

A Sketch of the Life of Judge Hargis.

Judge Thomas Frazier Hargis, who is to succeed Judge Elliott, is a son of John and Elizabeth (Weddington) Hargis. He was born June 24, 1842, at Jackson, Breathitt county, Ky. His father was a native of Washington county, Va.; was a lawyer, and never changed his profession; came to this State in 1826; first located in Pike county; in 1839 went to Breathitt; in 1856 removed to Rowan, where he now resides, at Morehead, in the practice of his profession.

He was for twelve years clerk of the county and circuit courts of Breathitt county; was a member of the Constitutional Convention of 1849; was assistant United States marshal in 1850, and has been, for eight or nine years, county attorney for Rowan county. His grandfather, Samuel Hargis, was of English origin, and a soldier in the Revolutionary war. His mother was also a native of Washington county, Va., of German origin, and daughter of Jacob Weddington, an early settler of Pike and Morgan counties of this State, and a soldier in the war of 1812.

The subject of this sketch was raised on a farm, and was educated in the private schools of the country. During the fall and winter of 1860 he studied law, while looking after his father's mercantile interests at Morehead. In August, 1861, he enlisted as a private in Company H, Fifth Kentucky Confederate infantry, under Col. John S. Williams. He served with the regiment until its time expired. After the battle of Princeton, West Virginia, in May, 1862, he was promoted to brevet second lieutenant, for gallant conduct in action, as a leader of the skirmish line. During this service he was engaged in the battle of Middle Creek.

In October, 1862, he enlisted in Col. Jack May's Tenth Kentucky Confederate cavalry, as a member of Company E; remained associated with the regiment until the close of the war. He was engaged in the battles of Blue Springs, Blountsville, siege of Knoxville, Big Creek, Crocket's Cove, Cynthiana, Mt. Sterling, and various smaller engagements. He was wounded in a skirmish at the foot of Card Ridge in the fall of 1863, by a minnie ball; was wounded by a ball in the right shoulder at the battle of Cynthiana, June 12, 1864, and captured; on the following night escaped; was wounded by a musket ball in the left knee, and taken prisoner in General Sheridan's fight with Early, in Virginia; was sent to Harper's Ferry, escaped and was soon after recaptured; sent to Old Capitol at Washington, and afterward removed to Johnson's Island, where he remained until the close of the war.

April 8, 1863, he was made first lieutenant of Company E; on June 9, was promoted to the captaincy; and, in Early's campaign against Sheridan, in 1864, he commanded his regiment. Immediately after returning to his father's at Morehead, he resumed the study of the law, and was admitted to the bar in the spring of 1866, and entered into practice in Rowan county in connection with Judge John M. Elliott.

In the fall of 1868 he located at Carlisle, Nicholas county, where he has since remained, actively engaged in the profession. In 1869 he was elected county judge of Nicholas county; re-elected in 1870 without opposition; resigned in 1871, and was elected to the State Senate, and served until 1875. During his entire term he served on the judiciary committee. From 1870 to 1874 he was master commissioner of Nicholas county.

He is a Democrat. Religiously he is associated with the Christian Church. Captain Hargis was married June 23, 1869, to Miss Lucy S. Norvell, of Nicholas county, daughter of William Norvell, a lawyer of Carlisle, who represented the county in the Legislature in 1833 and 1834; was for two terms judge of the county; filled other prominent trusts in the community, and died September 5, 1875.

While a member of the Senate, Captain Hargis engaged in the exciting debate on the university bill, and the *Woodford Weekly* and other papers pronounced his the finest speech on the subject. He also made legal arguments on negro testimony, and on the Licking river bill, which were published.