



# Genealogical and Personal History of the Upper Monongahela Valley, West Virginia, Vol. 2 (Classic Reprint)

*Bernard L. Butcher*

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Excerpt from Genealogical and Personal History of the Upper Monongahela Valley, West Virginia, Vol. 2

The Fleming family has occupied a prominent place in the history of Virginia and West Virginia for more than a hundred years, and Aretas Brooks Fleming is one of its most prominent members.

As legislator, judge and governor of the state, he has served the state and his native country with fidelity, and reflected credit upon himself and the people whom he served. Public-spirited as a citizen, he carried his enthusiasm for righteousness and efficiency into the offices he has held. He attracted the attention, especially while governor, of the whole country to the, then, almost undeveloped mineral and timber resources of West Virginia, by public addresses and published articles in trade and other papers.

The fact that he was engaged, with others, in the active development of the natural resources of his state, in his own county and other counties of the state, gave his words and writings as governor great weight with strangers looking for investments and new locations; and, with other causes, was the beginning of the great industrial development which has followed in the state, especially of the Upper Monongahela Valley. He has been stockholder and director in many of the industrial enterprises in Fairmont, Marion and other counties, and says as a rule he has lost money in the investments made in other states, but has never lost money on an investment in Marion county. His natural dignified simplicity and cordiality of manner has won and held hosts of friends, making him welcome wherever he goes.

Governor Fleming is a man of medium stature, and has been hearty and vigorous all his life, taking no vacations from his work, but about five years ago his doctor prescribed a vacation on account of his health, and he traveled several months abroad; but since his return he has followed the advice of his old physician (as often as he could think of it) who directed him to work when he felt like it and to quit early.

He has always had a youthful appearance, and tells a good story on himself when he first went to Pruntytown to hold court after his appointment in February, 1878, as judge. He wrote the hotelkeeper to reserve him a room with fire.

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