that, according to Bailey standards, Mrs. Franklin "was but an indifferent housekeeper"; and that many a succulent dish and savory joint prepared for Francis Bailey's table graced the table of Benjamin Franklin.[9] When Franklin made his last will and testament, his friend Bailey's signature was first on the document.

Franklin's famous harmonica, his own invention, was given to the Bailey family, probably by Mrs. Bache, after her father's death. At any rate, the Baileys brought the harmonica to Cincinnati in 1818. When they went to Urbana to live, about 1833, they took it with them to the house of John and Abbe James where it remained as long as Colonel John H. James lived. In the 1880's, it was taken by the Colonel's daughter, Mrs. Gertrude Niles, to a new home in Toledo, Ohio.[9*]

While he was President of the United States, George

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[9] Abbe Bailey James's son wrote down this story as his aunts told it to him. Either he or his aunts must have confused Mrs. Richard Bache, Franklin's daughter, with Mrs. Franklin. Deborah Franklin died in 1774, while the records indicate that the Baileys did not go to Philadelphia to live until 1778. That they were close friends and neighbors of the Franklins is undoubtedly true. Mrs. Bache lived with her father and kept house for him till his death in 1790. Sarah Franklin Bache was a distinguished philanthropist, a model of feminine patriotism.

[9*] Letter, Mrs. Edward A. Rumely, New York City, to Ophia D. Smith,

Washington lived in John Penn's house on Market Street. The older Bailey children watched him go striding by to Christ Church on Sunday morning, while Martha came rolling by a little later in a coach of state.

The Bailey children were brought up in an atmosphere of politics. Their prosperity depended upon politics. Francis Bailey's widowed daughter-in-law, Lydia R. Bailey, a Democrat, was one of the few woman printers of early America. She continued the printing business after her husband's death, eking out her income by coloring, varnishing, and mounting maps. She had heavy debts to pay and four small children to support. Philip Freneau came to her rescue and gave her the printing of a third edition of his poems. It was illustrated by a young artist, Frederick Eckstein. Mathew Carey and other publishers gave Lydia work to do, because she excelled in book work. Before long, however, Lydia was able to increase her income substantially by political contracts. She had the customs printing for a great many years and for a long time was printer to the city of Philadelphia.

When a political election deprived her of the customs house printing in 1827, the Democratic press raged because the family of Francis Bailey, the Revolutionary patriot, was left without this patronage. Even the "respectable portion of the Adams party viewed" Mrs. Bailey's removal "by the coalition as a base and sordid act."

In 1829, when the Democrats reinstated Lydia R. Bailey at Philadelphia, they turned Andrew Bailey out of the Land Register's Office at Cincinnati. Andrew was a Whig, like his father and grandfather before him. The Cincinnati *Gazette* had much to say about the son of "the venerable and patriotic printer" being removed from office. Though the remuneration was small, it helped to support the widow and daughters of Francis Bailey. For an aged and helpless widow of a patriot to be "turned adrift upon the world to make room for such a man as Moses Dawson" was more than the *Gazette* could bear. "The widows of Revolutionary soldiers," declared the *Gazette,* "are left to starve, that the public offices that gave them support may be bestowed upon strangers, re-

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May 5, 1950. Mrs. Rumeley saw the harmonica in her Aunt Gertrude's home in Toledo. She remembered it as the gift of Mrs. Franklin, but it must have been a gift from Mrs. Bache.

cently emigrated to our country, to escape the public justice of the country that gave them birth, because they huzzaed for General Jackson."

The loss of the land office was serious to the Bailey family The sisters had expanded the curriculum of their school and placed it under the direction of their sister Jane and her husband, Frederick Eckstein, in 1824.[9**] They were augmenting their meager income by taking a few select boarders.

Frederick Eckstein was an "intelligent and highly ingenious" painter and sculptor, the son of Johann Eckstein who had been Historical Painter and Sculptor to Frederick the Great. Frederick placed on exhibition at the Western Museum, in 1825, his father's portrait of Frederick the Great. In 1826, Frederick Eckstein opened an art school at Number 22 Main Street. The next year he proposed the establishment of an Academy of Fine Arts, urging the public to make it "a

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[9**] The new curriculum embraced:

"Elementary Class: Orthography, Reading, Writing, Rudiments of Grammar, and Arithmetic.

Second Class: Principles of Grammar, Composition, Principles of Arithmetic, Geography, illustrated by the use of globes, Map Drawing.

