

The Plattsmouth Journal.

SEMI-WEEKLY EDITION—FOUR PAGES

VOLUME XXVIII

PLATTSMOUTH, NEBRASKA, MONDAY, JANUARY 18, 1909

NUMBER 173

THE LATE JOHN B. MEISINGER

Brief Sketch of the Noble Upright Citizen and Friend

Died—Meisinger, John Baltazer, aged 73 years, 7 months and 2 days, at his home near Plattsmouth, Neb., of diabetes, on Friday, Jan. 15, 1909. Funeral Sunday, Jan. 17, 1909, from the home, interment Oak Hill cemetery, Plattsmouth, Neb.

Yesterday afternoon occurred the funeral of one of Cass County's best and most widely known citizens, when all that was mortal of John Baltazer Meisinger was consigned to the final resting place in Oak Hill cemetery. This noble man, the eldest of seven brothers, departed this life on Friday, January 15, 1909, at 4 o'clock in the afternoon at his home six miles west of the city, after a lingering illness which covered several years. He was one of nature's noblemen, a man whom everyone knew to love and respect for his sterling uprightness and many manly qualities which had impressed themselves upon all who had the good fortune to know him. For thirty-seven years this strong, sturdy man had made his home in this community and in all that long period, none knew him but to give him praise for his many excellent qualities of head and heart.

From the time he first came to Nebraska Mr. Meisinger had devoted himself to the upbuilding of the community. He had reared a large family who are examples of all that is good in life. He had by his thrift and industry accumulated a handsome competency and his broad acres stretch over the fairest portion of Cass County. His name is today a synonym for strength and stability whether of financial or other lines, all the result of his steady application to business and his unwavering fidelity to honor and to trusts. Few men are who can go to the grave with so pure and spotless a record and in a long and busy life point to a fortune accumulated without envy or malice pointing its finger, as this man did. His loss is one which the entire community must feel—a loss which must have its effect all over this section where his manifold interests exist. Such men are all too few and they can ill be spared yet that they must join the great and invisible army is one of the inevitable sequences of life.

John Baltazer Meisinger first saw the light of day in Boelstein, Hesse-Darmstadt, Germany on June 13, 1835, and for eleven years he grew up in the land so renowned in history, emigrating with his parents to America in 1846. In this year the large German colony near Pekin, Ill., received an addition in the shape of

them being the subject of this sketch, and his six brothers J. M., H. J., Conrad, Jacob, Geo. P. and P. H. Here young Mr. Meisinger grew to manhood marrying at the age of twenty-one years Miss Anna Eva Meisinger, a distant cousin.

Of this union ten children were born of whom eight are still in the land of the living, those surviving being Mrs. Eva Dreeszen of Unadilla, Neb., Mrs. Kate Hell of Cedar Creek, Neb., G. G. Meisinger of Cedar Creek, Neb., C. A. Meisinger of Springfield, Neb., P. M. Meisinger of Benson, Neb., J. B. Meisinger, Jr., of Lincoln, Neb., and W. G. and L. A. Meisinger near Plattsmouth, Neb. In addition Mr. Meisinger is the grandfather of nineteen children.

In 1872 Mr and Mr. Meisinger came Cass County, settling on the home farm west of this city where they resided at the time of their respective deaths, Mrs. Meisinger preceding her husband to the better land several years ago. The aged father of Mr. Meisinger also died upon this farm some seven years ago, having come here from Pekin, Ill., to spend his last days with his estimable sons. In addition to the six brothers who are named above, Mr. Meisinger left surviving him a sister Mrs. Moldenhauer, of Peoria, Ill.

The funeral yesterday took place from the home of the deceased west of the city, it being one of the largest attended in the county for years, old friends and neighbors of this justly esteemed and popular man, coming for miles to pay a last tribute of respect to his many noble qualities. The services at the house were conducted by Rev. F. J. Longhorst, pastor of the German Evangelical church of this city. Rev. Longhorst preached a sermon which was exceptionally eloquent and which found much in the pure life of this eminent man to commend. His Christian life, his upright and noble character, and his universally conceded high-mindedness all furnished a theme upon which the pastor dwelt lovingly. Rev. Longhorst spoke of the patience and fortitude with which Mr. Meisinger had borne his long illness and the unshaken faith which he felt in the hereafter and his great reward beyond the skies. His sermon was one of the most eloquent ever heard in this section and was a splendid tribute to one of the best citizens who ever graced Cass County or Nebraska.

