

# MEMORIAL TRIBUTE

TO

REV. JOHN SAWYERS CRAIG, D. D.  
SYDNEY NEIL HOUSTON.

BY

WILL HOUSTON CRAIG.

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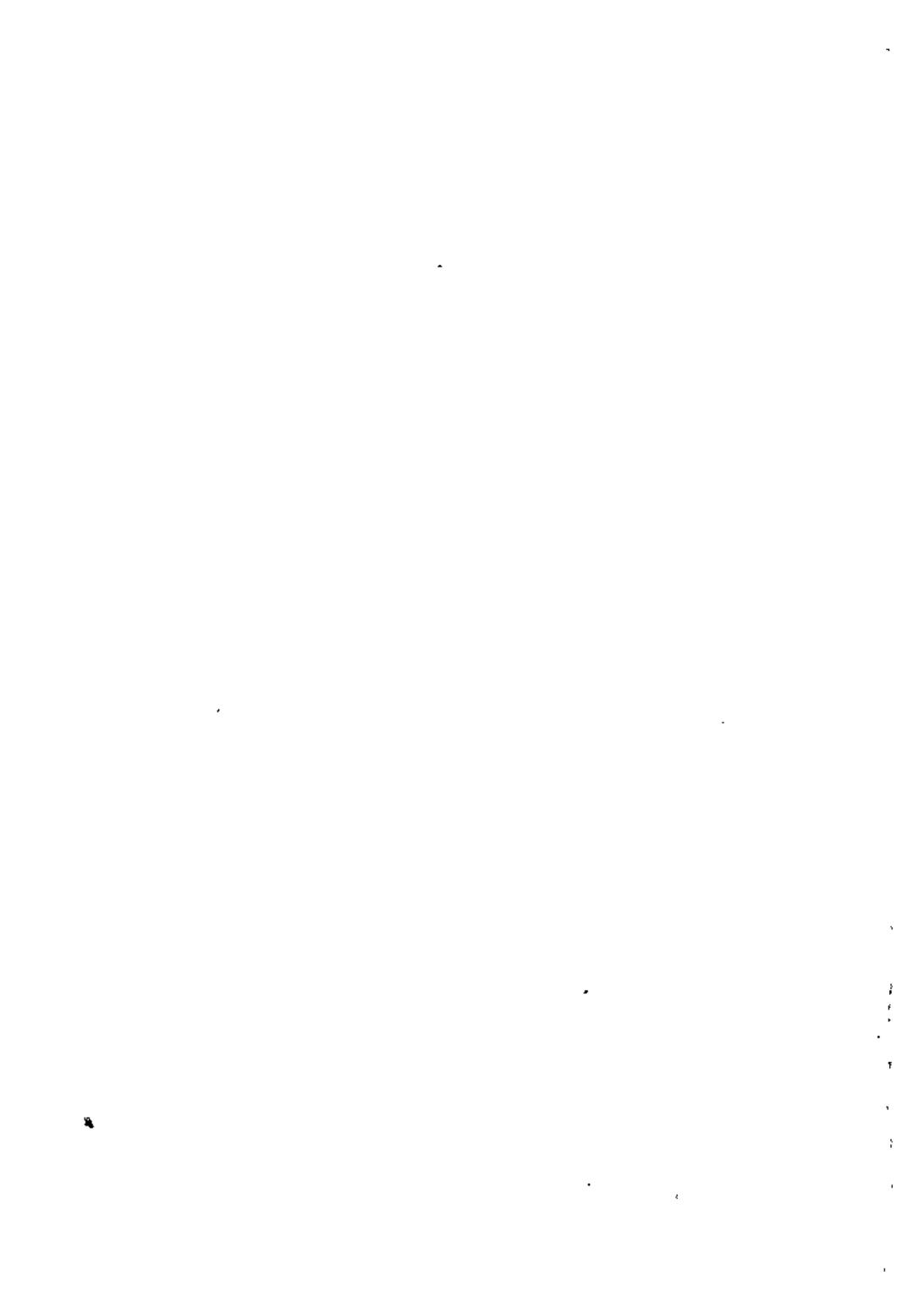
NOBLESVILLE, INDIANA:  
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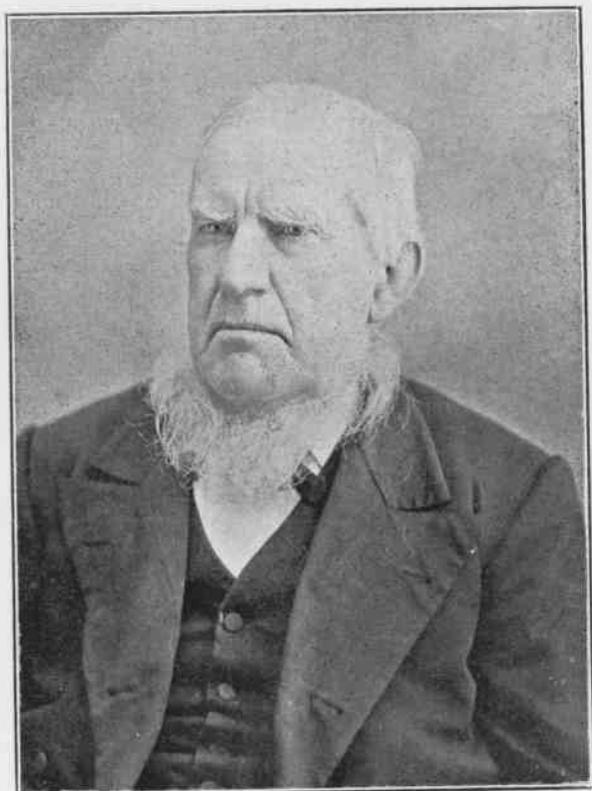