First Class: Natural History, Ancient and Modern History, Ancient Geography, Natural Philosophy, including Astronomy; Reading of English classics; Drawing in water colors and crayon, in all its various branches; Botanical Drawing, introductory to study of Botany; Music; French language; fine Needlework; Miniature and oil painting if required.

The utmost attention will be paid to manners and morals of pupils."

The tuition was ten dollars a term for the first class, five dollars for the second, and three dollars for the elementary class. Music, French, Miniature and oil painting extra. Board and washing for $130 per annum.

Eckstein's card to the public stated:

> The undersigned thinks it expedient to apprize the public of the principles which will be adopted in this Seminary as to the method of imparting knowledge. Learning by rote and reciting lessons will only be practised so far as may be necessary for the cultivation of memory. The primary object will be to elicit ideas, and to improve the understanding by explanation, illustration, questions and conversation. The principles of science wlll be particularly attended to. The undersigned has taught the above mentioned course of studies several years, and experience has proved this system to be the most efficient.
>
> F. Eckstein, One of the Academicians to the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, and late Principal of the Harmony Seminary for the education of Young Ladies, &c.—Cin. *National Republican*, Jan. 16, 1824.

HEAD OF GENERAL LAFAYETTE
(Modeled in clay by Frederick Eckstein at the time of Lafayette's visit to Cincinnati in 1825)

sister to the Western Museum."[10] Eckstein procured a liberal charter from the state for the Academy, and John P. Foote was elected president. Lectures were delivered regularly on the different departments of art by such men as Doctor Locke, Joseph Dorfeuille, and John P. Foote. For his indefatigable efforts to promote the fine arts, Frederick Eckstein won the title, "Father of Cincinnati Art."

Funds were subscribed to erect a building on Fourth Street, on a corner lot near General Lytle's Garden. It was announced in the spring of 1828 that the board would undertake the building (thirty by sixty feet) immediately, and that "Mr. Hervieu of the Royal Academy of Lisle, in France, who possessed very fine talents," had been employed to teach in the Academy.[11] Hervieu remained with Eckstein but a short time. The two men fell out over discipline. Hervieu could not tolerate talking and running about the room while he was teaching. He drew up a set of rules which Eckstein refused to post, saying that they were all right for Europe, but that American youth would not submit to them, that they would not take lessons if they had to obey strict rules. Her-

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[10] *National Republican,* Aug. 5, 1825; *Liberty Hall and Cincinnati Gazette,* Jan. 12, 1827.

Upon their arrival at Philadelphia from Europe, in 1794, Frederick and Johann Eckstein worked with Charles Willson Peale, Doctor Benjamin Rush, and other distinguished citizens of Philadelphia to found the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts. They received donations from Napoleon and Joseph Bonaparte amounting to twenty thousand dollars.—Cin. *Gazette,* Oct. 27, 1828.

In 1810, Frederick Eckstein, with a number of professional artists, formed an association in Philadelphia which they called the Society of Artists of the United States. Among the "associate artists" were Frederick Eckstein, sculptor, John Eckstein, modeler, Robert Fulton, miniature painter, Alexander Wilson, Ornithologist, Bass Otis, portrait painter, Rubens Peale, painter, William Thackara, engraver, and E. Ames, portrait painter. —Stauffer Collection, "American Artists," p. 2362, in Library of the Pennsylvania Historical Society, Philadelphia.

[11] Tuition at the Academy was four dollars a term. Lessons in oil and miniature could be had at fifty cents a lesson of two hours each. Eckstein was confident that in Mr. Hervieu the Western Country had an artist of the "first order, even in the higher branches of the art, and that the school of the Academy" might now "compete with any in the United States, and in proportion to its means" might "compete with similar institutions in Europe."—Cin. *Chronicle,* Mar. 15, 1828.

vieu, indignant and astounded, walked out and never returned.[12]

The Academy opened its first exhibition on October 6, 1828, at Number 22 Main Street, with "upwards of one hundred paintings . . . by foreign and native artists. Most of the paintings were by Corwine, Hervieu, Lee, Dawson, and Franks of Cincinnati. With the announcement of the exhibition came an announcement that a Mechanics' Institute would be opened in connection with the Academy.[13] Eckstein exhibited his own statuary and paintings, and some of his father's best works were used as models. Among Eckstein's works was the head of General Lafayette, which he had modelled in clay when Lafayette visited Cincinnati in 1825. That head is now at Urbana, Ohio, in the old home of John and Abbe Bailey James.

