

= James Fisher Robinson =

James Fisher Robinson (October 4 , 1800 ? October 31 , 1882) was the 22nd Governor of Kentucky , serving the remainder of the unfinished term of Governor Beriah Magoffin . Magoffin , a Confederate sympathizer , became increasingly ineffective after the elections of 1861 yielded a supermajority to pro @-@ Union forces in both houses of the Kentucky General Assembly . Magoffin agreed to resign the governorship , provided he could select his successor . He selected Robinson .

Politically , Robinson opposed both secession and abolition . Though he had Union sympathies , he was considered a moderate , opposing both fugitive slave laws and the enlistment of black soldiers . As a state senator , he supported the Crittenden Compromise and opposed the Civil War . As governor , he drew criticism from the administration of President Abraham Lincoln for opposing the Emancipation Proclamation .

= = Early life = =

Robinson was born to Jonathan and Jane Black Robinson in Scott County , Kentucky on October 4 , 1800 . His early studies were done under a private tutor , then under Presbyterian minister Robert Marshall . He was of English and Scottish descent . He attended Forest Hill Academy and Transylvania University , graduating in 1818 . His brother , John McCracken Robinson graduated in the same class and moved to Illinois , where he eventually served two terms as a U.S. Senator . James Robinson studied law under William T. Barry , and was admitted to the bar , beginning his practice in Georgetown , Kentucky .

On December 29 , 1821 , Robinson married Susan Mansell of Georgetown , the first of his three wives . Mansell and Robinson had two children , a son and a daughter , before Mansell died in 1835 . Robinson married Willina S. Herndon of Scott County on March 21 , 1839 . The couple had eight children , seven of whom survived to adulthood . Herndon died in 1861 .

= = Political career = =

Robinson 's political career began in 1851 , when he was elected to the Kentucky Senate as a Whig without opposition . He did not immediately seek re @-@ election , but was again elected to the state Senate in 1861 over challenger James B. Beck . He was elected Speaker of the Senate on September 2 , 1861 , but resigned the post only a few days later .

Robinson again assumed the position as Speaker of the Senate on August 16 , 1862 as part of a political deal to effect the resignation of Governor Beriah Magoffin . Magoffin 's lieutenant governor , Linn Boyd , had died in office in 1859 , and Magoffin was unwilling to allow John Fisk , then Senate Speaker and next in line for the governorship , to succeed him . Magoffin agreed to resign if the Senate would elect Robinson as Speaker , putting him next in line for the governorship . This was done , and at 10 : 00 am on August 18 , 1862 , Robinson succeeded Magoffin upon the latter 's resignation . Because he never resigned from the Senate , Robinson technically held both his legislative seat and the governorship concurrently .

The Civil War was ongoing during Robinson 's administration . During Robinson 's tenure , the Confederacy made its major advance into the Commonwealth . In an attempt to protect the citizens of the Commonwealth , Robinson raised taxes in an effort to revive Kentucky 's state militia . He was also concerned with the effect the war had on public education in the state . He asked the General Assembly to investigate the condition of state schools , especially in war @-@ ravaged areas , and encouraged them to accept the Lincoln administration 's offer of land to establish an agricultural and mechanical college .

Robinson proudly noted that by January 1 , 1863 , a divided Kentucky had still managed to send 44 @,@ 000 soldiers ? fifty @-@ one regiments ? to aid the Union cause . At the same time , he lamented what he perceived as poor treatment of the state as disloyal by the Federal government . He cited examples such as the declaration of martial law in the Commonwealth and the suspension

of the right of habeas corpus for its citizens . He answered President Lincoln 's contention " that military necessity is not to be measured by Constitutional limits " by warning " If military necessity is not to be measured by Constitutional limits , we are no longer a free people . "

On completion of his term , Robinson supported his eventual successor , Thomas E. Bramlette . The constitutional questions Robinson raised during his administration shaped much of the political debate for Bramlette 's term .

= = Later life and death = =

Following his term as governor , Robinson retired to " Cardome , " his family farm in Scott County . Politically , he became more distant from the national administration , supporting George B. McClellan for president in 1864 . He served as president of the Farmers ' Bank of Georgetown and chair of the Georgetown College Board of Trustees . On December 1 , 1873 , he married his third wife , Caroline " Carrie " Hening of Georgetown , who was 36 years his junior . He died on October 31 , 1882 , and is buried in the Georgetown Cemetery in Georgetown , Kentucky .