JOHN SAWYERS CRAIG.

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## PREFACE.

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Believing that a family history is of priceless value, I have decided to give in these few pages the results of my knowledge and research of the records of the ancestors of my parents, and to pay my tribute of love to their memory. I hope that representatives of later generations may take up the story of the Craig-Houston families and continue the record, so that future generations may know the stock from which they sprang and the worth of their ancestors in the world.

Pride in the family tree is commendable, and family records should be considered as sacred. The virtues of my ancestors are many, and worthy the imitation of all their descendants. My parents were faithful, sincere, honest Christians. In my father's life there was an earnestness in his devotion and a sincerity in his piety that grow brighter with the passing years. There was a gentleness and sweetness in my mother's love that hallow and make precious her memory. To their memories are these pages dedicated.

AUTHOR.



## THE PIONEERS.

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I feel like doffing my hat to the pioneers whenever and wherever I see them. To them we are indebted in a large measure for the happy families and prosperous States that now bless this country of ours. It was their self-sacrificing efforts and their patience and labor that made the wilderness blossom like the rose. To their courage and daring spirit is due the building of proud and prosperous States where once the buffalo roamed and the Indian ruled and held high carnival. We of this generation cannot show too much reverence and respect to the pioneers who did so much for our Christian civilization under so many and trying hardships. My own ancestors, earliest settlers of East Tennessee, are entitled to our admiration and love. Their experiences were most thrilling. They were endangered by Indians and wild beasts from without and disease from within. We cannot now realize that they plowed their fields with sentinels on guard. Amidst the loneliness of the forest and the solitude of the plain they struggled on and on, and no soldiers of fortune

or war ever showed greater faith and courage than the pioneers of East Tennessee! They were enamored of civil and religious liberty, and from the very mountain air imbibed the spirit of broadest liberty! These pioneers have long since passed away, but their works and influences live on to bless and ennoble humanity. In their aims and purposes and by their sacrifices they have left a lasting impression upon the character of the institutions they have created and established. Rigid economy and untiring industry was the rule among the red hills and mountains of East Tennessee. There were no pianos, but the spinning wheel furnished the music. Amidst such surroundings were my parents and their ancestors born and reared. During a recent visit among these historic places there was aroused within me the most tender and affectionate regard for the old landmarks. There I saw the old log cabin where my father was born in 1814; the spring from which he had often quenched his thirst and of which my wife, Cousin John Harris and myself partook at our noon-day lunch under a tree that probably shaded the little Craig boys nearly a hundred years ago; the old Washington church, founded over a hundred years ago; the log cabin where my mother was born in 1818; the creek where "Sam" (General) Houston learned to swim and the hills over which he wildly roamed; the house in Maryville where all my

brothers and sisters were born; Maryville College on the Hill, the pride of Tennessee and the place of my father's twenty years of patient, arduous labor—all these scenes caused feelings of reverence to spring up in my breast and a desire to make a record of the salient points in this important family history.







House in Maryville, Tenn., where all the children  
of J. S. and S. N. Craig were born.