Among Eckstein's most distinguished pupils were Hiram Powers and Shubael Clevenger. Joseph Henry Busch, pupil of Sully, worked in Eckstein's Academy of Fine Arts in 1826.[14]

While Eckstein struggled to put the art school on its feet, he continued his school for young ladies, assisted by his wife and daughter Mary.[15] A brilliant young Scot, Alexander Kinmont, uncle of William Kinmont who taught Italian in Eckstein's school, came to Cincinnati and established a boys'

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[12] Francis Trollope, *Domestic Manners in America* (London, 1832), pp. 91-92.

[13] In 1827 or 1828, there was a design to send Frederick Eckstein to Europe to buy copies in plaster of famous antique works of art, but the utilitarian wing of the committee diverted the funds to the founding of a Mechanics' Institute.—Cin. *Gazette*, July 17, 1860.

[14] Henry A. and Kate B. Ford, *History of Cincinnati* (Cleveland, 1881), pp. 235-36.

[15] The following card appeared in the Cin. *Gazette*, Dec. 29, 1828:

> Mr. and Mrs. Eckstein, assisted by their daughter, [Mary Eckstein], have opened a school for young ladies, at the house, late the residence of Mr. Benham, on Race below 4th st.—In this school are taught all the branches of an elementary, literary, and scientific English education—drawing and painting,—the French language; as also the Italian, if required, by Mr. Wm. Kinmont. Number of pupils to be limited to twenty-five. . . .
>
> A few young ladies can be accommodated with boarding at $130 per annum, payable quarterly in advance, for board and tuition in all the branches, exclusive of stationery.

school. He fell in love with Mary Eckstein and married her. Alexander Kinmont was an outstanding teacher and lecturer, a distinguished classical scholar, and an eminent authority and devoted follower of the doctrines of Emanuel Swedenborg. Both Frederick Eckstein and his father were faithful Swedenborgians.

Including husbands, the Bailey family made no small contribution to the cultural life of early Cincinnati. Abbe Bailey's husband, John H. James, had been one of the first editors of the Cincinnati *Literary Gazette,* one of the early members of the famous Thespian Club, a popular orator, and one of Cincinnati's most promising writers. The Bailey women and the men they married were strong in personality and talent.

Joseph Junius James—Margaret Keating

Levi James's second son, Joseph Junius, married Margaret Keating, in June, 1826. Little is known of Margaret's father, except that he was an Englishman, and a prominent merchant in early Cincinnati.

John Keating had at least one employee who became famous—Hiram Powers. He befriended another celebrity—John J. Audubon.

In 1824, Audubon, on his way home from a trip up the Ohio River, landed in Cincinnati without a penny. He knew John Keating and resolved to ask him for a loan. Back and forth, back and forth, before the store of Keating & Bell, he walked, trying to summon courage to go in and ask for fifteen dollars to pay his passage to Louisville. When he finally went in and made the request, the loan was readily granted. Audubon went home as a deck passenger, sleeping that night on a scanty pile of shavings.

The firm of Keating & Wheelwright was well known in the 1830's. James Wheelwright was a young man of distinguished Puritan ancestry who was in love with Captain Levi James's daughter Sarah. In 1838, Keating sold his share of the business to David A. James, brother of Wheelwright's fiancée, and went to Columbus to take charge of a brewery he had bought there.

The James family correspondence indicates that Junius and Margaret lived in the home of Captain Levi James. It

was a very good arrangement, for Captain Levi and Junius were on the river most of the time, running their steamboat in the New Orleans trade. Not long after the wedding, Margaret and her mother-in-law accompanied their husbands on a voyage to New Orleans. They brought back with them a barrel of New Orleans sugar, a drum of figs, and a box of prunes. They came home alone from Louisville, because their husbands had to take the boat back immediately to the Cumberland River to pick up a cargo of tobacco, cotton and whiskey. These details Margaret primly related in a letter to John H. James at Urbana. She signed it, "Yours with esteem, M. K. James."

Margaret died in 1839. Junius and his children went on living with Captain Levi. When Ellen James, daughter of John H. James, went to live at her grandfather's while acquiring social graces, she became a pupil at Madame Blaique's fashionable dancing school. It was her delight to relay the mysteries of the "six positions" to her cousins Mary Ann and Charles, the two older children of Margaret and Junius James. When Ellen's sister Gertrude was old enough, Gertrude and Mary Ann received calls together at their grandfather's house.

