

He left the office of Colonel Greenup about 1790, and at some time prior to 1794 he went into partnership with his brother John in merchandising. The style of the firm was Thomas & John Speed. They sold goods both at Danville and at Bardstown prior to and subsequent to 1794; but how long the partnership continued can not now be determined. A number of invoices of goods have been preserved among the papers of Thomas Speed, which show the shipment to the firm of Thomas & John Speed, at both Danville and Bardstown, of dry goods, hardware, groceries, books, stationery, etc. The shipments were from Philadelphia and Baltimore.

Thomas Speed was first married to Susan Clayton Slaughter, December 11, 1796, at Bardstown. They had one child, Anna Maria, who died in 1803.

He was again married January 9, 1810, to Mrs. Mary McElroy Allen, widow of Robert Allen. Her eldest sister was the wife of General James Allen, of Greensburg, and their daughters, Eliza and Maria, both married Barrett. Another sister was the wife of Rev. James Blythe and mother of Mrs. Dr. Hynes, of Bardstown. Another sister married Felix Grundy.

Thomas Speed became Clerk of the Bullitt Circuit Court and also the Nelson Circuit. He received these offices by appointment, and held them a number of years. Tradition says he was a most efficient officer, especially well qualified in regard to the forms of legal papers and in the settlement of estates.

He served in the war of 1812 as a major of volunteers from Kentucky. He participated in the campaign against the Indians on the waters of the upper Wabash in the fall of 1812 with a force of two thousand men under command of General Hopkins. He also served in other campaigns, but of the details of his service there is no record.

In the year 1817 he was elected to Congress. His trips to and from Washington during his term were made on horseback over the old Wilderness Road. From Bardstown he would ride through Lebanon, Danville, Crab Orchard and Cumberland Gap, and then pass on up through Virginia to