## CRAIG GENEALOGY.

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Records of the Craig family are very meagre, and all that I can give in this sketch is from inscriptions upon monuments, from data found in old Bibles and from testimony of living witnesses who have carried down from generation to generation the story of their ancestors. From the best evidence obtainable it is known that the Craigs and Sawyers came to East Tennessee from Virginia sometime about the middle of the eighteenth century, attracted there by the rich valleys and beautiful mountains of that section. They were of Scotch-Irish descent and were faithful and devout supporters of the doctrines and policies of the Presbyterian Church. During the Revolutionary war they were loyal patriots and distinguished themselves in that great contest. My great-grandfather, John Sawyer, was a Colonel in that war and led a thousand of the Pioneers of Tennessee, who sprang out of their hills in defense of their home and country. These backwoodsmen and Indian fighters (it is told) assembled in a grove and leaning on their squirrel rifles

listened in silence to a stern Presbyterian preacher, who blessed them and then called upon them to do battle and smite the foe with the sword of the Lord and Gideon. The story of how these pioneer patriots acquitted themselves at the battle of King's Mountain is told with pride by Tennesseans to this day. Col. John Sawyer became a great hero, was beloved and respected by all who knew him and wielded a great influence among his fellows. The silver buckles that he wore as Colonel were cut up and given to his descendants as souvenirs. The Craig and Sawyer families settled about ten miles north of Knoxville and were among the founders and supporters of Washington church, which celebrated its 100th anniversary about one year ago. In the graveyard near by are many monuments marking the last resting place of the heroes who wrought mightily for God and country in the pioneer days. Around these old landmarks cluster the most tender and hallowed memories. A visit to Washington church and the graveyard where markers told the story of many of my ancestors and then to the old log cabin where my father was born nearly a hundred years ago was among the most interesting experiences of my life. I imagine, however, that that section of the country was in a more prosperous condition in those long years ago than it is today, for time, man and the elements have wrought wondrous changes and

left many scars upon that once attractive country. But here amidst these wild and picturesque scenes our forefathers lived and loved, wooed and won the maidens of their choice. Simple and frugal in their habits, with no luxuries and but few of the necessaries of life, they exemplified in a marked manner the rule of plain living and high thinking.

Col. John Sawyer was born in 1735 and died in 1831.

His children were :

II	{	1. John Sawyer.	4. Elizabeth Sawyer.
		2. Josiah Sawyer.	5. Rebecca Sawyer.
		3. William Sawyer.	6. Nancy Sawyer.

John Sawyer, Jr. became a Colonel in the Mexican war.

## SAMUEL CRAIG.

Nancy Sawyer married Samuel Craig May 12, 1808. And here begins the story of the Craig family of which the writer is a member. Samuel Craig was born June 27, 1781, and died July 1, 1839.

Their children were as follows :

		BORN.	DIED.
II	James A. Craig.....	May 14, '09	Oct. 14, '30
	William C. Craig.....	May 31, '11	July 25, '49
	John S. Craig. ....	Jan. 30, '14	April 4, '93
	Rachel Craig. ....	May 11, '17	Aug. 30, '27
	Robert S. Craig.....	Jan. 7, '21	Sept. 24, '47
	Martha C. Craig.....	Jan. 7, '28	Aug. 6, '49
	Rebecca A. Craig.....	July 2, '30	Nov. 16, '92

Samuel Craig and five children moved to Lebanon, Indiana, about 1836. He died July 1, 1839, and is buried by the side of his wife and children in the Old cemetery at Lebanon. John S. Craig was left behind and lived with his aunt, Rebecca Sawyer, until after he graduated in Maryville Seminary. On my visit last Spring I met Nancy Roberts, hale and hearty at 78 years of age, a daughter of Rebecca Sawyer, who remembered well my father as an inmate of her home.

## JOHN SAWYER CRAIG.

John S. Craig married Sydney Neil Houston May 13, 1841, and the union was a happy one. They were devout, earnest Christians, and lived faithful and exemplary lives. They believed that it was the chief end of man to glorify God. They took the Bible as their rule and guide of life. No higher tribute to their characters would they ask if they were living than that they were God-fearing, honest Christians. Sometimes we thought their discipline strict and severe, but as the years have rolled away and we have lost their wise counsel and watchful care, we are constrained to acknowledge that they were guided by the purest intentions and deepest love, and that those who follow their precepts and example will live noble and upright lives.

John S. Craig was born ten miles north of Knoxville in a log cabin. His early education was such only as the meagre opportunities of that day afforded. He entered Maryville Seminary in December, 1832, and graduated some four years later. Many stories are still rife in Maryville about his advent and course in college. He came from the backwoods clothed in the plainest of home-spun. He appeared to be strong neither physically nor mentally. It is said that the teachers discouraged him from entering college, fearing he would be a failure, and the students made fun

