Col. George Nicholas was a native of

Virginia, born (Philadelphia), and raised in the city of

Williamsburg—his father was the honorable

Capt. Nicholas, long the treasurer of Virginia and

as such, freeman of the House of Burgesses of the

Colony and governor of the said colony. In the father's pride and

his ascent from the low to Robert Carter, the representative

and agent of the proprietors of the Northern neck of

Virginia, on which capacity he accumulated an

immense fortune, which has passed through his

posterity, the Steelyard, Cartns and other families, who

are to this day distinguished for their talent, wealth, and

wealth throughout Virginia. By the mother, he

was descended from the Carus, also a family of much

distinction both for talent and wealth. Of the boyhood

of George Nicholas, little is remembered—It is said

by him that he was a quiet, chaste boy, but a good

bait, and a genuineDesk classical education

at the college of William & Mary. The resolution

breaking out from him still to learn at that

college, which was young Nicholas partaking. The

geneiu spirit of the youth of his time, applied for and

obtained the commission of captain—he remained

in the service until he was promoted to the rank of

Col. Of the class of the war, he married Miss Smith

of Bath, a daughter of a distinguished gentleman, Gen. Samuel

Smith of Esq., who was his brother, opined about the

same age and held the same rank in the army.

On the close of the war, Col. Nicholas returned to the village

of Philadelphia in Virginia, and commenced the

practice of law at that place, and as the examine

ing courts— he soon rose to a high eminence and

became the most distinguished lawyer wherever he

lived. He was particularly respected for

his integrity, honesty, and friendship, and the

offices of Recorder and Easton were exchanged in 1758, when he

additional duties were added, and he served one and several of the

states.
and acting his bar at the bar of Stanton, a place then at which much legal business was concentrated, and  
when the celebrated Gabriel Pons resided, and had  
long been in arrears of the law. Pons soon became  
a great assiduity of Nicholas and his late father, and then  
his patronage upon him. The Pons having accumulated  
a large fortune by the practice, had returned upon  
with an inclination for it which was, and Colonel Gamble  
relates an anecdote, that one of Pons' old clients and  
princes whom a joint proceeding of much interest,  
declined his client to associate Nicholas with himself  
in the prosecution of it—on the argument of the case  
Nicholas displays a great ability, and the cause was  
argued; in which Pons' client asked Nicholas his  
charge, and as to tell he must pay him a year.  
Thus meeting his client, asked him what he had paid  
Nicholas; the informant him, and a Pons paid it and  
gave him two years—the man according event  
and to Col. Nicholas what Pons had paid, but  
the Col refused to take the two years, paying to the  
man on him paid, and my charge—so the man  
in pursuance Pons, that Nicholas must accept money,  
but the man to deliver him the money, and that  
Nicholas should accept them. This case not only  
illustrates the character of Nicholas's spirit, but  
the prudence of his mind in the practice in the  
early period of his career. When Nicholas, a student  
of which Pons, a few months before his death, was about  
leaving to his home, to enter upon the practice  
of law, he presented to Col. Nicholas to take his law  
and some time in his office alone—Nicholas before  
leaving his final leave, said to him, you are about  
to practice when you will find the county often  
ignorant and incompetent.
You will conit to your own personal respect as well as to you in trust to treat the Judges with a respect and a respect due to the judges of the land and more to remove the feelings of that he is
incompetent for same as well. If you instruct your client he can reach and pin and more by exciting their fears and hopes extent an additional
falsifying to your fee. Some lawyers after
being signing for a few and getting their client in
their favor pretend to their or fail to do their
duty until their fee and ensurance dues conduct
is done as well as unlawful. A lawyer
should be reasonable in his charges and faithful in
his duties, and no honorable gentleman in
the profession will own make the party of his fee
defacto upon the ignorance or needling of his client,
in some he should consider himself the friend
and trust of his client. Make no enemies
if you can help it, and do not acquire with too many
companies or make the professions of friendship
for your success in life, but while friends may
prove you well, and are certainly necessary
in all the acts to success in life. When it
come to a question whether a friend will
give his business to competent or no competent
he will never be accurate to give it to the
competent lawyer. Col Nicholas while he practiced
law in Kentucky was the most moderate
lawyering in his place, and the most laborious
in his arts to his client—his regular fee
rich an egg was some $5. Some Kentucky
lawyers, and in a common law case about three
sums.
About the year 87 Col. Nicholas removed from Charlottesville to the county of Mercer, and settled near Danville, on the seat of justice of the Supreme Court, for the district of Kentucky.

