

= Richard Hawes =

Richard Hawes ( February 6 , 1797 ? May 25 , 1877 ) was a United States Representative from Kentucky and the second Confederate Governor of Kentucky . He was part of the politically influential Hawes family . His brother , uncle , and cousin also served as U.S. Representatives , and his grandson Harry B. Hawes was a member of the United States Senate .

Hawes began his political career as an ardent Whig and was a close friend of the party 's founder , Henry Clay . When the party declined and dissolved in the 1850s , Hawes became a Democrat , and his relationship with Clay cooled .

At the outbreak of the Civil War , Hawes was a supporter of Kentucky 's doctrine of armed neutrality . When the Commonwealth 's neutrality was breached in September 1861 , Hawes fled to Virginia and enlisted as a brigade commissary under Confederate general Humphrey Marshall . When Kentucky 's Confederate government was formed in Russellville , Hawes was offered the position of state auditor , but declined . Months later , he was selected to be Confederate governor of the Commonwealth following George W. Johnson 's death at the Battle of Shiloh .

Hawes and the Confederate government traveled with Braxton Bragg 's Army of Tennessee , and when Bragg invaded Kentucky in October 1862 , he captured Frankfort and held an inauguration ceremony for Hawes . The ceremony was interrupted , however , by forces under Union general Don Carlos Buell , and the Confederates were driven from the Commonwealth following the Battle of Perryville . Hawes relocated to Virginia , where he continued to lobby President Jefferson Davis to attempt another invasion of Kentucky .

At the end of the war , the Confederate government of Kentucky in exile ceased to exist , and Hawes returned to his home in Paris , Kentucky . He swore an oath of allegiance to the Union , and was allowed to return to his law practice . He was elected county judge of Bourbon County , a post he held until his death in 1877 .

= = Early life = =

Richard Hawes was born on February 6 , 1797 near Bowling Green , Caroline County , Virginia . He was one of eleven children born to Richard and Clara [ a ] Walker Hawes . The Haweses were a political family ; Richard 's brother , Albert Gallatin Hawes , nephew , Aylett Hawes , and cousin , Aylett Hawes Buckner , all served in the U.S. House of Representatives . In 1810 , the family moved to Kentucky , settling in Fayette County , near Lexington . Part of Hawes 's early education was obtained through the Jessamine County school conducted by Samuel Wilson .

On November 13 , 1818 , Hawes married Hetty Morrison Nicholas of Lexington . He pursued classical studies at Transylvania University , then studied law under Robert C. Wickliffe . Hawes and Wickliffe became law partners upon the former 's admission to the bar in 1818 . Due to overcrowding of the bar in Lexington , Hawes moved to Winchester in 1824 . While there , he became part owner of a rope and bagging factory with Benjamin H. Buckner .

= = = Political career = = =

Hawes began his political career in 1828 when he was elected as a Whig to represent Clark County , Kentucky in the Kentucky House of Representatives . As a member of the state militia , Hawes saw limited service in the Black Hawk War in 1832 , and returned to his position in the Kentucky House in 1834 . He was an unsuccessful candidate for U.S. Representative in 1834 , but was elected to represent Henry Clay 's " Ashland District " three years later , serving from March 4 , 1837 to March 3 , 1841 . He then moved to Paris , Kentucky in 1843 and continued the practice of law .

Hawes was once close friends with Clay , though the friendship between them cooled when Hawes supported Zachary Taylor instead of Clay for president in 1848 . When the Whig Party dissolved in the 1850s , Hawes became a Democrat , supporting presidential candidates James Buchanan in 1856 and John C. Breckinridge in 1860 .

Though alarmed by the election of Abraham Lincoln in the election of 1860 , Hawes was an

opponent of secession , supporting instead the idea of armed neutrality . In May 1861 , Hawes , Breckinridge , and Kentucky governor Beriah Magoffin represented the Southern Rights viewpoint at a convention to decide Kentucky 's course in the Civil War . He attended another such convention in September 1861 . Neither convention produced a conclusive decision .

A July 1861 address to the people of Bourbon County , authored by Hawes and other like @-@ minded Democrats , blamed Republicans for starting the Civil War , denounced the coercion of states to remain in the Union , and warned that the Lincoln administration would fight to end slavery . The address called for an end to the war , recognition of the Confederate States of America as a sovereign nation , and equitable distribution of the national debt and federal property .

= = = Military service = = =

When Kentucky 's neutrality was breached in September 1861 , Hawes fled to Virginia to escape imprisonment by Federal authorities . While there , he enlisted as a brigade commissary under Confederate general Humphrey Marshall and was given the rank of major . Though his ability to obtain supplies for Marshall 's brigade was commendable given the difficult conditions , his age ( 64 ) and lack of military experience lessened his value to Marshall 's unit , and his predilection for jumping the chain of command and communicating directly with Confederate Secretary of War Judah P. Benjamin put him at odds with Marshall personally .