of him on account of his appearance. But the day of reckoning was soon at hand. The boy in home-spun with the florid face and yellow hair soon led his classes and was recognized by all for his keen intellect and untiring industry. It is said that on one occasion, desiring to make up some special work, that he took a cake of corn-pone and a pitcher of water and locked himself up in a room until he had mastered the subject at hand and was able to pass an examination. He was licensed to preach Jan. 1, 1840, and ordained in April, 1841. He was elected Professor of Languages in Maryville College Sept. 3, 1840, after acting Tutor for some time, and continued in that capacity until the college was closed by the Civil war in April, 1861. When that fierce struggle came on and the liberty of man and the union of the States was at issue, there were no two sides to the question with him. He espoused the cause of the Union and declared that the black man should be free. He was so outspoken in his loyalty to the Union that the Rebels threatened his life. They made it so warm for him that he was compelled to become a refugee, and in September, 1861, he with his family left his native State and the home he loved so well and moved to Indiana. He first located at Lebanon, where his parents had located some twenty years earlier. In March, 1862, he moved to Anderson, Ind., and for six years filled the pulpit of the Presby-

terian church of that place. In June, 1868, he was called to the Presbyterian church at Noblesville, and for seventeen years filled that pulpit. On March 5, 1885, at a meeting of the congregation of the Presbyterian church, my father offered his resignation as pastor. The following resolution was passed:

“RESOLVED, That we tender to Rev. J. S. Craig our sincere and grateful thanks for the self-sacrifices, fidelity and ability with which he has served this church as its minister.”

This record of the church is in the familiar handwriting of that pillar of the church and devoted friend of my father and his family, the Hon. Joseph R. Gray. To this loyal friend and steadfast Christian is largely due credit for the reorganization of the Noblesville Presbyterian church in 1867 and its support thereafter. Through storm as well as sunshine, through adversity as well as prosperity, Joseph R. Gray always was faithful to the little church that he loved so well. It was reorganized in 1867 with twenty members. During the pastorate of my father it increased nearly tenfold. Mrs. T. J. Kane of this city is the only charter member now belonging to the church. After his resignation (1885) my father had no regular charge, but preached in different places in the Muncie Presbytery at different times until his death, April 4, 1893. It was a great trial for him to put off the harness and quit work. He remarked on one

occasion that a pulpit sweat was healthy, and his pulpit work seemed to give new energy and life to him. For many years before his death he was called the "Nestor" of the Muncie Presbytery, and to him was referred all questions of doctrine and church government. He believed in the Calvinistic doctrines and preached them straight from the shoulder. He was a logical thinker and a profound scholar, but not what is called a popular preacher, for he called black black and white white and denounced sin in all its forms severest terms.

The following estimates of his character are worthy a place in this sketch :

. Capt. W. H. Henry of Maryville, in an address at the last Commencement, said :

"Prof. Craig, who taught in the college longer than any other man excepting Dr. Anderson, was a man of great strength of mind, a rare scholar, and a minister of great power in the pulpit, when aroused. Although of rough exterior, he was respected and beloved by his students. So complete was his mastery of the college curriculum that he often heard recitations in the Greek, Latin and mathematical courses without the use of a text book. He was an avowed abolitionist during all the years of his professorship, always boldly and publicly declaring his convictions upon that much mooted question. He, with his family, passed through the Confederate lines for the State of Indiana in 1861. The Confederate authorities, it was said, granted him a pass. at

that particular time, to prevent him being mobbed by the soldiery of the country."

Rev. W. H. Lyle, a pupil of Dr. Craig, paid this high tribute to him :

"Rev. John Sawyer Craig was brilliant as a student in college. He was profound and able as a teacher, a thorough master of all that he taught. He was a profound thinker, and went to the bottom of every subject that he undertook to investigate. Although stern and inflexible, yet he was approachable, and loved to tell an anecdote and pass a joke. In politics before the war he was an earnest Democrat, but an intense hater of slavery and a great lover of freedom. When the conflict of arms came in 1861 he was the fast and unflinching friend of the Union cause. As a preacher he spoke extemporaneously, yet not without preparation. When thoroughly aroused he was powerful, at times truly eloquent, and could hold an assembly spellbound. He had the martyr spirit, and the courage of his convictions. He stood like a rock in defense of what he conceived to be right. With him it was a small matter whether the crowd was with him—the great question was whether he was right."

President Samuel T. Wilson, of Maryville College, in a recent letter to me, says :

"Dr. Craig was one of the strongest men ever connected with the institution. For thirty years past, I have heard the older people of our county and section tell their tales of the acuteness and depth of your father's character. In 1888, I had a letter from him in which he expressed this sentiment: Let

Maryville ever remain, as of old, '*The Poor Man's College.*'

"The impress of your father's character is felt in the college and in this section. His works still follow him. We are proud of his ability and services and are glad to honor his memory."

"Rev. Charles Little, D. D., of Wabash, says:

"I enjoyed a close acquaintance with Dr. Craig, chiefly through Presbyterian association and fellowship. He was easily the first man in the Presbytery of Muncie. He possessed strong mental power, well-defined convictions, a clear knowledge of the Bible, and a ready subscription to the creed and polity of the church.

