

over his plantation, superintending seventy negroes and educating twelve children, I possess some letters from him which would be creditable to the most finished scholar. His mind was active, vigorous and free, ever open to new truths. He thought and read with the ardor of a young student, laying aside old opinions and accepting better ones when he found them. His heart was as fresh as his mind, throbbing tenderly as that of a woman, in answer to a kind word. He was a true and faithful friend, a wise and kind father. When he lost his youngest child, his little daughter, Anne, he mourned over her as one who had fully sympathized with her young thoughts and desires. He was called 'Judge' because he had been appointed associate judge in one of the court districts. The associate judges were men, usually without legal training, who were put by the side of the chief judge in order to temper his decisions with practical common sense.

"Judge Speed was a slaveholder, but he did not believe in slavery. He thought it wrong in itself and injurious to the State, and expected, like most intelligent Kentuckians at that time, that Kentucky would before long emancipate its slaves. Meantime he held them as a trust, and did everything he could to make them comfortable. If one of his slaves was discontented and ran away, which rarely happened, he did not try to bring him back. A young man from the North once said to him: 'Judge, I do not see but the slaves are as happy as our laboring classes at the North.' 'Well,' said the Judge, 'I do the best I can to make my slaves comfortable, but I tell you, sir, you can not make a slave HAPPY, do what you will. God Almighty never made a man to be a slave, and he can not be happy while he is a slave.' 'But,' continued the Boston visitor, 'what can be done about it, sir? They could not take care of themselves if set free.' 'I think I could show you three men on my plantation,' replied Judge Speed, 'who might go to the Kentucky Legislature. I am inclined to believe they would be as good legislators as the average men there now.' "

The following is one of the numerous stories handed down by tradition. It illustrates the cordial relations which existed between Judge John Speed and his brother Thomas:

Judge John Speed had no habit of using strong drink, but he was not a total abstainer. His brother, Major Thos. Speed, however, was an advocate of total abstinence.

When the two brothers were both old men, John made a visit to Thomas at the Bardstown home. The evening he arrived, after supper when they were all sitting around the