Col. Nicholas was a poor, sober, honest, man, well versed in business, and very anxious to acquire the best lawyer in the county, so long as he remained at the bar—his competitions at the Supreme Court of the district were with the best lawyers in the county, as well as with the best lawyers in the state of Kentucky. Col. Nicholas met not only the first men of the bar of Kentucky, but competitors equal to those who have been the first men in the U.S. among them were the late Rev. Buckingham, James Hargis, John Taylor, Thomas Todd, and Joseph Hume. James Beam and Joseph Tatham were also lawyers. These men were not only the best lawyers, but the best people, and highly esteemed as such. At the bar of this county George Nicholas was by far the best lawyer to his time, and the courts as well as the people at large honored and used him as an able and efficient attorney. At the time of the Revolution and during all the important cases with which the Court of Appeals was to deal, Col. Nicholas was in the main in the practice of the Court of Appeals and the Court of Appeals of the United States, and when he was always an advocate for a strong and energetic government than the comparatively
states had so that until the present constitution of the
11 states was submitted to a convention of the people
it being given for ratification. A form in time an able
and active advocate in defence and exaltation of it, helped
decide the people at large, before his election. To the convention
on the assembling of the convention, though he was not the
youngest member elected, he soon took the lead in opening the
debates in favor of the adoption of the constitution, his
speech upon the subject has been pronounced among the ablest
of that as being one of the best, and has ever been considered
an able expositon and defense of the Federal Constitution.

Shortly after the ratification of the constitution in
Virginia, Col. Nicholas, as before stated, removed to the
district of Kentuckey; where he formed the district in
a state of great excitement upon the subject of the formation
of the district and its government, and elected a convention
to frame a constitution for the new state - as he sought with
such a great exertion, both as a lawyer and a statesman,
which induced removal of the leading gentlemen of the
district to appoint him to become a candidate if the
people thus about to be elected, he expressed his
willingness to do so, but his doubts of the propriety of his
being a candidate on account of his connection
with the people and the weight of his former and
private business that was pressing upon him. At this
the applicant replied that he need not have any apprehension
of his election, nor must his time in becoming acquire
the walls of the people before his election, that they never
offered to advocate his claim, and had no doubts of
being able to carry his election, as was of course
announced a candidate, and in instead of making a
canvass, he accepted his time between his nomination and
the election meeting of the convening in adopting a form
of a constitution for the proposed state, and in this king
there were many more members.
electors, and taking his seat, she laid before the convention his plan of a constitution, which was finally adopted and passed by the convention with general approbation. While his draft was being discussed, an incident occurred in the convention, which served as some means to illustrate the character of Col. Nicholas, mind. Some one of the convention had the temerity to put him at him, that he was a stranger, to the people, and had come into the convention, and remained unknown. 