That Mary Ann was a lively young lady, is shown by a letter written to her nineteen-year-old cousin Gertrude at Urbana, July 7, 1847:

> I have just been to visit our delightful Court Street market and I am truly pleased with the manners of its inhabitants, they are too genteel, polite etc—They push you down cellars into gutters, jar you against houses, give you great knocks with their baskets . . .
>
> Really, Cincinnati is getting to be quite a decent place in the way of amusement. Both theatres are open every night and I believe have very good players. There have been many concerts and now there is a very fine circus which draws a fashionable and crowded house every night . . . Herz gave several concerts, one of which I went to and was extremely pleased, but, at the same time a little disappointed, for I had expected to see and hear something more wonderful; he certainly does play splendidly and with a great deal of taste. There can be no comparison between his and De Meyers playing. He is very stiff in his person at the piano, but he moves his

> hands beautifully and every note is melody, while De Meyer plays with all his force, raises his hands about a half a mile from the keys every time he touches them and you look at him with perfect amazement to see with what skill and rapidity he moves his hands; *there is no music in his music.* I can't bear the old wretch for many reasons.

Clarence Keats—Mary Ann James

It was this high-spirited daughter of Junius and Margaret Keating James who married Clarence George Keats. Clarence was the sixth child and second son of George and Georgiana Wiley Keats of Louisville, Kentucky. His father was the brother of John Keats, the English poet, and Clarence was named for a character in one of John's poems.

Clarence's father died when he was about twelve years old. His mother married John Jeffrey, a Scottish civil engineer of varied experience. Jeffrey had helped Napier of Glasgow to build the engines for the first ocean steamers; he had helped to build the Thames Tunnel and to deepen the Clyde River. In 1829, he had volunteered to ride with George Stephenson on the *Rocket,* when the great locomotive speed contest was run on the Liverpool and Manchester Railway. Stephenson paid his volunteer crew a high premium and promised pensions to their families in case of accident. Stephenson's *Rocket* won, receiving a prize of five hundred pounds. Few of Jeffrey's Louisville friends ever dreamed that he, who went about establishing pioneer gas works in more than thirty Southern cities, had ever participated in such thrilling adventures.[16] It was this man who trained the sons of George Keats in civil engineering. Clarence was a favorite with Jeffrey and was associated in business with him.

Clarence Keats and Mary Ann James were married in Cincinnati on January 12, 1853. It is said that they lived in Cincinnati for a time. Their first child died in infancy. Their second child, Alice, was born while they were living at Evans-

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[16] Hyder Edward Rollins, Ed., *The Keats Circle Letters & Papers* 1816-1878 (2 vols., Cambridge, 1948), I, p. ciii. Quoted from the Lexington *Daily Press,* Feb. 20, 1881.

ville, Indiana, in 1856. Their married life was brief, the young husband dying of tuberculosis in 1861.

The parents of Clarence Keats had come to the Birkbeck settlement at Albion, Illinois, not far from Robert Owen's New Harmony, in 1818. George expected to live a somewhat idyllic life, farming the land he had bought before leaving England. He was not afraid of hard work, but when he saw the wild land and the obstacles to surmount, he looked around for some other investment by which to earn a living. It was then that he met the sanguine, irresponsible, and altogether charming John James Audubon, who sold him an interest in his trading boat. According to Naomi J. Kirk of New Albany, Indiana, who has made an exhaustive study of George Keats, the money was paid to Audubon in Henderson, Kentucky. The somewhat obscure story of that boat is an unhappy one. That George Keats considered Audubon guilty of downright trickery is evident in the letters that John Keats wrote from England in reply to George's letters. John wondered if George were competent to deal with the "American world," and warned him to look out for "those Americans," who would surely "fleece" him at the first opportunity. The brothers of Mrs. Audubon, W. G. and T. W. Bakewell, felt that Audubon had treated Keats shabbily. Thomas Bakewell lent Keats money to go back to England to try to raise money to go into business with himself and David Prentice.