In November 1861 , the self @-@ appointed members of the Confederate state sovereignty convention in Russellville , Kentucky appointed Hawes state auditor of the Commonwealth 's Confederate government , but he declined in order to continue his military service . However , he wrote President Davis on January 25 , 1862 to inform him that he was traveling to Bowling Green , Kentucky at Confederate Governor George W. Johnson 's request in order to assist Johnson in administering the state government . He resigned his military commission two days later , but his departure for Bowling Green was delayed when he was stricken with typhoid fever .

= = Confederate Governor of Kentucky = =

Governor Johnson was killed while participating in the Battle of Shiloh . Following the resolutions of the Russellville Convention , the provisional Confederate government 's ten legislative councillors selected Hawes to succeed Johnson as governor . ( Under these provisions , the councillors could not select one of their own . ) He joined the leaderless and nomadic shadow government , which had been traveling with the Army of Tennessee , in Corinth , Mississippi , and took the oath of office on May 31 . The army 's leader , General Braxton Bragg , had been considering an invasion of Kentucky . On August 27 , Hawes was dispatched to Richmond , Virginia to favorably recommend this action to President Jefferson Davis , but Davis was non @-@ committal . Bragg and Edmund Kirby Smith proceeded with the invasion nonetheless , while the leaders of Kentucky 's Confederate government remained in Chattanooga , Tennessee , awaiting Hawes 's return . They departed on September 18 , and caught up with Bragg and Smith in Lexington , Kentucky on October 2 .

Bragg , desiring to enforce the Confederate Conscription Act in the Commonwealth , decided to install the provisional government in the recently captured state capital of Frankfort . The ceremony took place on October 4 , 1862 . Humphrey Marshall gave the opening remarks , then General Bragg introduced Governor Hawes . Hawes delivered a lengthy inaugural address in which he declared , " It is now a truth and a fact that the late Union cannot be restored . " He promised to call a convention to provide for a permanent government as soon as such a convention was feasible , and denounced the Union 's goal of freeing the slaves . In the celebratory atmosphere of the inauguration ceremony , however , the Confederate forces let their guard down , and were ambushed and forced to retreat by Union general Don Carlos Buell . Hawes later denied ever taking the oath of office , and became a vocal critic of Bragg .

Displaced from their home state , the legislative council dispersed to places where they could make a living or be supported by relatives until Governor Hawes called them into session . Scant records show that , on December 30 , 1862 , Hawes summoned the council , auditor , and treasurer to his

location at Athens , Tennessee for a meeting on January 15 , 1863 . Hawes unsuccessfully lobbied President Davis to remove Hawes 's former superior , Humphrey Marshall , from command . On March 4 , he told Davis by letter that " our cause is steadily on the increase " and assured him that another foray into the Commonwealth would produce better results than the first had .

The government 's financial woes also continued . Hawes was embarrassed to admit that neither he nor anyone else seemed to know what became of approximately \$ 45 @, @ 000 that had been sent from Columbus to Memphis , Tennessee during the Confederate occupation of Kentucky . Another major blow was Davis 's decision not to allow Hawes to spend \$ 1 million that had been secretly appropriated in August 1861 to help Kentucky maintain its neutrality . Davis reasoned that the money could not be spent for its intended purpose , since Kentucky was now a part of the Confederacy .

By 1864 , Hawes had joined his sister at the small Virginia settlement of Nelly 's Ford . His wife and daughter joined him there . This location was only 100 miles ( 160 km ) from Richmond , allowing Hawes to travel easily to the Confederate capital for audiences with President Davis . Records show that as late as September 16 , 1864 , Hawes still maintained hope for another military advance into Kentucky . In the summer of 1864 , Colonel R. A. Alston of the Ninth Tennessee Cavalry requested Governor Hawes 's assistance in investigating crimes allegedly committed by General John Hunt Morgan during his unauthorized raid into Kentucky . Hawes never had to act on the request , however , as Morgan was suspended from command on August 10 and killed by Union troops on September 4 , 1864 .

= = Later life and death = =

Hawes remained at Nelly 's Ford until May 1865 . Finally satisfied that it was safe to return to Kentucky , Hawes arrived in Paris to find his home had been burned by Union troops . Four of Hawes 's sons served in the Confederate Army , including brigadier general James Morrison Hawes ; only three sons returned home from the war . [ b ] On September 18 , 1865 , Hawes took an oath of allegiance to the United States , and was allowed to return to his previous career as a lawyer .

In 1866 , he was elected county judge of Bourbon County . His most notable ruling in this capacity was to nullify the apprenticeship contracts of the Freedmen 's Bureau in Kentucky . Hawes based this decision on the fact that the Bureau 's powers extended only to states that had been part of the rebellion , which Kentucky had not . Hawes was also chosen master commissioner of the circuit court in 1866 . In 1871 , Hawes was mentioned as a possible candidate for governor of Kentucky . In 1876 , he helped frame his party 's response to the disputed Hayes ? Tilden presidential election . Hawes died in Paris , Kentucky on May 25 , 1877 and was interred in Paris Cemetery .