

GRAND ARMY DEPARTMENT.

Two Important Meetings of Nebraska Veterans Arranged.

PREPARING FOR THE STATE ENCAMPMENT

Reunion of Nebraska Veterans—Sketches of the Fighting Men of the Omaha and Mason City Posts—Other G. A. R. News.

The annual business meeting of the state Grand Army of the Republic will be held at Columbus, Neb., on Wednesday, February 17. The object of the next state encampment will be considered and the locality selected. Other matters pertaining to the good of the order will be discussed. The meeting promises to be largely attended. The people of Columbus propose to dispense liberal hospitality to the delegates in attendance.

The Nebraska City News announces that preparations are well under way for the entertainment of the pioneer soldiers of Nebraska—those who came to Nebraska when a territory and responded to the call for arms—who will hold a reunion in that city the 12th, 13th and 14th inst. This is the first attempt to bring together the veterans of Nebraska's two regiments, and no effort will be spared by those having the reunion in charge to make it a success. Nebraska City proposes to signalize the event by dispensing that lavish hospitality which her people are noted. Ample accommodations for business meetings and camp fires will be provided, and a banquet is proposed as a finishing touch to the reunion.

Nemaha's Veterans. Nemaha City has an active and well-organized Grand Army of the Republic post named in honor of the deceased comrade, G. W. Culp. Those conspicuous in the post are Stephen H. Wood, G. Lilly, Hon. V. P. Peabody and Thomas Peabody, removed with his family in 1844 to a farm in Athens county, Ohio. V. P. Peabody, to use a homely team, shirked for himself ever since he was 9 years old, first as a driver's boy, then as a cabin boy on the Ohio river steamer and later seeking an independent livelihood in Illinois where he located in 1856. He enlisted in April, 1861, in the Seventeenth Illinois volunteer infantry, received slight wounds at Shiloh, was discharged and in six weeks re-enlisted in the Seventy-seventh Illinois infantry, served with Grant through the Vicksburg campaign and under General Banks, went on the celebrated Red river expedition, was captured and confined for fourteen months in various rebel prisons in Texas. He made his escape on four different occasions only to be re-captured and severely punished by bucking, gagging, etc. He was exchanged at the mouth of the Red river and honorably discharged at Springfield, Ill. For two years after he was under medical treatment in Chicago for disease of the eyes contracted while in prison. He located on his present beautiful farm in 1876. He married in 1869 a Miss Mary Drain, with whom he has seven children. Peabody has served the people of this district as census enumerator and representative in the legislature.

E. D. Rogers, a prominent farmer, figures grandly in the Grand Army of the Republic post. He enlisted in the Thirty-second Iowa regiment October, 1862, serving under the union general, H. J. Smith, in scouting and guard duty in Arkansas and Missouri until chronic disease caused his honorable discharge in October, 1863. James F. Drain is another active Grand Army of the Republic man. Jim served in the Ninth Iowa cavalry during the civil war, and even afterwards on the Texas frontier, being discharged in 1866. He served for a short while under the immediate direction of General Grant and he relates that Grant was plucky and brave and expected the same of his men. Grant had no money for timidity or cowardice. Mr. Drain owns a nice farm two miles north of Nemaha City and is an active member of the Christian church.

John Argabright, another boy who wore the blue in the sixties, enlisted in 1863 in the Second Nebraska, taking part in General Sully's Indian expedition, returned and enlisted in the Twelfth Missouri cavalry, serving until the close of the war, fighting at Franklin and Nashville and in the memorable pursuit of General Hood. He returned, married in February, 1866, Miss Rhoda Clover of Grundy county, Illinois. He has since been engaged in farming, owning 166 acres in Nemaha, and Annapolis having seven bright and interesting children.

