

William Thomas Murphy, M. D.

(1922)

A physician and banker at Hustonville, Doctor Murphy has had a busy professional career in that section of Kentucky for almost thirty years. His people have lived in Casey County for considerably more than a century, and it was in that county that Doctor Murphy grew up and handled an extensive country practice before moving to Hustonville.

He was born on a farm ten miles west of Hustonville, in Casey County, January 16, 1866. **The founder of the family in Casey County was his great-grandfather, a native of Virginia. His grandfather, Elkins Murphy, was born in Casey County in 1805.** He lived there and developed some extensive interests as a farmer. He was a strong Union sympathizer, and about the close of the Civil war a band of southern guerillas captured him on his farm and, taking him to Cumberland Gap, hanged him. Elkins Murphy married Fannie Spragens, a life-long resident of Casey County, where she was born in 1810 and died in 1881.

The father of Doctor Murphy was the late H. T. Murphy, a well-remembered citizen of Casey County, where he spent many years diligently occupied with his farm and community interests. He served in the Home Guards during the Civil war, always voted as a republican, and was one of the leading members of the Baptist Church. He was born in 1835 and died in 1906. His wife was Sarah Henderson, who was born in Marion County in 1845 and died in Casey County in 1910. They had two sons, William T. and George Fletcher. Both became physicians, the younger graduating from the Louisville Medical School and died in Casey County six months after receiving his diploma, when only twenty-two years of age.

William Thomas Murphy acquired a good public school education in Casey County, attending the grade school at Rocky Ford. Up to the age of twenty-five he busied himself with farming in his native county, and then entered the University of Louisville, from which he received his M. D. degree March 14, 1892.

He has kept in close touch with progress in medicine and surgery, has attended many conventions of the State, County and American Medical associations, of which he is a member, and during 1920 took special work under Dr. L. D. Rogers at Chicago. From 1892 until December, 1918, he looked after an extensive country practice in Casey County, and since then his offices have been in Hustonville. Doctor Murphy has for several years been a director and is vice president of the Peoples Bank of Hustonville. He was associated with all the local war work, and has received much material prosperity, represented by his ownership of one of the modern homes of Hustonville, two store buildings on Main Street, and other interests. He is a republican, a member of the Baptist Church, and is affiliated with Rocky Ford Tent No. 117, Knights of the Maccabees, in Casey County, and Hustonville Lodge No. 184 F. and A. M.

In Casey County in 1884 Doctor Murphy married **Miss Fannie Ellis. Her father, George D. Ellis, was a farmer, and her mother, Helen (Cunningham) Ellis,** is still living. Doctor Murphy lost his wife in 1900. Three children survive her: Georgia, wife of Melvin Campbell, an insurance man at Hustonville; Clyde, wife of Cleaver Brown, a Casey County farmer; and Ira, who owns and operates a public garage at Hustonville.

In 1902, at Wilmore, Kentucky, Doctor Murphy married Mrs. Lillie (Sams) Flanagan, who died November 7, 1920. Her parents, J. M. and Elizabeth (Dobbins) Sams, reside at Danville, Kentucky. By his second marriage Doctor Murphy has three children, all in school at Hustonville, the oldest in high school; Lyda, born in 1904, Margie, born in 1908, and Lucille, born in 1911.

On October 6, 1921, Doctor Murphy married Mary Eleanor Peavyhouse, who was a teacher in the public schools of Hustonville.

[Source: History of Kentucky, Judge Charles Kerr, Editor; William Elsey Connelley, Author of "Eastern Kentucky Papers" and E. M. Coulter, Ph.D. Dept. of History, Univ. of Georgia, Vol. V, The American Historical Society, Chicago & New York: 1922; Submitted by AFoFG LD]