

and horseback with pack animals. The distance to be traversed was six or seven hundred miles, and the time spent on such a journey was from six weeks to two months. The memory of such a journey, and the ties of endearment thereby engendered between parents and children, brothers and sisters, friends and relatives, who were banded together for mutual protection, were peculiarly strong and of life-long endurance. The final halting place in Kentucky was at no town or village, it was simply in the settlement in the country where Danville soon afterward became a town. The little procession moved into the good lands of Kentucky, passing the Rockcastle hills, the place called Crab Orchard and stopped about half way between Crow's station, which afterward became the site of Danville, and Harrod's station, the site of Harrodsburg. There, upon a splendid body of land, Captain James Speed established himself, and there his family grew up. The hardships, dangers and privations of such a wilderness life are the features in that peculiarly romantic coloring which belong to the pioneer life in Kentucky.

The people who came to Kentucky in that day placed a high estimate on education. Captain James Speed, himself, at his own home, gave instruction in English branches and also Latin and Greek to his own and other children, that occupation being suited to his crippled condition. His children also went to school to some one whom the old letters simply designate as "the doctor," who seems to have had a school at Danville. Thomas was well educated, and early displayed a taste for learning. The letter written by his father's uncle, W. T. Speed, of date 1787, mentions this: "I have heard by thee and thy father that thou art getting learning." He was then nineteen years old. A year before this his precocity and attainments were evidenced by the fact that he had been then associated with men of mature years and leaders in public affairs in the society at Danville called the Political Club. The names of some of the members of this society will show that a young man eighteen years of age must have possessed unusual and even extraordinary qualifications to be invited to join with them. The