

# 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  
preachers 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  
struggle waged by the Demo-  
cratic party against the American, or  
Pro-Knox party, which had sud-  
denly sprung 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 August 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 in 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  
manly, mental accomplishments and  
winning disposition, and was universally  
loved. She died in May, 1873, leaving  
one child, a daughter, Margaret, who  
was the wife of J. C. Buckner, a law-  
yer of high reputation, of Shelbyville, Ky.

Governor Wickliffe was brought up un-  
der the influence of the Presbyterian de-  
nomination, 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-  
gels were opposed. He was indiffer-  
ent rather conservative man. He was de-  
clined the nomination for the govern-  
ment 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  
he 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.