

THE FRANKLIN TIMES.

J. S. A. THOMAS, Editor & Proprietor.

THE COUNTY, THE STATE THE UNION

LOUISBURG, N. C., FRIDAY, JULY 29, 1904.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY.

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Sunday School at 9:30 A. M.
Geo. S. BAKER, Supt.
Preaching at 11 A. M., and 8:15 P. M.
every Sunday.
Prayer meeting Wednesday night,
L. S. MARSH, Pastor.

BAPTIST.
Sunday School at 9:30 A. M.
Thos. B. WILSON, Supt.
Preaching at 11 A. M., and 8:15 P. M.
every Sunday.
Prayer meeting Thursday night,
H. H. MASHBURN, Pastor.

EPISCOPAL.
Sunday School at 9:30.
W. H. RUFFIN, Supt.
Services morning and night, on
1st, 3rd and 4th Sundays.
Evening Prayer, Friday afternoon
REV. JOHN LINDON, Rector.

PRESBYTERIAN.
Services 4th Sunday in each month
morning and night.
Pastor.

LOUISIANA.
Loubourg Lodge, No. 412, A. F. &
A. M., meets 1st and 3rd Tuesday
nights in each month.

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Henry Cassaway Davis

Career of the Democratic Vice Presidential Candidate—He Was Born on a Farm and Was the First Railroad Brakeman in America—A Man of Millions

HENRY GASSAWAY DAVIS, the Democratic vice presidential nominee, is a man with more than an ordinary business and political career. In West Virginia and nearby states he long has been regarded as a financial giant, and his political life has been characterized by conservatism and sagacity. His nomination at St. Louis centers upon him the peculiar distinction of being the oldest candidate ever selected for the office. Mr. Davis having been born in Woodstock, Md., on Nov. 16, 1823. His father was Caleb Davis, a successful Baltimore merchant, who died a few years after the son's birth, and his mother was a Miss Louise Brown, whose sister was the mother of Senator Gorman of Maryland. Like Judge Parker, Mr. Davis spent his early days on a farm. He received his education in a village school and at the age of twenty entered the employ of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad as a brakeman. This was the first railroad built in America, and Mr. Davis has the distinction of having been the first brakeman on any rail-



HENRY GASSAWAY DAVIS.

road in the United States. He was soon advanced to the position of conductor and was then the only railroad conductor in the country. An amusing story illustrative of the grip of early associations on a retentive nature used to be told of him in Washington. It is said that, well toward morning of a wearisome all night session of the senate, Senator Davis was asleep, his head resting upon his desk. Senator Edmunds had provoked Judge Thurman to a speech, and by introduction the judge unfurled his red bandanna and blew a blast of more than usual power. Mr. Davis may have been dreaming of his old railroad days. At any rate, he sprang to his feet in a half dazed condition, and catching sight of the red flag—the old signal of danger—and seeming to imagine that he had heard a shriek of alarm from the open throttle of a locomotive calling for "Down brakes!" seized his desk and with the brakeman's quick twist wrenched it from the floor. It was while serving as a conductor that Mr. Davis met and formed the acquaintance of Henry Clay, who was a passenger upon Mr. Davis' train while going from his Kentucky home to the capital and returning. Clay would board the train in Baltimore and leave it at its western terminus and make the journey over the mountains into Kentucky in the old-fashioned "stagecoach." Mr. Davis got his first

tests for politics from Henry Clay in his conversations with that great statesman during these trips over the Baltimore and Ohio, and he cast his first ballot for Clay for president. Later he became station agent at Piedmont. Having served with the railroad company for forty years, he turned his attention to commercial pursuits and established the firm of Davis & Bros. at Piedmont. Socially he always was diffident, even backward at times, but when called upon he never failed to declare his convictions. In his railroad life, how-