This, however, had the effect of bringing the convention to their senses, and a unanimous selection in a few days - the people of the county in which he lived, apparently, without any exception, elected him, and in a short time took her seat and remained in the convention, until it not only accept the constitution as a whole, but declared it entire and proper, that applied to the Government from the Mother State, and became an independent State, and the constitution as drawn by Nicholas, is destined to be the first constitution framed for a new state. The Happy would not have been for the people of Kentucky had they persevered in its dictates. It was a fine first Constitution in all its parts, entirely conservative, and the forms of government were well sustained, and checks and balances. While by one branch of the government was forbidden to balance the excess of either of the other branches - it was perfect in all its parts. Its language was clear, and its provisions each line had its appropriate meaning, and each word in the line its appropriate place. So that the whole instrument, in fact, fixed itself to be the book of an accomplished, an able statesman, and one well acquainted with the condition of the people, who were...
to be governed by it. The Constitution lasted not quite nine years—Under it the people of Kentucky enjoyed law and liberty—no people ever obeyed their Constitution more faithfully, and under the laws of their land lived more happily: but as is sometimes the case, on some objections to Minor parts of the Constitution, the People, people on petition to go into a convention to amend their Constitution. The Convention assembled and Nicholas was not there; but in his place, his Constitution went into the hands of the new convention, and did not come out of it until several Slavery and Unfledged politicians made bad work with many of its most valuable and conservative principles. During the continuance of the Old Constitution, Kentucky knew nothing but Thrift and a prospect, and as far as a people could be in any form of government more happy, during all which Col. Nicholas seems to have taken but little part in the State Government, but by his conduct and in solitude and content, declared that he thought it was best to let alone. It is about the year '76 he retired from the practice, sold his farm in the County of Clark, and removed his family to the Democratic Company's property, which company he was a member, and undertook the management of that company, hence by a residence in the country, to give a challenge to the administration of affairs, of the company, which was then in a bad condition—his remaining there however, but a little more than a year, when he took up his final residence in the town of Lexington, Gen. Washington's administration having expired, the successor, Mr. Adams having held his administration
in hostile array against the republic of France, by calling into existence a standing army, passing拉丁 and sedition laws, to be and to sustain the extraordinary expenses of his administration, bringing to his aid stamp acts and direct taxation, and to alien the friends of the constitution and American liberty from succumbing his tyranny and unconstitutional measures, called for by the spirit of the age. The man who wrote a paper about his
own conduct until the facts were set out in the public, noble and patriotic. But some members of Congress, early in the Year 79, George Nicholas took the
idea against these high-handed and tyrannous measures of the Federal government—be not only
spokes and brought into his aid the cooperation and
much of the talent and wealth of the country, but
kept the few papers that were published well supplied
with his essays, analyzing the government conduct of the administration, and among
the people of the imminent danger in which
their liberties are, and calling them to make up to
their danger—in the public meetings
now held in the most prominent parts of the
state, and by numerous pamphlets and resolutions,
the measures of the administration pronounced as unconstitutional and tyrannical, as one proceeding on Kentucky, now pretty assailed
by the administration to George Nicholas; and
the administration, it is said, contemplates at one time, having him accused on sedition
but by no proceeding to execute their designs,
President Adams and the Hon James Ross, then
a member of the Senate of the U. S.
A confidential agent, to Kentucky, to ascertain
and find out, the extent and nature of the
opposition, who own its leaders, and whatever
there may be, especially to ascertain the injuries
Nicholas had in view, and what acts of a
beneficent character, if any, he had been
guilt of. Ross was an honorable gentleman
of great legal knowledge, and through a friend
in the administration, possessed a character
too elevated to be thus used in instrument. Fortunately
for him and the country, he was an old and
intimate friend of Col. James Warren—
Morrison was a friend and relation of Nicholas,
and in daily communication with them—he
frankly disclosed to Morrison the object of his note,
and receiving from Morrison perfect satisfaction
that Col. Nicholas was, in some degree attached
to the Union, and that his only object was
a reforming of the policy of the administration,
and to produce for a defense of the Constitution
thought to be in our state once, and in addition
to other facts he communicated in strictest confidence
that he had it from Col. Nicholas himself
that the Spanish Government through their agent
Thomas Paine, inform'd Col. Nicholas and two
other gentlemen, $20,000 to be to their
own use, and the rest to be used in carrying
out the measure, to save his and their influence
in procuring a separation of Kentucky from the
Union, and assuming it the Spanish
premise that the Col. Nicholas and other gentle-
men not only refused it. By positive assurance that
no complicity of any kind could induce them to their
a separation from the Union, or accept a compensation
In their political sufferings from any foreign government, when American representatives to Nicholas in consultation with Ross, Nicholas replied that he was glad, Nicholas had made the communication of this fact to Mr. Ross, and that the government would be acting right in referring through its agent to a gentleman of the Assizes of Spain. Col. Nich was made aware of the administration of the laws, particularly of that of O'Callier, and the essays of Brezulis and Pamplona of the Federal laws; in which the acts of arrest and imprisonments were not unfrequent; he, hence, sustained himself by letters to the press and paper appeals to public opinion through news-papers, until at the month of July 18, when he made an appointment to address the people of Kentucky, to the utmost of the capacity. On the day of appointment, a vast assembly of people from all parts of the State, met at Lexington in evidence of the necessity. There being no board public to private, a people large enough of contending to sustain the course, the people now assume that to the amount of thousands, on the College Lawn, when Col. Nich as far as our means in a state of eloquence and frame, speech, in equal time and certain momentum, by his speech, he laid down to the people their feelings of a Constitution, the nature of their Union, its value and importance to the protection of the State and the liberties of the people of the State. This, then, laid hand in hand administration of president, of laws, its Crimes, and its policies, and its cruel oppression — he drew a string a picture of the sufferings of the country and the victims under the evil national taxation. **End**
(He, however, was angry against violence as a means of politics, but) he take the unconstitutional means through the Ballot Box, their only remedy of changing the administration, and restoring the Constitution to its supremacy, and relieving the country of their oppressors, under the Fugitive Act and unconstitutional process in hand. This speech overwhelmed the Federal party in Kentucky, and established the cause of the opposition. Col. Nicholas was now at the height of his popularity, but his political difficulties were not yet at an end. The Federal Administration had projected into most of the religious societies a plan of Church influence, and denounced the cholera, Jefferson, and others of the opposition as political demagogues, and while Nicholas was engaged in overthrowing the plan of the Administration, he had made gains and threats of the Democratic party set up for an opponent to the State constitution principally upon the ground that it abrogated negro slavery, and finally succeeded in having the acts passed to call a convention, and for the reason it appeared from that the politicians would form a majority of the State into the convention and the slaves would be emancipated. From some cause Col.Nicholas seemed to pay no attention to the movements of the Abolitionists, until the month of February proceeding the election of members to the convention, which he knew was to take place on the 1st Monday in May. He saw that an effort was made the town of Lexington, some be ineffectual, but Abolitionists being too strong in the town, he called a meeting of the people in the Court at Bryan's Station, where
had a meeting of the County people and
addressed them at large upon the propriety of their
voting for the emancipation of the negro slave,
aud particularly in supporting men opposed to turning the negro
slave upon the country. This speech was well
received by the thinking classes of the community.

