

## *History of West Virginia and the People*

About *West Virginia History*, Vol. 2

A part of Virginia until the American Civil War, West Virginia was home to about 1.2 million people in 1910. This database is the second of three volumes covering the history of the state, originally published in 1913. Beginning with the earliest explorers to the region, it provides a detailed account of the state's development. Additionally, it contains biographical sketches of important residents. Of particular use to the researcher are these brief histories and genealogies. Names of ancestors and descendants are included in many entries, making this an invaluable tool for the researcher whose ancestors lived in West Virginia.

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### The Hamblin Line.

The name **Hamblen**, **Hamblin**, or **Hamlin**, usually spelled at the present time in the last manner, is supposed to be of Germanic origin, but the name has long been found in New England, and **Alice (Hamblin) Kreps** seems to have been of old New England ancestry in many lines. **Hamelin** is still a common name in France, and is found among French Canadians. Several of the name are said to have gone in the army of William the Conqueror to England in 1066, and the name has since been common in England. Anciently spelled **Hameline**, a later form was **Hamlyn**, and other forms are found. Several of this name have come to America from England, with a few from Ireland and Scotland, and some from France. They settled in New England and the south; the name has been found in New Jersey, but that family is thought to be of New England descent. One family is especially associated with Connecticut, and is probably related to the Cape Cod family. By far the largest family of the Cape Cod, Massachusetts, descent, the immigrant, James, having come from London, England, and settled at Barnstable, Massachusetts, in 1639. To this family it is most probable that the Hamblin's now under consideration pertain. From it have come Hannibal Hamlin, vice-president of the United States with Lincoln, and Rev. Cyrus Hamlin, the founder of Robert College, Constantinople, Turkey.

I. **John, or Simeon, Hamblin**, the first member of the present line about whom we have definite information, is said to have been born in Maine; he was a pioneer of Essex County, New York. His wife was **Lois (Knapp) Hamblin**, probably daughter of **Ebenezer and Elizabeth (Mason) Knapp**, who was born, presumably in Massachusetts, June 16, 1743.

II. **Samuel, son of John (or Simeon) Hamblin**, was born May 7, 1777, it is said in Connecticut, and died in Licking county, Ohio, in 1838. He married **Rhoda**, daughter of **James Smith**, also said to be a native of Connecticut. After his death she came to Mercer County, Pennsylvania.

III. **John Knapp, son of Samuel Hamblin**, was born at Washington, Essex County, New York, March 2, 1809. In 1829 he settled at Unionville, Licking County, Ohio, and in that county he was a school teacher two years. Afterward he had charge of a furnace store in the same county for three years, and still later had a similar position in Cleveland, Ohio. In 1835 he returned east, going to Wilmington, Essex County, New York, but after his marriage went immediately to Lake County, Ohio. There he lived until March, 1838, when he moved to Greenville, Mercer County, Pennsylvania. In that town he opened the first foundry, and he was engaged in this business

almost continuously for about fifty years. He was a Republican. Mr. Hamblin married (first) at Wilmington, New York, September 20, 1835, **Elizabeth Hickok**, born in Essex county, New York, September 10, 1810, died in November, 1846; (second) in April, 1848, **Eunice (Brooks) Hunstable**, born July 4, 1808, died April 6, 1888, daughter of **Pelathiah and Eunice (Gleason) Brooks**. She was a maternal granddaughter of **Phineas Gleason**, who married **Margaret, daughter of John and Sarah (Crawford) Kelso**. Children of John Knapp Hamblin, first five-named by first, others by second, marriage. **Henry M.; Mary E., married---Thalimer; Samuel; Harriet, married---Donaldson; Emeline, married---McClelland; Albert; Alice, married Adam Turney Kreps** (see Kreps IV); **J. Charles**.

(IV) **Adam Turney, son of Jacob Fordney and Eliza (Turney) Kreps**, was born in Franklin County, Pennsylvania, December 31, 1842. In the civil war he served three and one-half years as a private in the Fifteenth Pennsylvania Cavalry, the One Hundred and Forty-fifth Pennsylvania Volunteers. For a time he was first lieutenant in the Ninety-second Regiment, United States Colored Infantry. Among the battles in which he had part were Antietam and Chancellorsville. Settling at Greenville, Mercer County, Pennsylvania, he was a manufacturer of engines and saw mills. Later he moved into West Virginia, and here he was engaged in the timber and lumber industry and was a producer of oil and gas. He was a Republican and a Methodist, a trustee of the First Methodist Episcopal Church at Parkersburg. He married, at Greenville, Alice, born in Mercer County, August 8, 1849, daughter of **John Knapp and Eunice (Brooks-Hunstable) Hamblin** (see Hamblin III). Children of Adam Turney and Alice (Hamblin) Kreps: 1. **John Jacob** born January 31, 1871, died in September, 1894. 2. **Charles Albert**, of whom further. 3. **Adam Turney**, born September 25, 1880; living at Muskogee, Oklahoma; married **Florence Frame**. 4. **Alice Catharine**, born August 25, 1882; married **Marshall B. Weir**. 5. **William Augustus**, born December 2, 1884; unmarried.

(V) **Charles Albert, son of Adam Turney and Alice (Hamblin) Kreps**, was born at Greenville, Mercer County, Pennsylvania, January 25, 1875. He was graduated from the high school of his native place, January 22, 1892. In June, 1899, he graduated from Marietta College, Marietta, Ohio, receiving there from the degree of Bachelor of Arts. His legal studies were made at George Washington University, of which he is a graduate, receiving the degree of Bachelor of Laws, in the class of 1902. Six months after his graduation in law, in November, 1903, Mr. Kreps, having in the meantime passed the bar examinations for admission in West Virginia and in the District of Columbia, began professional practice at Parkersburg, and here he has since lived, engaged in general legal practice. He is well known in this city, both professionally and in political affairs. Mr. Kreps is a member of the Greek Letter fraternities, Delta Upsilon, at Marietta College, and Phi Delta Phi, at the law school of George Washington University. In Masonry he is a member of Mount Olivet Lodge, No. 3, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons; Jerusalem Chapter, No. 3, Royal Arch Masons; Calvary Commandery, No. 3, Knights Templar; Purnell Lodge of Perfection, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite; and Odell S. Long Chapter, Rose Croix, all of Parkersburg. He is a member of the Graduates' Club, of New York City. In politics he is a Republican, and at the present time he is a member of the Republican committee of Wood County, West Virginia; filling a vacancy, acting as chairman. On January 1, 1912, he was appointed assistant prosecuting attorney. Mr. Kreps is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He is unmarried.