"In the counsels of the Presbytery, he was a safe adviser. He was uniformly made chairman of the Judicial Committee, and his judgment regarding intricate and complicated matters was seldom questioned and perhaps never rejected. He was interested in all departments of Christian work, and earnestly sought the conversion of souls and the establishment of the church throughout the Presbytery. Add to this the ready utterance and power of the strong preacher and it will quickly be understood how he became the first man in the Presbytery of Muncie. The younger brothers lovingly and appreciatingly called him 'Our Nestor.'"

Judge Thos. J. Kane pays this tribute to Dr. Craig:

"I formed the acquaintance of Rev. John S. Craig a short time after the close of the

war for the preservation of the Union, which acquaintance and the friendly relation that followed, continued until the close of his life. He was a man of very marked ability; a great student and a profound scholar.

“He was a true patriot, believed in the American institutions and on the side of right and justice as he believed the right to be. As a preacher, he was learned, strong and forcible. He was a fine classical scholar, yet in his sermons he used the best and simplest language, and therefore the plainest member of his congregation would understand its true meaning, and the idea the speaker intended to convey.

“He lived in this community about a quarter of a century, during which time he was honored and respected by all. When he passed away at a ripe old age, all who knew him felt that there was a vacancy that would be hard to supply.”

Elder John Thom, of the Noblesville Presbyterian church, says:

“‘Father’ Craig, as he was familiarly known here, was a man of rare and exceptional qualities. He was of sturdy Scotch-Irish ancestry, was possessed of indomitable will power, strong convictions of right and wrong and true as steel to his moral and spiritual convictions. He had an unwavering belief in the Bible as the inspired word of God. Many of his strong sermons on the fundamental truths of the Bible are still fresh in the minds of those who have heard him and will remain as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul. I shall never forget the strong

position he held in our Presbytery. His decisions were law and never debatable.

"He is gone from us now, but his words and character remain as an inspiration to us all."

Dr. John M. Davies, former pastor of the Presbyterian Church, writes as follows:

"Of the many whom it was my privilege to know and honor during my ministry in Indiana, none entered my memory more profoundly than Rev. John Sawyer Craig, D. D. There was that in him that marked him from most men and lived in the mind after leaving his presence, so strong was the impression produced by his personality. His visage was of a highly intellectual type, denoting the deep and correct thinker, and upon it was spread the calmness of a blended dignity and kindness that kindled a sincere reverence for his character. The native force of his character was prominent, which moreover had been schooled throughout his long and honored career in the difficulties and adversities incident to his time and environment in Tennessee and Indiana. In manner of life he was modest; retiring; and his natural wants and habits were simple. He scorned disingenuousness and can't; was pious without being pietistic; religious, but not sanctimonious, showing far less without than he had within.

"Fellowship with him was an inspiration and delight, as his memory was undimmed, his reasoning power clear and forceful, while his sentences were as from a classic mould.

"His theology was distinctively evangelical, and he gloried in what the world calls Calvinism, which to him was the revealed mind of God and unchangeable for time and eternity.

Theology in his view was the science of the sciences, in which his mind loved to dwell continually and obtained its profoundest delight in fathoming into the deep things of God.

"I do not recall in my ministry a more princely burial than was given Dr. Craig from the Church in which he labored nearly twenty years. Every available space was occupied by the pressing multitude, while a great number could not be admitted. All walks in the life of the community were represented in the men and women and youths who had assembled in mournful honor of the familiar and venerable minister who had entered his heavenly reward, and in the pulpit were the local ministers and a number of his brethren of the Presbytery of Muncie, who spoke in high praise of his life and work. The day in early April was beautiful, even the elements seeming to conspire in rendering this silent anthem while the remains were borne to the crest of the hill of the tomb."

Some time in the seventies my father was given the degree of Doctor of Divinity by his alma mater. He thoroughly believed in the missionary cause and was a liberal giver to all the Boards of the church. In his last bequest he gave \$1,600 to the different Boards—money that he had saved by the strictest economy and the most arduous labor.

My mother, Sydney Neil Houston, was the youngest of fourteen children of Major James Houston. Five of her sisters married preachers. She was a noble woman, of tender affec-

tion, sweet disposition and wonderful patience. Like the writer, she was afflicted with deafness, but submitted without murmuring to the trials and inconveniences that it brought upon her. In her early life she showed much artistic ability, and pictures now in the possession of relatives, painted by her more than a half century ago, are prized very highly. She was passionately fond of her home and family, and to them she gave her love and her life work. To her name and memory we offer the tribute of our heart's affection!

