

1402 - March 19, 1961

# HISTORIC KENTUCKY

Photo and Text by J. Winston Coleman Jr.



**DESHA GLEN, MASON COUNTY**—In 1792, Joseph Desha, a native of Pennsylvania, settled on 500 acres in southwestern Mason County. He lived in a log cabin until this two-story brick mansion of eight rooms was erected in 1811. This is said to have been the first brick house in Mason County, exclusive of those in Maysville and Washington, the first county seat. Desha served in the Indian wars under Gens. Anthony Wayne and William Henry Harrison. In the War of 1812, he was a major general of Kentucky militia at the battle of the Thames. Desha served as a member of both branches of the Kentucky Legislature and as a representative to Congress for six terms. From 1824 to 1828, he served as Kentucky's ninth governor. Gen. Lucius B. Desha, the 12th of the governor's 13 children, was born at Desha Glen, as was his dis-

tinguished grandson, Joseph Desha Pickett. Gov. Desha moved to Harrison County in 1834, and Desha Glen became the property of William Forman, who resided there until his death in 1890. The farm and old residence was inherited by his daughter, Jane Forman, who resided here until 1915. Her nephew, John Marshall, purchased the old Desha home and in 1941 it became the property of R. K. Chambers. In 1943, John Fulton, the present owner, purchased Desha Glen, which for some years has been unoccupied and is in a dilapidated condition. The original locks, with small brass knobs, are intact on the two front doors. The old residence is off the Formans Chapel Pike, 15 miles from Maysville. Gov. Desha later settled in Scott County, dying in Georgetown, Oct. 11, 1842, and is buried in the local cemetery.