

Accession No. M1981-1010
Bruce Collection
Box 3, Folder 67

[Original and COPY of obituary for Henry Bruce, Sr. who died on July 10, 1855 at the age of 70 at his Fleming County residence; the origin of this typed transcript is unknown; document typed in all caps]

DIED

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SUDDENLY AT HIS RESIDENCE IN FLEMING COUNTY, ON THE NIGHT OF THE 10TH. INSTANT, HENRY BRUCE, SR., IN THE 70TH. YEAR OF HIS AGE.

IMPELLED BY SENTIMENTS OF PROFOUND ESTEEM AND RESPECT – AND BY A FEELING OF WARM PERSONAL ATTACHMENT FOR THE HUNDRED DEAD – WE ARE INDUCED TO OFFER A BRIEF TRIBUTE [TEXT MISSING] RESPECT TO HIS MEMORY. YET DEEPLY CONSCIOUS OF OUR INABILITY TO DO JUSTICE TO THE SUBJECT.

HENRY BRUCE WAS BORN IN STAFFORD COUNTY, VIRGINIA, ON THE 30TH. OF OCTOBER, 1777; HE REMOVED TO KENTUCKY IN 1793, AND SETTLED IN FLEMING COUNTY, WHERE HE AFTERWARDS MARRIED, AND CONTINUED TO RESIDE UP TO THE TIME OF HIS DEATH. ALTHOUGH BUT A BOY WHEN HE CAME TO KENTUCKY, AND POSSESSED OF LITTLE SAVE AN UNFLINCHING INTEGRITY AND A DETERMINED ENERGY OF PURPOSE, COUPLED WITH HABITS OF INDUSTRY AND PERSEVERANCE, HE SOON DREW AROUND HIM SCORES OF FRIENDS, AND RAPIDLY ROSE INTO AFFLUENT CIRCUMSTANCES. DURING THE WHOLE PERIOD OF HIS LIFE, UP TO HIS DEATH, WE ARE NOT AWARE THAT HE EVER HAD A SINGLE ENEMY. AS A CITIZEN HE WAS DISTINGUISHED FOR HIS PUBLIC SPIRIT, HIS PATRIOTISM, AND HIS LOYALTY TO HIS COUNTRY; AS A MAN, FOR HIS GENEROSITY AND UNBOUNDED HOSPITALITY; IN EVERY RELATION OF LIFE HE WAS A DISTINGUISHED AND SHINING ORNAMENT; THE LIFE OF THE SOCIAL CIRCLE, THE BENEFactor OF THE POOR, AND THE FRIEND OF THE DISTRESSED.

HE LIVED TO SEE A NUMEROUS FAMILY OF HIS DESCENDANTS EVEN TO THE FOURTH GENERATION GROW UP AROUND HIM; AND SANK CALMLY AND SERENELY TO REST, WHILE YET THE MEASURE OF HIS USEFULNESS WAS AT ITS

FULL, AND BEFORE THE INFIRMITIES AND CHILDISHNESS OF AGE HAD IMPAIRED THE VIGOR OF HIS INTELLECT, OR LESSENERED THE BENEVOLENCE AND WARMTH OF HIS HEART.

GLORIOUS DEATH! WELL MIGHT HE SAY WITH THE PATRIARCH, "LORD, LETTEST THOU NOW THE SERVANT DEPART IN PEACE."

HE HAS LEFT A RICH INHERITANCE TO HIS DESCENDANTS, IN THE EXAMPLE OF AN HONORABLE, USEFUL AND WELL SPENT LIFE.

HIS REMAINS WERE FOLLOWED TO THEIR LAST RESTING PLACE BY A LARGE CONCOURSE OF DEEPLY SYMPATHISING [SYMPATHIZING] NEIGHBORS, ACQUAINTANCES AND FRIENDS; AND AROUND THE OPEN GRAVE, WHILE BUSY MEMORY RESTORED THE LAMENTED DEAD IN A THOUSAND KINDLY ACTS – WOMAN'S SOFT HEART SOBBED ALOUD IN GRIEF, AND MANY A TEAR WAS WRUNG FROM MANLY EYES.

BUT VAIN ALIKE TO HIM ARE NOW THE WORDS OF EULOGY OR SENTENTIOUS GRIEF:

"CAN HONOR'S VOICE PROVOKE THE SILENT DUST,
OR FLATTERY SOOTHE THE DULL, COLD EAR OF DEATH?"

THUS HAS PASSED AWAYONE [AWAY ONE] OF NATURE'S NOBLEMEN; THE TRUE TYPE OF A VIRGINIA GENTLEMAN, A CLASS ONCE NUMEROUS, BUT NOW, ALAS! FEW AND SELDOM FOUND.

ED.