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TREASURES IN OUR MUSEUM

PORTRAIT OF JOSHUA F. SPEED AND HIS WIFE,
FANNY HENNING SPEED, BY G. P. A. HEALY

BY MARGARET M. BRIDWELL

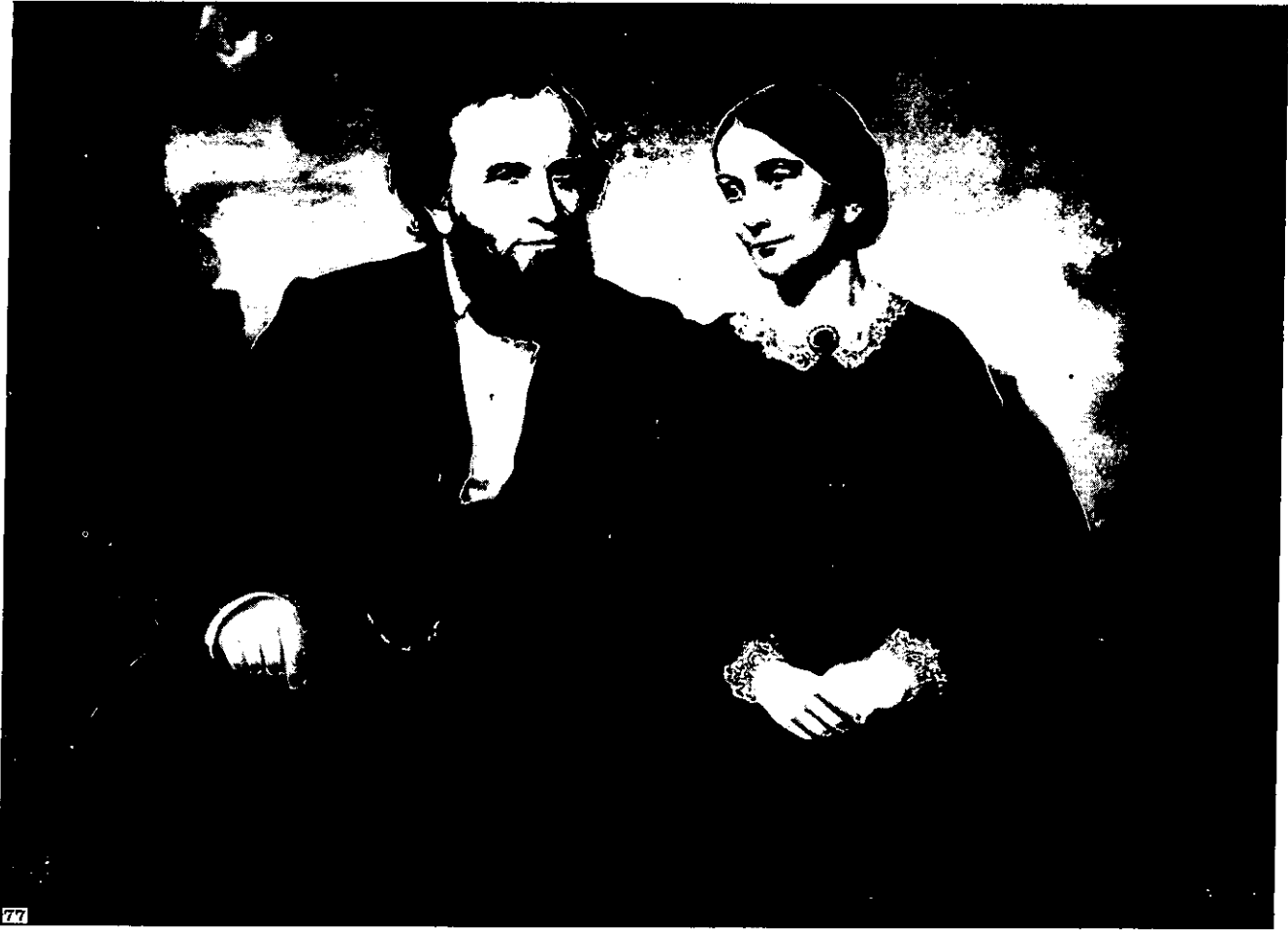
The portrait of Joshua Fry Speed and his wife, Fanny Henning Speed, painted in 1864 by G. P. A. Healy, is one of the artist's finest. Executed in true Healy style, with an utter lack of subtlety, the candid likenesses of the bearded Joshua and his black-eyed Fanny, are warmly and charmingly portrayed.

The romance of Joshua Speed and Fanny Henning has been immortalized by the letters on that subject from Abraham Lincoln to Speed, his most intimate friend.* It was characteristic of Joshua and Fanny to have their portraits painted together, side by side on the same canvas, and the deep understanding and tenderness between them has been caught by the artist. So faithfully is this feeling depicted that it is felt immediately, even by the most casual observer.

The canvas is four feet eight inches by three feet ten inches and is signed and dated by the artist, "G.P.A. Healy, 1864." It was presented in 1935 to The Filson Club by Misses Henrietta and Julia Duke Henning and Messrs. James Williamson and Basil Duke Henning, children of Samuel G. Henning, nephew of Fanny Henning Speed.

*"Joshua Fry Speed 1814-1882, Abraham Lincoln's Most Intimate Friend," by Robert L. Kincaid, *The Filson Club History Quarterly*, April, 1943.

Editor's Note: In The Filson Club are many treasures. In order to familiarize our readers with some of the more outstanding ones in our collection, we are beginning with this issue a series of articles under the heading, "Treasures in Our Museum," by Margaret M. Bridwell. Mrs. Bridwell is an authority on early Kentucky silversmiths and is deeply interested in the activities of The Filson Club.



PORTRAIT OF JOSHUA FRY SPEED AND WIFE, BY G. P. A. HEALY

Illustration by the artist, 1850. Original in the collection of the National Portrait Gallery, London.



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