

society was begun in 1786 by Hon. Harry Innis, Thomas Todd, Robert Craddock, Hon. John Brown, John Belli and Christopher Greenup. They at once invited the following persons to unite with them: Thomas Speed, Hon. George Muter, Peyton Short, Stephen Ormsby, William McDowell, Gabriel Jones Johnson, Thomas Allin and James Overton. Shortly afterward the following well-known men became members: Samuel McDowell, William McClung, General Matthew Walton, James Speed, Willis Green, Abe Buford, James Brown and others. Thomas Speed was made the secretary of the club, and it is to his faithful care that the preservation of the records of this remarkable society is due.

At the same period Thomas Speed was made secretary of the Kentucky Society for the Promotion of Useful Knowledge, a society composed of leading citizens of Kentucky, an account of which is found in Collins' History. The records of these societies which he preserved are in his handwriting, and they show, both by the elegant chirography and the admirable composition, that he was a young man of unusual intelligence and capacity.

As a further evidence the following letter is here given, which is found in the publication known as the Virginia Calendar:

Colonel George Muter to Governor Beverly Randolph:

DANVILLE, KY., March 9, 1789.

SIR: As it is probable the Executive, from not knowing the people that live at or near this place, may find some difficulty in appointing a proper person to receive the money from the clerks in this district and settle with them, as directed by act of Assembly, I beg leave to inform you that there is a young gentleman in this place, of unexceptional character, who is willing to undertake that office and can give the security required by law. His name is Thomas Speed, and he is at present with Mr. Greenup, Clerk of the Supreme Court, and assists him in his office. I have the honor to be, etc.,

GEORGE MUTER.

There is nothing to show whether he got the appointment or not. His connection with the office of Colonel Christopher Greenup, Clerk of the General Court, is shown by letters to him from his father.