After the services at the house, the funeral cortege wended its way to Oak Hill cemetery in this city, where the remains were laid at rest. The pall bearers were the six surviving brothers of deceased, J. M., Henry J.,

Conrad, Jacob, Geo. P. and Philip H. Meisinger.

In common with the entire community the Journal extends its sincere sympathy to the members of the stricken family, realizing that in the passing of Mr. Meisinger the entire community sustains the irreparable loss of a good citizen, an excellent upright and noble man, and one of the bulwarks of integrity, fidelity and truth in the country.

The Burlington Extensions.

The Burlington road is planning two extensions that will be made in the next two months. The one line will run from Ericson to O'Neill, in this state, and the other will extend from Orin Junction to Sparta, in Wyoming. These two lines will be the most important that the Burlington has added to its lines in years. The road in Wheeler and Holt counties will tap the richest cattle country in the state, and its connections with the Northwestern at O'Neill will bring much of the traffic from that point off that line and transfer it to the more direct route of the Burlington. The line that will be built in Colorado will be simply a necessary move after the purchase of the Colorado & Southern. It will make the route of the Hill lines from Texas to the Pacific northwest shorter by several hundred miles, while it will be an addition of less than fifty miles to the system.

Frank Trumbull, the president of the C. & S. road will retire next week and George B. Harris of the Burlington will take charge of the affairs of the road. Mr. Harris will go to Denver next week to look over the new lines.

The Basket Ball Game.

The Plattsmouth high school basketball team left for Omaha Saturday afternoon for a game with the Omaha high school team at the Y. M. C. A. in that city. The Plattsmouth team was no match for the Omaha team as their lack of team work was very evident, the players showing great individual ability but were unable to get together. The first half closed with the score 29 to 3 in favor of the Omaha team. In the second half the boys tightened up and made the game more interesting. The final score was 54 to 15. The home team was crippled by the fact that Mann, one of the guards was unable to go. The team should feel no discouragement over the result as the Omaha team is an exceptionally strong one. Hopping did very good work as forward, as did Whelan as guard, considering that he had played with the team but twice. The officials of the game were: Referee, Ernest E. Wolf, Plattsmouth; umpire, Keirter, Omaha; score keepers, Dawson, Plattsmouth, Cherrington, Omaha. The members of the team were: Beal, Hopping, forwards; Droege, Whelan, guards; Wilson, center. The team expects to play a number of games in the near future and should have the support of the entire community.

For Rent.

An excellent 4 room cottage. See telephone list, at the meat market.

That Silk Tile Again.

Col. M. A. Bates of Plattsmouth changed cars here Monday, on the way to Lincoln to resume his duties in the legislature. We occupied a car seat with him coming down from Plattsmouth, and observed how carefully he guarded a large round box he had with him. We supposed it contained one of the bank guaranty bills or something as valuable, and by "nosing in" we gained the Colonel's confidence to the extent that he informed us that the box contained the high silk hat which the reporters have been doing up in picture and verse. The Colonel enjoys the joking, and his acquaintances know that when he puts on that high silk lid there is a lot of good brains under it. —Union Ledger.

CHANGES OF TIME

Interesting Article on the Settlement of the Walradt Estate

Last Saturday, January 16, 1909, final settlement of the estate of George Walradt was made in the county court by Judge Allen J. Beeson. There are some unique features incident to settlement of this estate.