When George returned from England with seven hundred pounds, he invested in timber lands and a controlling interest in a new steam sawmill which Prentice & Bakewell had built at Shippingport at the Falls of the Ohio. Prentice & Bakewell already had a flourishing plant for the manufacture of castings and steam engines and boilers for steamboats and land manufactories. With the steam sawmill, Prentice & Bakewell and George Keats & Company were now ready to furnish all the basic materials for the building of steamboats.

From this beginning in the lumber business, George Keats built up a handsome fortune. After years of struggle and hard work, he was able to live in elegant style in a massive stone mansion of English architecture which he built in 1835. His fellow-citizens pointed it out as "the Englishman's palace." Keats became a leader in movements for the advancement of Louisville in education, city government, finance,

and public improvements. He helped to write Louisville's first charter.

As a boy and young man, George Keats had been intimately associated with the literary friends of his distinguished brother. George was a thorough student of Elizabethan literature and no mean literary critic. He belonged to the Philosophical Society of Louisville which was composed of the choice literary men of the town. The Keats home became a cultural center. George Keats was a gracious host, entertaining in the most hospitable fashion the celebrities who visited Louisville. Of all the books in his library, he cherished most the Spencer and the Milton that his brother had read and annotated in his early youth.

The Keats family and the families of William and Thomas Bakewell remained fast friends always. It is presumed that Mary Ann James met Clarence Keats through the Bakewells, for Mary Ann's uncle married a daughter of Thomas Bakewell.

The Keats family never forgave John J. Audubon. To George and Georgiana, the Audubons were the symbol of America, the country they never really liked. Georgiana saw in Lucy Bakewell Audubon a fashion-mad woman, a typical American. Lucy had been reared and educated by an aristocratic father, in a luxurious home that functioned according to strict English ideas of decorum. It was only natural that she, as a young matron in Kentucky, should try to uphold her own standard of living. Even John Keats, who thoroughly disliked the Audubons, though he had never seen them, reminded Georgianna that ladies in England were just as silly as American ladies could possibly be, that he had known many a "Mrs. Audubon" in England.

John urged Georgiana to lose herself in her children. It was his dearest wish that one of those children might become the great poet of America. John admitted that America had a few great men, but none of them, he said, were sublime. Even most Englishmen were incapable of sublimity in America. Therefore, he urged George to "infuse a little of a spirit of another sort" in Louisville for the benefit of the Keats children who must be born and reared there. That George Keats did that very thing is evident in the fact that he was known more for his cultural attainments and the beauty and strength of his heart and mind than for his wealth.

In the great panic of 1837, George Keats became much involved financially. When he died, he left his family in greatly reduced circumstances.[17]

Georgiana Keats, the mother of Clarence Keats, never learned to like America. Volatile and caustic, she never allowed anyone to forget that she was an Englishwoman. Alice, the little daughter of Clarence and Mary Ann Keats, was taught by her grandmother to sing "God Save the King."

After the death of Clarence Keats, Mary Ann and little daughter Alice went to live with their uncle, John H. James, at Urbana, Ohio. When Colonel James died, about twenty years later, they went to Washington, D. C., where they, with Mary Ann's sister, kept a boarding house. After her mother and aunt had died, Alice Keats returned to the old James home at Urbana and lived there with her cousins until her death in 1948.

Alice Keats possessed few treasures, but she loved the few that she had. Daily she looked at the silhouettes of George and Georgiana Keats that hung on the wall in her pleasant room. Daily she wore the gold cross and chain that Henry Clay had given her great-aunt, Eliza James. Alice once possessed the writing desk of her distinguished great-uncle, to whom she always referred as "the poet." That writing desk is today in the Keats Museum at Hampstead. Always she cherished the little wine glasses that were used at her mother's wedding. Alice Keats was a sweet, shy little person, with a delicious sense of humor. She had little to say, and few remembered that she was the great-niece of "the poet."

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[17] The above short sketch of George Keats comes from many sources. Among them are: Sidney Colvin, ed., *Letters of John Keats To His Family and Friends* (London, 1891); Rollins, *The Keats Circle;* Maurice Buxton Forman, ed., Letters of John Keats (N.Y., 1935); James Freeman Clarke, *Memorial and Biographical Sketches* (Boston, 1878); Wm. Carnes Kendrick, *Reminiscences of Old Louisville* (Louisville, 1937); *History of the Ohio Falls Cities and Their Counties* (2 vols., Cleveland, 1882); Louisville *Directory,* 1832, 1836; Louisville *Journal,* 1831-1842; Louisville *Public Advertiser,* 1821-1830, used by permission of Miss Mary Verhoeff and the Filson Club at Louisville, Kentucky; F. J. Koch, "Tracing the Keats Family in America," in New York *Times,* July 30, 1922; B. G. Bakewell, *The Family Book . . . Being Some Account of the Descendants of John Bakewell of Leicesershire England . . .* (Pittsburgh, 1896); Stanley Clisby Arthur, *Audubon An Intimate Life of the American Woodsman* (New Orleans, 1937).

