

family. Among his children were Rev. Alex. Rankin, a Presbyterian minister; Samuel Rankin and Misses Nannie and Sallie Rankin; also, Susan Rankin, who married John H. Barrett, and their daughter, Susan Barrett, married James Rankin, as has been stated.

JAMES SPEED, M. D.

James Speed, the fifth child of Captain James Speed, was born February 7, 1774, being eight years old when he came to Kentucky with his father, 1782. He never married.

His father educated him for a physician, and in order that he might have the best advantages, sent him to Edinburgh, Scotland. His letters, some of which are preserved, show that he was an accomplished man. He is said to have had fine talents. He went South to live, and died at Natchez, or New Orleans, September 14, 1812, aged thirty-seven.

Letter from James Speed, Jr., to his father, Captain James Speed :

“PHILADELPHIA, December 5, 1795.

“DEAR FATHER: If you knew how disagreeable to me it is to have to apologize for negligence in writing, you would wonder that I should ever be remiss; but as it is a fault of which I have not been often guilty, I trust in your forgiveness without a plea. It is, perhaps, fear that you will attribute my silence to ill-health more than duty which now urges me to write. Though I have not enjoyed my health quite so well since I have been in the city as usual, I have not much reason to complain, as I am able to attend the lectures and every other necessary business.

“You ask in one of your letters whether it makes any difference from what vein the blood is drawn. I have learned to-day, for the first time, that a very small quantity of blood taken from the head by cupping frequently proves more serviceable than almost any quantity from the arm, in disorders of the brain. I say I learned it to-day for the first time, for, though I have often been told the same by old women, I never received it as a fact until it came from the professor's chair; and since you have found topical bleeding serviceable to you, I think you ought by all means to continue that practice.

“I can not make a better estimate of the expense of going to Europe than the one already sent you. I am sorry to find that my expenditures here must far exceed what you expected. My board