To John S. and S. N. Craig were born the following children :

		BORN.	DIED.
	James Houston Craig.....	May 7, 1842	Oct. 15, 1842
	Mary Caroline Craig.....	Nov. 20, 1843	.....
	Nancy Elizabeth Craig.....	Jan. 29, 1846	April 10, 1894
III	Samuel Hanson Cox Craig.....	July 1, 1848	.....
	Malinda Hester Craig.....	Mar. 23, 1851	Sept. 3, 1860
	John Chalmers Craig.....	July 27, 1854	.....
	William Houston Craig.....	Mar. 23, 1857	.....

John S. Craig died April 4, 1893; Sydney Neil Craig died Jan. 1, 1892; and are both buried in Crownland Cemetery, Noblesville, Indiana.

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Mary C. Craig, unmarried, lived with her parents until their death, and was a great help and comfort to them in their old age. She still lives in Noblesville and is active in church and charitable work.

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Elizabeth Craig married Thomas C. Fisher at Anderson, Ind., March 13, 1866, and died

April 10, 1894. She was a remarkable woman. Although being the mother of ten children, yet she always found time to do her full share of church and charitable work. Her death was peculiarly sad and unfortunate, as it left this large family of small children to the care of her bereaved husband. In his great sorrow and added parental responsibility, Thomas C. Fisher exhibited the patience and courage of a martyr. Mr. Fisher and family still live at Anderson. He was born Feb. 15, 1840.

Their children are as follows:

		BORN.	DIED.
	Charles H. Fisher.....	July 22, 1867	Jan. 19, 1892
	John Craig Fisher.....	Apr. 14, 1870	.....
	Chauncey B. Fisher.....	Jan. 8, 1873	.....
	Houston S. Fisher.....	June 7, 1875	.....
IV	Carrie B. Fisher.....	May 11, 1878	.....
	George F. Fisher.....	May 11, 1878	Jan. 23, 1903
	Thomas C. Fisher, Jr.....	Nov. 1, 1880	.....
	Robert W. Fisher.....	Nov. 24, 1883	.....
	Paul L. Fisher.....	May 15, 1887	.....
	Benjamin S. Fisher.....	June 13, 1890	.....

John Craig Fisher was married to Miss Grace D. Creed Sept. 12, 1894, and to them was born Elizabeth Creed Fisher Oct. 29, 1901.

Carrie Belle Fisher was married to Rev. Paul R. Talbott Nov. 8, 1899, and to them was born John E. Talbott Dec. 29, 1900. They now reside at Hutchison, Kansas.

George F. Fisher was married to Ruth B. Knight May 22, 1902.

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**Samuel H. C. Craig**, eldest living son of John S. and Sydney N. Craig, lives at Nobles-

ville, and is a successful farmer and stock dealer. He was Treasurer of Hamilton county during the years 1900 and 1901. He married Miss Jane Loehr, daughter of Daniel and Rachel Drake Loehr, Jan. 9, 1876. Jane Loehr was born Jan. 30, 1855.

Their children are :

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IV } { Harry Loehr Craig, born February 12, 1877.  
      { John Daniel Craig, born October 19, 1881.  
      { William Sydney Craig, born January 7, 1884.

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Harry L. Craig married Frank Alice Davidson, daughter of Howard and Eliza Ridgeway Davidson, Feb. 14, 1900.

John D. Craig married Margaret Edwards, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles V. Edwards, Nov. 12, 1903.

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**John C. Craig** began his business career as a grocery clerk. By industry and perseverance he soon became a partner of his employers, and afterwards succeeded to the sole ownership of a very large and prosperous business. He was one of the few merchants that succeed. He retired from business a few years ago and is now devoting his time looking after his three farms. He with his family are living in the city of Noblesville. He was married Nov. 10, 1882, to Miss Sallie Evans, daughter of Hon. James L. and Sarah Evans. His first wife died Aug. 5, 1883. To them was born one child, Sallie Evans Craig, who is now a student



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WILL HOUSTON CRAIG.

at Indiana University. He was married again Oct. 10, 1889, to Miss Mary Prudence Arnett, daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Moses Arnett of Hanover, Indiana—Scotch-Irish Presbyterians of United Brethren faith. To them were born six children, as follows:

IV	Mary Elizabeth Craig, born Dec. 14, 1890.
	Chauncey Arnett Craig, born Sept. 23, 1892.
	James Lloyd Craig, born Nov. 6, 1894.
	Sydney Pollock Craig, born Oct. 28, 1896.
	Anna Prudence Craig, born March 13, 1901.
	Josephine Craig, born Dec. 15, 1902.

