

EX-GOV. WICKLIFFE DIES IN KENTUCKY.

The Louisiana Leader Passes Away
at Shelbyville,
After a Long and Eventful Life,
During Which
He Won Success in Law, Agriculture
and Politics,
and Did Good Service for His
Adopted State, Which Hon-
ored Him.

Louisville, Ky., April 18. (Special.)
A dispatch just received says that Ex-
Governor Robert C. Wickliffe died at
Shelbyville at 4 o'clock this afternoon.
The funeral will be held Sunday, and
the remains will be buried in the old
family burial ground at Bardstown, Ky.



ROBERT C. WICKLIFFE.

Governor Robert C. Wickliffe, son of
Governor Charles A. Wickliffe, of Ken-
tucky, was born at Bardstown, Ky., Jan.
1820. The father was the governor of
Kentucky in 1830, a member of congress
for ten consecutive years from
1833 to 1843. He figured in
some of the highest offices in
the state and died at the age of 82 in
1902. There is quite a family of the
Wickliffes and they have figured to some
extent in the politics of this and other
states. The Wickliffes of America are the
direct descendants of John Wickliffe, the
celebrated English reformer, whose transla-
tion of the Bible excited the Catholic
prejudice against him and marks an epoch
in the religion of modern times.

Governor Robert C. Wickliffe was
named after his uncle, Robert I. Wick-
liffe, the most celebrated and successful
lawyer in the state of Kentucky,
and so great a friend of Henry Clay,
that he voted for him once when he
was opposed to his own brother, the
father of Robert C. He was once charge
of the canal to Sardina.

The year 1855 was remarkable for the
vicious contest waged by the Demo-
cratic party against the American, or
Pro-Knox party, which had sud-
denly sprang into existence. It was
in this state that the new party
went to make a vigorous fight and would
test every inch of ground. It was
under these circumstances that the nomi-
nation for the governorship of the Dem-
ocratic party fell to Robert C. Wickliffe,
a young capable and aggressive cam-
paigner, and, after a splendid cam-
paign, he was elected in November, 1855.
The circumstances at once gave him a
national reputation.

Governor Wickliffe was prepared for
service in Kentucky, under the tutorship
of Dr. Marshall, of Kentucky. First he
attended St. Joseph's College for one
year, then Augusta College for two years,
and after that Centre College for two
years, where he graduated in a class of
seventeen. Out of this class some of the
most prominent men in the history of
Kentucky politics were hatched.

From his early days, Governor Wick-
liffe manifested a liking for the courts,
and whenever there was any debate in
any way of hearing he abandoned every-
thing else and listened to the argument.
He began the study of law and was ad-
mitted to practice at Bardstown, Ky.,
where he practiced for two years and
then, his health failing, he removed to
Louisiana and settled in West Feliciana
parish, in 1846, where he has resided in
law, farming, law and occasionally
taken a hand in politics. In his law work
he has defended fifty men on the charge
of murder, and only in one instance did
the client hang, then an accessory turned
state's evidence. All of the others were
acquitted. Hard study, polished manners
and the prestige that an illustrious name
made him at once one of the
most men to anything he undertook
made him the successful man he
is.

His governor was a great man, Mason,
is not known to have belonged to any
other organization. He was three times
elected to the state legislature as sen-
ator from West Feliciana, and on the
death of Lieutenant Governor Farmer
was elected president of the senate,
which position he held until he was
elected governor in 1853. He was seated
in 1856 and served for four years. After
that term he retired to his home and gave
attention to law and planting. In
1861 he was elected to congress, but was
prevented from taking his seat, owing to the
construction measures of that epoch.
In 1876 he was a presidential elector
in the state at large, making a vigor-
ous canvass of the state in the interest
of the Tilden ticket. The same year he
was chairman of the Louisiana delegation
to the national Democratic convention at
Louisiana, and voted for the nomination
of Tilden.

While state senator he took an active
part in the cause of common school edu-
cation, being chairman of that committee
for several years and opposing a division
of the fund among religious denomina-
tions, holding that it would be ruinous.

Governor Wickliffe married in Wash-
ington, D. C., in February, 1847, Miss
Elizabeth Dawson, only daughter of John B.
Dawson, member of congress from Louisi-
ana, from 1841 to 1845, who was the
daughter of Governor James Johnson, of
Louisiana, granddaughter of her mother's
father, John H. Johnson, an early settler
in the Florida parishes of Louisiana.
Governor Wickliffe was remarkable for his
physical and mental accomplishments and
his commanding disposition, and was universally
loved. She died in May, 1853, leaving
him a child, a daughter, Margaret, who
was the wife of J. C. Buckharp, a law-
yer of high reputation, of Shelbyville, Ky.

Governor Wickliffe was brought up un-
der the influence of the Presbyterian de-
nominations, and he has been a generous
contributor to church enterprises
and has been in his attention to the
welfare of the church.
When last Governor Wickliffe figured
in politics of some moment in the state
was during the last state campaign,
when the McEnerys and the Foster En-
erys were opposed. He was indiffer-
ent rather conservative man. He was de-
clined the nomination for the McEnery
ticket for the lieutenant governorship,
and the defeat of that ticket he went
back to his home and his work with all
the energy of the younger days. It
must have been observed that whenever
a majestic figure of the rapidly aging
type appeared on the convention floor
there was a hush that is only to be found
where the greatest respect is felt. His
strong locks that hung down his back
seemed to command the reverence shown
to him. He was a man of large figure and

weighed at least 220 pounds. About his
countenance and his carriage there was
that air and grace that becomes the Ken-
tuckian and polished southerner. All in
all he was an interesting character in the
politics of Louisiana, and always a Demo-
crat.