ever, his practical skill, courage and energy overcame all difficulties. Piedmont was the center of the Cumberland bituminous coal region. The present great coal fields of that part of the country were then undeveloped, and Davis perceived that that section was one of immense industrial promise. The firm of Davis & Bros. engaged in the shipping of coal and lumber for the producers, and its business grew rapidly. In 1850 Henry G. Davis organized the Piedmont Savings Bank and became its president. This bank was incorporated by the National Bank of Piedmont, of which Mr. Davis is also the guiding spirit. His and his brothers' whose possessions were originally insignificant, have since been able to count their capital by millions, while their landed estate at one time approximated 100,000 acres. Before the war Mr. Davis was a Whig, while after the close he allied himself with the conservative wing of the Democratic party. He made his entry into politics in 1835, when he was elected to the West

eighty-first year, is as apt as a man of sixty, and a good deal spryer than many. He was a delegate to the recent national convention and a member of the committee on resolutions. He was chosen as one of the sub-committee that had charge of the platform, and he stayed on all night during the deliberations of that committee at the Jefferson hotel at noon the next day he did not appear fatigued, and he told his friends he could stand another twenty-four hours of it, as well as another. He favored the insertion of a gold plank in the platform. When his name was being considered by the national convention there was some question as to whether he reported Bryan in 1856 and 1860. Chairman Jones of the Democratic national committee put it at rest by saying that in 1856 Senator Davis presided at a Bryan meeting in West Virginia, and voted for Bryan. At that time Senator Davis was engaged in building a railroad and had a large obligation at a bank which he desired to renew. When he went to the bank the president said: "I understand you presided at a Bryan meeting last night." "Yes," said Davis. "What of it?" "Well," said the bank president, "don't you know that the theories of Bryan are opposed to all the financial institutions in this country? I do not see how you can come to this bank as any other for favors, holding the views that you do." "Do you mean to say," asked Davis, "that the fact that I remain loyal to the Democratic party makes any difference with my credit here?" "Not at all," said the bank president. "But we are not inclined to do any favors for such people." "This is no favor to me," said Davis. "I am simply carrying this obligation as a business transaction, and if you don't want to renew it I'll pay it now and withdraw my patronage from the bank."

The bank president grew alarmed at this, because Senator Davis is heavily invested in financial operations in West Virginia, and a refusal to reconsider, Davis would not reconsider. He paid the obligation in cash that afternoon and cut that bank off his list of business connections. Senator Davis is many times a millionaire. He has been an enthusiastic Gorman man ever since the canvass for the Democratic nominee in 1864 began. At one time he said he would spend a million dollars to secure the nomination of Gorman, and it was no more his boast, because he had the money and would spend it. Personally, Senator Davis is an affable, genial man, democratic and modest. He does not look his years, and to the casual observer he would appear to be not more than thirty-five. He is more than six feet tall, erect and straight as in the days of his youth. His shoulders are square. He is well muscled. He has a spry step and a good walk. There is not the slightest wringing of his body, and he walks as if he were a young man. His face is not deeply furrowed, and his wrinkles appear about the eyes. His beard of snowy whiteness is a feature that does more to denote advanced age than any other. The whole bearing of the man denotes a vigorous, vigorous interest in life, and the matters that appeal to his attention. His daughter, Mrs. Stephen B. Elkins, is one of Washington's noted entertainers, and her gracious welcomes has won her many friends. Ex-Senator Davis is but one of many vigorous old men who are still active in public life. Here is a list of some of the prominent old men who are still active and still live Mr. Davis: Ex-Speaker Gresham of Pennsylvania, 80; ex-Vice President Levi F. Morton, 80; Senator John T. Morgan of Alabama, 80; Senator George F. Hoar of Massachusetts, 77; ex-Secretary Brewster, 80; Senator Edmund W. Pettus of Alabama, 80; Senator William F. Fitz of Maine, 72. Russell Sage, capitalist, at the age of eighty-seven is still active in Wall street, and Charles H. Brown, Harvard trustee every day in every part and mechanical engineer in New York, although he is in his seventy-sixth year.

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Champ Clark's Letter

Democratic Rally to Support of Taylor, Nominations at the National Convention

Special Washington Letter.

THE campaign which the Democratic party is waging for the nomination of Champ Clark at the National Convention is being waged with vigor and enthusiasm. The party is rallying to the support of Taylor, Nominations at the National Convention.

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