David James—Elizabeth Bakewell

In 1841, the third son of Captain Levi James, David Allen, married Elizabeth Page Bakewell, the daughter of Elizabeth Page[18] and Thomas Woodhouse Bakewell. Elizabeth Bakewell James's maternal grandfather, Benjamin Page, was in the commission business at Cincinnati as early as 1823; he retained his partnership in Bakewell, Page & Bakewell, flint glass manufacturers of Pittsburgh, and acted as their agent in Cincinnati.[19]

Thomas Bakewell's father, William Bakewell, had settled at Fatland Ford, not far from Philadelphia, in 1804. It was a large estate, on the north bank of the Schuykill, opposite the hills of Valley Forge. During the dark days of Valley

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[18] The father of Elizabeth Page, Benjamin Page, was a partner in Bakewell, Page & Bakewell, the famous flint glass manufacturers of Pittsburgh. The Bakewells in the firm were the uncle and a cousin of Thomas Woodhouse Bakewell.

Mrs. David James remembered her grandfather Page as always wearing "his own beautiful brown hair in a queue," "and ordinarily" wearing "an olive-green coat and a white cravat."

Benjamin Page lived in Cincinnati for a while in the 1820's. He returned to Pittsburg for a few years, then came back to Cincinnati in 1832 and lived on his country estate, "Beach Farm," near the city. He died June 9, 1834, and is buried in Spring Grove Cemetery.

Page came to the United States in 1797, and became one of the first importers of English goods after the Revolution.—Bakewell, *Family Book*, pp. 70-72, 89.

[19] See advertisements in the Cincinnati newspapers. Page & Robins, in 1823, sold everything from wagon tires and pig lead to lamb's wool and taffeta ribbons. An interesting advertisement of Pittsburgh glass may be found in *Liberty Hall and Cincinnati Gazette*, May 6, 1823:

"Just rec'd from manufactory at Pittsburgh—15 boxes plain tumblers, 5 do. Vandyke fluted do., 15 do. best Diamond do., 5 do. barrel Diamond do., 8 do. double Flint do., 2 boxes assorted tinctures, and spice Jars, 2 do. footed milk Cups assorted, 20 do. assorted tumblers, 6 do. assorted Tumblers, Decanters, Wines, and Salts, 1 pr. elegant Chandaliers, Rich and common glassware."

On June 20, Page & Robins gave notice that they would receive and forward to the manufactory of Bakewell, Page & Bakewell, at Pittsburgh, orders for cut and engraved glassware, of every description for family use, or for retailing, which would be executed with as little delay as possible. They also informed the public that they kept regularly on hand an assortment of Glassware for sale by the package.

Forge, George Washington and his officers had often visited there. The house was a handsome double stone mansion with stately pillars all around, built by James Vaux. At Fatland Ford, William Bakewell trained his children to swim and fish. There they were taught to love good books, good music, correct dress, the niceties of refined society. Fatland Ford was known for its beautiful dogs, fine horses, and handsome daughters.

The Bakewells were descendants of the Peverils who owned the northern part of Derbyshire called the Derbyshire Peak. The family and the locality were made famous by Sir Walter Scott's *Peveril of the Peak.* William Bakewell was the friend of Priestley, the elder Huxley, and other outspoken thinkers of his time. Because he defended Priestley and his republican ideas, the British government asked for Bakewell's resignation from his magistracy, an unsalaried but honored position. It is a family tradition that that act of government was the chief cause of William's emigration to America.

In 1824, Thomas Bakewell came to Cincinnati, because his wife wanted to live near her father, Benjamin Page. Thomas had been building steamboats at Louisville, and that he continued to do at Cincinnati. The boats he built were constructed according to a new theory of his own. They were light-draught boats, able to encounter the shoal waters of the Ohio River; they had more freight capacity in proportion to their registered tonnage; they were plainly finished and relatively inexpensive. His boats became so popular that he soon established his own shops and shipyards to build his engines and hulls. Thomas Bakewell had much to do with making Cincinnati an important shipping center. In partnership with his sister Ann's husband — Alexander Gordon of New Orleans — Thomas Bakewell established the town of Cairo, Illinois, as a trading point at the junction of the Ohio and Mississippi rivers.