George Walradt was a pioneer settler of Cass county, owning and living on a farm near Cedar Creek and was for many years well and favorably known in that section of the county. On December 25th, 1890, Hon. Allen Beeson, father of County Judge Beeson, wrote the last will and testament of Mr. Walradt. On February 15, 1891, Mr. Walradt died, and on April 28, 1891, Mr. Allen Beeson, as attorney for the estate, filed the will for probate before Judge Beal S. Ramsey, then county judge. Under a certain provision of the will, final settlement could not be made until the youngest child, Raymond Walradt, then three years old, should become of age. Raymond became 21 years old last September. Henry Ahl and Abraham B. Walradt, executors of the will, through their attorneys, Ramsey & Ramsey, last Saturday, made final settlement before Judge Beeson, son of the attorney who drafted the will and Judge Ramsey, who as county judge, admitted the will to probate nearly eighteen years ago, appeared as one of the attorneys to make final settlement.

Great changes have taken place since the probate of this will. Hon. Allen Beeson, the senior member of the law firm of Beeson & Root, passed away a number of years ago, while his son is just commencing his second year as County Judge. Judge Jesse L. Root, the junior member of the law firm of eighteen years ago, subsequently became county attorney and filled the office for six years, appointed a supreme court commissioner and now has the very unusual distinction of being appointed by two governors of opposite political affiliations, one of the judges of our supreme court.

Judge Ramsey completed three terms as county judge, then four years as district judge and is now in partnership in the practice of law with his son, William C. Ramsey, who is just entering upon the discharge of his duties as county attorney.

A Fine Discussion.

Wednesday night at the young men's rooms of the Presbyterian church Prof. Gamble led in the discussion of the "Postal Savings Law." It proved a thoroughly interesting hour. Prof. Gamble had given thought to the subject and was prepared to present both sides of the proposition though it was clear that he favored the law. The discussion waxed warm and inasmuch as it was felt that only the beginning had been made on a theme so large it was determined to continue the discussion at the next meeting the first Wednesday night in February, at which time J. M. Robertson will lead. The interest is at such a state that several have declared their intention to be there without fail and participate. It will be worth while.

J. W. Bowen of Scotts Bluffs, departed this noon on the mail train for Lincoln after a brief visit in the city with Col. Askwith, superintendent of the Masonic Home. Mr. Bowen was formerly adjutant under Col. Askwith at the Grand Island Soldier's home when the latter was commandant there and he is an old friend of his. He had a very delightful time during his brief stay in the city.

SHOOTING OF JOHN P. THACKER

Report of the Unfortunate Affair Victim Still Alive Though Very Low

From Saturday's Daily.

An affray which may terminate in the death of one of the best known citizens of Cass county, took place yesterday afternoon on the farm of James Darrough, some nine miles south of the city. The trouble ended in the shooting of John P. Thacker, a well known resident of that neighborhood and a man prominent in business and political life of the county, by John Clarence, a resident of the same locality and connected with several of the prominent families of the neighborhood.

There are conflicting stories as to the origin of the trouble and considerable divergence as to the real facts surrounding the difficulty. The most accurate report is that corn was being shelled by several of the parties involved in the affair, at the Darrough farm, among those present being Carter Albin and his nephew Earl Albin. Thacker, who had been a visitor at the home of Claud Everett, several miles from the scene of the shooting, arrived at the Darrough place about two o'clock in the afternoon. Here he found the two Albins and John Clarence as well as several other people. At the time of his arrival the two Albins were engaged in a quarrel, stories conflicting as to whether they were engaged in actual combat or in merely a war of words. The stories also as to what occurred afterwards are decidedly conflicting. It is said that Thacker attempted to act the part of peacemaker between the Albins to whom he is related by marriage, Thacker's wife being a sister of Carter Albin, and that when he attempted to interfere and stop the trouble, Clarence took a hand and in the row which ensued, drew a revolver and shot Thacker three times, one of the bullets taking effect in Thacker's chest, one in the abdomen and the third one entering his left leg. Immediately following the shooting he hurriedly saddled a horse and came to town, Clarence surrendering to the officers and being placed in jail. Thacker fell to the ground and help was immediately summoned from the Darrough home which is within a short distance of where the shooting occurred.

Medical attendance was called for at once for the injured man, Dr. Livingston being hurriedly summoned from this city. He was at Elmwood at the time and this news being conveyed to those at Thacker's bedside they intercepted him at Union hurrying him to the injured man's bedside. Here Dr. Livingston made a hurried examination and saw at once that Mr. Thacker's condition was serious. He at once summoned Dr. Davis of Omaha to his assistance and last night a more complete examination was made, and two of the bullets recovered.