X X X X

**William Houston Craig** when a boy attended the public schools at Noblesville. With his brothers during the summers he helped their father in farming. Father Craig believed there was no exercise so good for the physical development of the boys during the summer vacation as that secured in tilling the soil. In 1876 he entered Hanover College, and graduated in 1880 with the degree of A. B. A few years ago his alma mater conferred the degree of Master of Arts upon him. For two years after graduation he taught the Grammar School at Noblesville. The two years following he studied law with Moss & Stephenson. A failure in his hearing compelled him to give up the law profession. In 1884 he went into the grocery and seed business, and for twelve years pursued a very "strenuous" life. Like his brother John, he made a success of his business, and retired in 1896. In November,

1896, he entered the newspaper business, and since that time has been the Editor of the Daily and Semi-weekly Ledger, the Republican organ of Hamilton county. He has taken an active part in politics, but has had no desire to hold office. He has served as Director and Trustee in many corporations; was Treasurer of two of the leading Building and Loan Associations of Noblesville for ten years and handled nearly a million dollars; was Trustee of the Noblesville School Board six years, and was largely instrumental in securing the erection of the new High School building; he was a Delegate to the Republican National Convention in 1900 that nominated McKinley and Roosevelt. Nov. 26, 1884, he was married to Matilda Emma Hare, daughter of Wesley and Mourning Tut Hare, his father, Dr. Craig, officiating. To them were born four children, two of whom died in infancy. They are:

		BORN.	DIED.
IV	Shirley Sydney Craig.....	Dec 12, 1886	.....
	Nellie Marguerite Craig ...	Feb 6, 1889	Mar. 20, 1889
	Alma Craig .....	Nov. 30, 1891	Dec. 7, 1891
	Houston Hare Craig.....	Sept. 19, 1893	.....

Shirley Craig is now attending Rollins College at Winter Park, Florida.





*Houston:*

Houston Coat of Arms.

## HOUSTON COAT-OF-ARMS.

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The "Coat-of-Arms" is registered in the "Office of Heraldry," London, and is described as follows:

"A greyhound rampant on a broken column. An hourglass with the last sand running out. The motto, 'In tempore.'"

The origin of these emblems is said to have been this: At an early period in the history of the Houstons, John Houston, with a body of soldiers, reenforced a broken column, and for his great courage and energy was knighted on the field of battle. The GREYHOUND indicates the fleetness of his command in coming to the rescue; the "LAST SAND" of the hourglass the perilous extremity of the army; and the MOTTO ("In Time") its victory.

## HOUSTON GENEALOGY.

John Houston, the progenitor of all that branch of the Houstons to which the writer belongs in America, came from Ireland with his family in 1735. He first settled in Pennsylvania, but in a few years removed to Rock-bridge county, Virginia. His children were as follows:

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II	{	1. James Houston.	5. John Houston.
		2. Robert Houston.	6. Samuel Houston
		3. Isabella Houston.	7. Matthew Houston.
		4. Esther Houston.	

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It is tradition that the Houstons dwelt on the "Lowlands" of Scotland, and being persecuted for their religious opinions, fled to Ireland to escape their bloodthirsty enemies. They took a decided stand in favor of the Reformation; adopted early the tenets of Calvin; sustained with their hearts' substance and blood the religious views of John Knox; and were persecuted for their rigid adherence to the Bible as their rule of faith and practice and to "Presbytery" as the scriptural form of church government.

## SAMUEL HOUSTON.

Samuel Houston, the sixth child of John Houston, was born in Ireland in 1728, and was seven years old when he came to this country with his parents. He married Elizabeth McCroskey March 20, 1753. Their children were as follows:

III	}	1. John Houston.	5. William Houston.
		2. James Houston.	6. Matthew Houston.
		3. Robert Houston.	7. Elizabeth Houston.
		4. Margaret Houston.	

Of these children James, the second child and grandfather of the writer, was born in Rockbridge county, Virginia, Nov. 12, 1757. In the year 1782 he moved to Washington county, Virginia, and a few years later to Blount county, Tennessee, where he lived till his death. He was an intelligent and influential citizen of his county. He was a Delegate to the Convention which framed the first Constitutional Convention of Tennessee. Afterwards he served with credit to himself and profit to the State in both branches of the Legislature. He was next elected Clerk of the Circuit Court of Blount county, Tennessee, which office he held for forty years, until he became blind and unable to perform its duties—though in his blindness he led an active life. He bore the title of "Major," and was a gentleman of worth and distinguished popularity.

James Houston was twice married. His first wife was Esther Houston (his cousin),

and his second wife was Pollie Gillespie. By his first wife he had the following children :

IV	1. Patsy Houston.	3. Robert Houston.
	2. Betsy Houston.	4. Malinda Houston.