In the South, Thomas had learned that the cotton-growing states never had enough bagging for baling cotton. Most of what they had was handwoven in Kentucky from hemp, and expensive. Bakewell perfected machinery for the spinning and weaving of Kentucky hemp and built a large cotton-bagging factory in Covington, Kentucky.

George Graham of Cincinnati said that as a finished scholar and theoretical mechanic in iron and wood, Thomas

Bakewell had no superior. His mind was constantly employed in solving abstruse problems relating to the power of steam and its application.[20]

A study of the Cincinnati newspaper files reveals a few additional facts about Thomas Bakewell. In 1827, he was elected a director of the Ohio Insurance Company. In 1830, he succeeded T. S. Goodman as president of that company and served two years. In 1834, he was elected to the directorate of the United States Branch Bank. In 1835, Bakewell, with Doctor Daniel Drake and John S. Williams, engineer, served as a committee to study the practicability of a railroad connecting Cincinnati with the Atlantic seaboard. His friends, Levi James of Cincinnati and George Keats of Louisville, were delegates to the Knoxville Convention that met to discuss that project.

The panic of 1837 brought near-ruin to Thomas Bakewell. Bakewell & Cartwright, however, continued as founders and machinists until 1844. Then Bakewell went into the commission business at Number 6 West Front Street, at the same time opening a short-lived starch factory at Louisville.

At this time, Levi James was building a new steamboat, the *Ambassador,* said to be the finest boat on Western waters. Captain James was head over heels in debt. His son David was in despair. David wanted to marry Elizabeth Bakewell. Their wedding was planned and Elizabeth was expecting to go to housekeeping soon. Now, with money so tight, it would take every cent the whole James family could earn to save the boat. How David hated that boat! Manfully, he talked the matter over with Elizabeth's father. Thomas Bakewell was sympathetic, but there was nothing he could do about it—he had troubles of his own.

Margaret Bailey, visiting in Philedalphia, wrote to her sister Ellen at Cincinnati:

> I was much astonished to hear Capn James had built another boat. Mrs. James I am sure will be sorry for it—of course David will have to give up all thought of becoming our neighbor which I will regret very much. I have seen no young gentleman to compare with him since I left home.

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[20] Bakewell, *Family Book,* p. 25.

In 1838, in order to escape the "disagreeable employment on the Boat, a thing [he could] scarcely bear to contemplate," David went into the commission and produce business with James Wheelwright.[21] It was three more long years before David and Elizabeth were married, on May 27, 1841.

Charles Pinckney James—Fanny Shepard

Levi James had a fourth son, Charles Pinckney, who was born in Cincinnati in 1818. Charles studied law in his native city and practised there for many years. By 1850, he had earned an enviable reputation as a Judge of the Supreme Court. Judge James was one of the ablest lawyers of the "Old Court House" bar.

In 1863, Charles went to Washington, D. C., to practise in the Court of Claims. Three years later, he married Fanny Shepard, a rosy-cheeked, amiable young lady of twenty-eight years. Charles wrote to his brother John that he had seen the family and knew them "to be very sound stuff."

Fanny's father, Charles Upham Shepard, was a noted mineralogist and author of many fine scientific articles and reports. He had been assistant to the eminent Professor Silliman at Yale and had worked with Silliman for the United States Government on a study of the culture and manufacture of sugar. For a great many years, he held two professorships concurrently. At Amherst, he lectured on natural history, in the spring and summer months; at the Charleston (South Carolina) Medical College he was professor of chemistry, in the winter months. At Amherst, he built up a remarkable and valuable collection of minerals. At Charleston, he discovered rich deposits of phosphate of lime in the vicinity. This discovery led to the manufacture of superphosphate fertilizer which became so important to the agriculture and industry of South Carolina. He gave Amherst College his fine collection of minerals, containing thousands of specimens, some of them new minerals discovered by Shepard himself. His collection of more than two hundred different kinds of meteorites was given by his son to the National Museum at

