

## James Turner Morehead, Governor of Kentucky



James T. Morehead

James Turner Morehead was born near Shepherdsville, Kentucky on May 24, 1797. He was studied at Transylvania University, Lexington, from 1813 to 1815. He studied law under John J. Crittenden and, in 1818, entered upon the practice at Bowling Green, Kentucky. Ten years later Morehead was in the Kentucky Legislature and returned for several sessions. In 1832 he was a delegate to the Baltimore convention which nominated Henry Clay for the presidency; and while in Baltimore he himself was nominated for Lieutenant-Governor of Kentucky, with John Breathitt, as Governor.

They were elected in August, 1832, but the Governor died on February 21, 1834 and Morehead succeeded to his office on the following day. He served until September, 1836. Upon the expiration of his term, Governor Morehead resumed the practice of law at Frankfort. He was elected United States Senator from Kentucky in 1841, and served until 1847. Senator Morehead was an attractive public speaker, and when it was known in Washington that he was to make a speech the galleries were usually well filled. After the expiration of his term, he practiced law at Covington,

Kentucky.

Senator Morehead had the most extensive collection of books and manuscripts upon the history of Kentucky and the West of any man of his day and generation. After his death, which occurred at Covington, Kentucky, December 28, 1854, his library was purchased by the Young Men's Mercantile Library Association of Cincinnati.

Source: Bibliography. History of Kentucky, by R. H. Collins (Covington, Kentucky, 1882); Appletons Cyclopaedia of American Biography (New York, 1888, v. iv); National Cyclopaedia of American Biography (New York, 1906, v. xiii).