The Lexington Club that has given this dinner is a historical association for the purpose of collecting all the information possible of the early history of Kentucky and knowing history generally to be unreliable its aim is to keep its records as complete as possible and hence will I prove and give all the outline history I may give of our venerable guest. When I say that he is the only unbroken link and living witness between the first and present inhabitants of Kentucky and the only surviving companion of Daniel Boone, I refer to his age as a proof and when asserting that he has fought through three wars I refer to Col. Kelly of our city Pension Agent who pays him his pension for his services in our second war of Independence with Great Britain from 1812 to 1815—while for his services in the Mexican army under Gen. Iturbide (Who was Emperor) I refer to Mexican history and proof that he was a soldier in the Black Hawk war. Here read you a letter from his missus and fellow soldier the Hon. Jefferson Davis, and now I show that it is not old age alone that Lexington Club pays its tribute but to the solid worth of a hazardous, laborious, and useful life. In order to come to the painful ending of our guest we must pass over his early wanderings and narrow escapes with Indians of Kentucky, his capture by them in Canada and troubles with Apaches and Guerrillas on the borders of Texas till above the boiler of fanciful and pretty
Brigatian to San Francisco in a ship that
when passing the Gulf of California was so wrecked
by a tornado as to be tossed at the mercy of the waves
for 61 days in a state of starvation. In the fall of
1852 he and Steven Austin went to the City of Mexico
and there spent the winter in the same room with the
now renowned Gen. Wilkinson of Wilkinson and Burr
Cabinets and they both obtained from the Emperor
Turbid grants of land in Texas and one of their
handsome homes towns in Texas is Grahamton
named in honor of our Guest. He next engaged
in gold mining with the well known Dr. Barnett
Myers after which he and his brother Maj. James
Graham in company with Fremont, Mr. Kirby
D.S. quartermaster of the Great Trail with
head quarters at St. Louis, invested largely in
California buying out the Sutter and other
early large claims to lands. Our guest and his son
had a house framed in Baltimore and shipped
down to San Francisco and there put up. It
was published in all our papers as the Astor
House of the Pacific which they some time after
sold as a city council house for $13,000.00. The
house rented the first year it was put up for
$25-00 of which the great traveler Bayard Taylor
paid and rented a single tent that rented for
$25-00 while the shade of a tree under which
the miners were sheltered from the sun together
with their bags of gold which they placed under
their heads, rented for a fabulous price. For the
Truth of this statement I refer you to the Hon. Baggin and Lewis of San Francisco and to Dr. Gwynn who with his family occupied rooms in the Graham State House, who will also tell you that Maj. James S. Graham through his influence elected him (Gwynn) twice to the Lt. Senate. At that time time was plenty of enormous trees in California and there was not a single saw mill or a planks to be had. This I came to show how rapidly our country populates and changes condition. At that time eggs sold at one dollar each, potatoes one dollar a tin cup of flour one dollar and of small one dollar. Whence already California is the most abundant country in the world for lumber and for every lumber that the earth can produce. Our guests son with the father of the Telegraph from San Francisco to St. Louis and his son just before his death did with his own hands help to stretch the wire over the first forty miles for proof of which we report of the great union Telegraph meeting at St. Louis after passing many of the questions of Dr. Graham and his son in California such as their negotiations with the ruling power of the Andes with Island that were near turning out a great national body and this aid in building a town at the mouth of the Columbia River in the
British Possessions. They were appointed superintendents of public buildings in Cal.,
or the portion being free of change for thirty years into which they took under Estill of Estill Co.,
which two partners who took charge of that expedition. For proof that our great operated largely in the
lead mines of Galena in Jo Daviess Co., Illinois refer to our merchants who sold this lead. He built
whole block of buildings in Chicago for proof of
which I refer to all old citizens as well as to his
son-in-law Jo. B. Laclede, now and the Jno. J.
C. W. with whom he now lives in Louisville
Our as strawberry friend crust penetrated
to eastern mountains of Ky. and there spent 10
years of incessant labor in building saw mills
mining in coal and building up a town under the
cliffs of Rock Castle River and establishing
watering place. He blasted great rocks and of
the sides of the river and cut out roads in all direc-
tions until he raised the price of land from ten cents
to one dollar per acre. He built a bridge over a little
river called Buck Creek with a very dangerous ford
where many had been drowned in crossing from
Somerset to the Cumberland coal banks. In my
youth I had liked to have neglected to say that he was
surgeon under Col. Gray on his expedition to the first
survey of the Lipes and Pacific railroad in proof of
which he Grays report of said survey when you will
see his picture swimming the Pecos river a very danger-
ous stream that rushes down from the Rocky
mountains through Lupa. All the companytraveling cursed in a basket slid up a stretched cable,
remaining such passage plunged into the river and
was very near drowning. He was for many years a mem-
ber of the Board of Intermountain Improvements appointed
by the Legislature of Ky and particularly on turnpikes
which position he became notorious for his liberal-
ity in taking stock and his incessant labor in getting
him through and particularly where they led to Har
nelsburg Springs of which he was owner and ~ener-
ale during which time he brought
several millions of dollars to Ky and at last sold
to the U.S. for one hundred thousand in prey
which I refer to the official records at Washington
all of the intelligent of Louisville know that the Geo.
Tay appointed Dr. Graham a trustee to help build
the Public Library now the Polytechnic Society,
was one of the most active managers in getting
the Legislature to remove the tax from said property.
was one of the first graduates east of the Moun-
tain and a practitioner of medicine he was one of the
most active in Ky. Having taken Dr. Henry Miller as a
pupil he through the influence of Judge Rowan
father obtained for Professor Miller his position
at the Medical University of Louisville for which
proof I refer to the Medical faculty. And now what
ought seem incredible he in the midst of all the
labor wrote and published two books on pages
psychology and mental and moral philosophy, which gave him such a stand with the thinkers of Europe that he has been made a member of the International Congress of the World for proof of which I have here shown you documents past paid and him in all the languages of Europe the last in Spanish from Madrid. He corresponds with the four great philosophers of London whose letters I have exhibited. This is from Charles Darwin, this from John Stuart Mill and this from Herbert Spencer, who is granted to be the most profound thinker that has ever written upon Physiology and the laws of vitality. Here is also a letter from our great scientist Draper, President of the New York Medical College, whose last work, the Conflict between False Religion and Science that stunned the whole thinking world, I also show you a kindly letter from the famous Sir Moses Montefiore, the great philanthropist of London, who is among the oldest man of England and he is the centenary of his recent 94th celebration of his birth. Thus I think, will be seen that this dinner not only bestowed up on old age alone but given as a tribute to a hazardous, labious, and useful life, and now in proof of the most incredible statement I have yet made that Dr. Graham though in his second century is still living with all his faculties unimpaired and now sitting in our midst, I ask all present to open their eyes and witness for themselves.
For the honor of Jay and in justification of the donors of the dinner I have thought it proper and indeed necessary to give my character, as such attention given to a man without Character would be truly ridiculous. You may do what you see proper with it. I will further say you can at your own pleasure omit any name I have given you. I should like that Cassius Goodloe be a guest, as he was the man who presented my name for member of the Scientific Congress. I think he would be pleased to attend. Dr. Standifer is also a warm friend of mine and always sends me free passes over his roads. I think you have Shaler on your list. I have just received a letter from Lyman Draper who seems anxious that my centennial may pass off pleasantly. Don't forget him. I am still sick but hope to step into my second century in better health.

Kindly yours,

C.C. Graham

Col. Davenport

Reynold Goodloe Landifer Shaler