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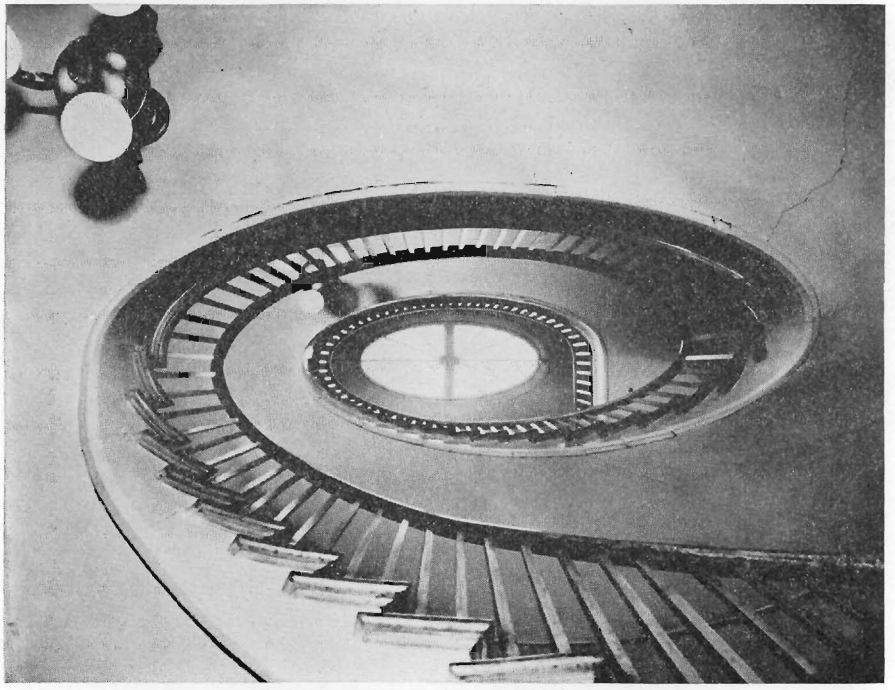
[21] James Wheelwright married Sarah Frances James, David's sister, in 1839. Sarah's only sister, Eliza, never married.

Washington, D. C. Professor Shepard was a member of many scientific societies in both Europe and America.

Professor Shepard's only son, Charles Upham, junior, studied medicine at Gottingen, Germany. When he returned in 1867, he succeeded his father as professor of chemistry at Charleston. He continued his father's work in the development of the chemical resources of South Carolina, with special attention to the phospate deposits of the state.

The only sister of Fanny Shepard was the wife of Major John William De Forest, world traveler, scholar, author, and soldier. De Forest's vivid descriptions of battle scenes in Louisiana and of Sheridan's battles in the Shenandoah Valley were published in *Harper's Monthly* during the war. In 1866, when Charles James and Fanny Shepard were married,



STAIRCASE IN THE JAMES HOME AT URBANA
(Three Stories, Entirely Unsupported, a Fine Example of Spiral Staircase)

Major De Forest was chief of a district, under the Freedman's Bureau, in South Carolina. Much of De Forest's writing was done anonymously, but his acknowledged works make an impressive list.

Charles James's estimate of the Shepard family was correct—they were "sound stuff."

In 1866, Charles Pinckney James was appointed one of the three commissioners to revise and codify the laws of Congress. The importance of the committee is indicated by the fact that Caleb Cushing was one of its three members.

Of the appointment, Charles wrote to his brother John, November 24, 1866:

> My present position is exceedingly agreeable and should be the basis of future success * * * Having no habit of cultivating the powers, I had not made old Ben Wade's acquaintance, and he came near upsetting me when my name went into the Judiciary Committee. He was asked who Judge James, of his State, was, and replied that he never heard of such a man. As they were not acquainted with the division between the north and south of Ohio, that looked unpromising. Without any conceit I should have been willing to have the question put to any prominent lawyer from Columbus southward. However, my friends satisfied them who I was. Ewing and Stanberry settled that. So here I am, with a three year's job of extremely careful but extremely interesting work before me. My hope is to build upon it a Supreme Court practice and hereafter (as such a thing grows up) a sort of parliamentary practice * * *

Charles James's ambitions were realized. He became a member of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia, and held that position for many years.

The story of the Levi James family and the families allied with it brings to light a forgotten chapter in Cincinnati's history. The Chinese have a proverb, "To forget one's ancestors is to be like a brook without a source, a tree without a root." So it is with a city. It is well to remember the men who helped in its early development, the men who were the source of the stream and the root of the tree.