By his second wife :

IV	5. Esther Houston.	10. Samuel F. Houston.
	6. Hettie Houston.	11. Patsy G. Houston.
	7. Lucinda Houston.	12. Betsy Gillespie Houston.
	8. Phebe M. Houston.	13. Malinda G. Houston.
	9. Polly Houston.	14. Sydney Neil Houston.

The Houstons, like most of the early settlers, believed in large families, and thousands of the descendants of Col. John Houston, who came over from Ireland in 1735, are now scattered all over this country. Many of them have become distinguished in public life, and nearly all have become influential and useful citizens.





General Sam Houston at the Battle of San Jacinta.

## GENERAL SAM HOUSTON.

Of the hundreds of descendants of Col. John Houston, who came to this country in 1785, none of the name or blood has become so distinguished as Gen. Sam Houston, and a few salient points in his career are here in order. He was a cousin of my mother, and I have heard her speak of him often as a visitor at her home. For the facts about Sam Houston, as well as much of the data concerning the Houston family, I am indebted to Rev. Samuel Rutherford Houston, D. D., of Pickaway, West Virginia, who, in 1882, published a history of the "Houston Family." Sam Houston was an odd, unique character, but forceful and influential. He was born March 2, 1798, in Virginia. His father died in 1807. Soon after this they moved to Blount county, Tennessee, and located on a farm. He cared not for books, but loved the wildness of the woods and the romance of Indian life. He was a born soldier, and when 18 years of age engaged in the war of 1812 under Gen. Andrew Jackson. In 1818 he studied law, and was soon admitted to the bar. His natural ability enabled him to master anything he undertook. He afterwards was elected to Congress, and became one of the most effective Speakers of the House. About 1826 he was elected Governor of Tennessee and soon thereafter contracted an unfortunate marriage. He sep-

arated from his wife, resigned the Governorship and retired to the wigwam of an Indian Chief. From this wild life among the Indians he drifted to Texas, where the revolutionary movement was brewing. He was mainly instrumental in achieving its independence. On the banks of the San Jacinto, with a small army, he overcame and captured the Mexican Chief, Santa Anna, but generously spared his life, and finally gave him his liberty. It has been said that the reason for this humane action was because they were both Masons. He was the first President of Texas, and was elected the second time, in 1841. By wise and skillful diplomacy he secured the annexation of Texas to the United States, which occurred in 1844. He represented Texas in the United States Senate, and distinguished himself as an orator of high rank and as a genuine patriot. During the stormy period preceding the Civil war he was loyal to the Union, and it is said that when Texas went out of the Union that it broke his heart. "Sam" Houston cared not for money. He had great opportunities to accumulate riches, but would not avail himself of them. It was a saying of his: "Of all men in the world, I hate a miser the most. I am afraid to get a dollar ahead, for fear I become one."

Few men were of a more noble or commanding appearance; about six feet two or three

inches in height, with a large frame, and just the amount of flesh to give symmetry to his person. He was of courteous and captivating manners, and always cherished sincere affection for his relatives in every station or condition of life. Some have charged him with vanity; but if the charge was true, he certainly had more to be vain of than the great majority of men.

The following, from a "weekly," was certainly written by someone familiar with the character and habits of "Old Sam Houston":

"He had served as a soldier in the war of 1812; as Governor of Tennessee; as an Indian Chief, while an exile among the Cherokees; and as Commander-in-Chief of the Texan army; first President of the Republic of Texas. In the streets of Washington, at one time, his tall figure, six and one-fourth feet high, and singular dress, attracted attention. On his head he wore a Mexican 'sombbrero,' while a bright-colored blanket was thrown negligently over his shoulders; his coat and pants, of the richest broadcloth, set off in a neat vest of tiger-skin. In the Senate chamber he would sit all day whittling, with a pile of soft wood, and a basket to hold the shavings, by his side. Young ladies and children were quite anxious to secure the *hearts, darts, crosses, etc.*, which the Senatorial whittler made. Around his bedroom at the hotel hung several printed

cards, on which were inscribed: 'My bedtime is nine o'clock.'

"As a stump-speaker the backwoodsmen, who called him 'Old Sam,' thought he had no equal. He had a melodious voice, excelled as a relater of anecdotes, and was fond, though he spoke pure English, of dropping into the *patois* of his frontier audiences. In 1859 (eighteen hundred and fifty-nine) the Legislature of Texas refused to re-elect him Senator, because he had voted against the 'Kansas-Nebraska Bill' He ran for Governor. In one of his speeches, during the excited canvass, he said: 'But, fellow-citizens, you *whooped* me good. Now, *ef* I *done* wrong, you have had your satisfaction; and, *ef* you have done wrong, God knows I forgive you.' The backwoodsmen cheered the man who could talk to them in their own *lingo*, and Houston was elected by an overwhelming majority."