Col. Nicholas was not only a politician, and
excellent as such a great influence in the public
affairs of Kentucky, but he was an agriculturist
and a political economist, and by his own
writings, lectures and emanet contributed much
towards the spread of the emancipation
sentiment in favor of the emancipation of the
 negro slave. He not only devoted himself
to this object, but he had also an office filled with
streams of slave, in his capacity as a lawyer, and
prepared for the infringement with a persistence
astonishing as cabinet one of his students failed in the Jefferson
law, and the counsel of the State and Nation. Col. Nicholas
had not time to reap the full share of the benefits
resulting from his labors in this country.

The day in the month of June, 779, in
the midst of his usefulness, to the loss of
his County and respectable reputation to his
children and a numerous family, Col. Nicholas
was a man of great stature, not exceeding
five, quite high, of fair complexion, large glowing blue
eyes, his head was very large, in his stature
his hair, which remained short, was
become before his death almost entirely bald.
from

(Ana other communications go)

(Which encounter place) for more than ten years

Before his death, he was called Old Nicholas.

Old Nicholas was a man of taciturn habits

in private company, but in private circles

and especially at his own house and fire side,

he was a most interesting companion and

sometimes both humorous and witty. He was

remarkable for his hospitality, and in all the

relations of husband, father, and master, his

character was perfect— he was universally

loved by the gentle man of the law.

and looked up to as the greatest Commonwealth

sage of the age— his eloquence was of a very

high rank and his reasoning the most

perfect as a criminal advocate in his day,

he had no equal in Kentucky— this is

proven both by his success both as an civil and

criminal advocate.

When in court at the

time of his death he was the bain playing

counsel of the unfortunate Selleas, who was

accused of the murder of his wife— Nichols

and before his trial, and the unfortunate man

was condemned to the gallows and executed

although he was abundantly defended by the late

Chief Justice Marshall. Selleas was a man

possessed of many able qualities.
and had many friends out of his own family, and his family in Trenton, &c. &c. 

and given among the most prominent and respectable in America, many of whom loved him and at his funeral to weep from the fate that an active life—she continued to declare himself innocent from the moment of his arrest to the moment of his death, and the last words he uttered were the Gallows were that he was in no fault and knew nothing of his wife coming by his death. Toward Nicholas survived no one acquainted with his virtues and his influence. Doubts that the fate of the unhappy man would have been very different. Nicholas was not only a benevolent and kind humanity man but an encourager of every branch of labor and to the poor cotton & hemp. The whole State was shocked at his death, and the Legislature that five months his death, his gratitude and remembrance of his great talents and services named the county of Nicholas after him.