According to the story told by Clarence who is now in the county jail, trouble was going on between the two Albins when Thacker came up. He interfered between them and advised Carter Albin to kill his nephew "as he was no good anyway."

Clarence then claims that he took part in the trouble and gave Thacker to understand that he was not to interfere in the matter when the latter went after him, Clarence, with a board, striking him over the head. At this Clarence claims he drew his revolver, a thirty-two calibre gun, and fired with the results as indicated above. According to Clarence there was several welts on his head where Thacker had struck him with a

bee correspondent and Journal representative at the time, was requested to feel his head and find the welts, he was unable to do so. This was this morning, however.

One of the pathetic features of the case, is that Thacker is a man with a wife and six children. He and his family had called at Mr. Everett's early in the afternoon to pay their respects to the late Mrs. Mary F. Griffins, and he had left the family but a few moments before the unfortunate affair occurred. In addition all the parties to the affair are related in a more or less degree, Mr. Thacker and Mr. Clarence being cousins by marriage while the Albins, Thacker and Clarence are all related also.

After the shooting Thacker was taken to his home and he lies there at present hovering between life and death. At three o'clock this afternoon, he was still alive but his condition is very serious. The wound through the chest is just above the heart and is very dangerous while the wound in the abdomen penetrated the bowels and there is danger of grave complications ensuing. The wound in the left leg is not considered dangerous. Should the injuries prove fatal, Clarence will have the crime of murder to plead to, otherwise he will probably escape with a charge of shooting with intent to kill or wound. From the stories told it is apparent that the defense to any charge which will be made will be self-defense.

County Attorney Ramsey is absent from the city and nothing definite can be told as to his probable course in the matter. In any event he would not likely file a complaint until the extent of Mr. Thacker's injuries are ascertained.

One of the underlying causes of the trouble is said to have been a long-continued difficulty between the two Albins, in which several of the relatives had become involved, leading to more or less bad blood between all the parties. It is said that the shooting excited a great deal of feeling in the community where it occurred and that there was some talk of violence toward Clarence. However, this seems to have been idle talk as nothing has transpired since his arrest to warrant a belief that anything out of the way would take place.

Clarence, who did the shooting, is a crippled man, twenty-eight years of age and single. He was keeping bachelor quarters about a mile from the scene of the shooting, and about four miles northeast of the village of Lucca. He is quite well known in the eastern end of the county. Byron Clark has been engaged to defend him, it is understood.

Peter Clarence, a brother of John, was in the city today, coming up from Union, to look after the matter. He knows little of the affair except what is set forth above and was unable to shed any light on the cause of the difficulty save that it was trouble between themselves. He greatly regretted the unfortunate occurrence and was very hopeful for the recovery of Mr. Thacker.

John T. Thacker is a man about forty-five years of age, married and the father of six children, several of them grown. He has generally been considered a peaceable, law-abiding citizen, and a thrifty farmer. He was the democratic candidate for county commissioner two years ago running against Commissioner Friedrich. He is quite well known in this city and has many friends, who hope his injuries may terminate without serious results.

Peppered himself. A fourteen-year old lad named Havirch, a Bohemian lad only over from the old country some three weeks, today accidentally shot himself in the face and arm. The accident occurred in his dragging a loaded shot gun through a barb-wire fence west of the city. The gun was discharged and the load of small shot entered his arm and the side of his face. His injuries are not consid-

ered dangerous as medical aid was hurriedly summoned.

Those taking the examination today before County Superintendent Mary E. Foster were the Normal training class of the Plattsmouth high school, John R. Willcoxson, Joe Capwell and Fara Eldennueller of Elmwood, and Miss Alice Stander of Louisville.

"Gut Heil," the favorite cigar.

The Seven Meisinger Brothers



Reading from left to right: Bottom row, H. J., J. B. (the deceased brother), Mike, Conrad. Top row, George, P. and Phillip.