George Hodkin was born in England in 1820, came to America in 1840, first locating in New Hampshire, but migrated to Nebraska in 1845. In 1852 he enlisted in Colonel "Penny's" volunteer militia and served almost two years. While he was enduring the perils and privations of a soldier's life his wife and babies were in the east. At the close of the war they joined him in Nemaha City. Mr. Hodkin is a hale and hearty, a pleasant and happy life, living upon their homestead in sight of Nemaha City.

Dr. James Kay, the oldest practitioner in Nemaha, enlisted and served in the Eighty-fourth Ohio Volunteer infantry. The doctor has been very successful and built up an extensive practice. He came to Nebraska in 1839. His wife was formerly Miss Susan Sutton of Mount Vernon, Ohio, by whom he has had three children, one deceased but one, a daughter, Miss Bebie.

D. A. Morton, a leading blacksmith and machinist, served two years in the Missouri battalion. Mr. Morton is an energetic worker, a good citizen, and a kind father and husband. Thompson Paxton, one of the oldest settlers and soldiers, a native of Kentucky, is now in his 82d year. He is as active as any young man. He served in the Second Nebraska infantry under Colonel Furnas. Mr. Paxton has been a life-long farmer, but his latter days he has made his home in Nemaha City. Mr. Paxton has had to treat his three sons and a loving wife and now he is left alone to battle against the trials of life.

dition on the Potomac river. John was a valiant soldier and is an active worker in the Grand Army of the Republic.

Walter Hadlock served under Grant and Sherman at the famous battles of Shiloh, Antietam and Richmond. Mr. Hadlock lost his left arm on the field of battle, and he says he is glad that he was allowed to suffer so much to maintain our union and liberate the poor bonded blacks of the south. Mr. Hadlock is an enthusiastic Grand Army of the Republic man.

Stone River Post. There are many old veterans of the late war residing in the vicinity of Mason City, Neb. Among some of the prominent members of Stone River post whose personal record and service you correspondents have been able to obtain, are the following:

John T. Castellaw, member of Stone River post, No. 277, enlisted in the government service at Fort Snelling, Minn., on August 11, 1864, in Company G, Eleventh Minnesota volunteer infantry. Went from Fort Snelling to Nashville, Tenn., and was assigned to General Sherman's command. But for an incident that happened just before Sherman started south Mr. Castellaw's war record might have been different. While awaiting transport to join Sherman the bushwhackers made an attack on a regiment of negro troops that were guarding a railway line, and the Eleventh regiment was sent out to reinforce them, and during this absence Mr. Castellaw was killed. The Eleventh regiment was kept in and about Gallatin, Tenn., until mustered out of service on June 25, 1865. After the war Mr. Castellaw returned to Minnesota, where he resided until the fall of 1870, when he removed to Clarinda, Ia. He has lived in Mason City since the spring of 1887, and is a honored and respected citizen. He is prominent in Grand Army circles and also in the Masonic fraternity. He receives a pension of \$2.

James Whitaker enlisted at Madison, Ind., in company G, Eighty-second Indiana infantry, at the age of 17, and served as a private until discharged July 25, 1865. Immediately after enlisting his company and regiment was sent south and attached to the Army of the Cumberland. Participated in the battles of Murfreesboro, Chattanooga, Mission Ridge, Chickamauga, and was through the Atlanta campaign with Sherman, where, as Mr. Whitaker says: "We had a fight every day." Mr. Whitaker was wounded in the leg at the siege of Atlanta, was sent back to the hospital at Nashville, and after recovering from his wound rejoined his regiment at Kingston, Ga., then to the sea with Sherman, assisted in driving Joe Johnston out of Savannah and followed the wily confederate leader until he surrendered on April 26, 1865. After Johnston's surrender his army marched to Richmond, Va., to Washington, and took part in the grand review. Though modest in his claims, Mr. Whitaker was undoubtedly a good soldier, and participated in some of the hardest campaigns of the war. Mr. Whitaker resided in Indiana until September, 1887, when he removed to York county, Nebraska, and from there to a homestead in Custer county. He has been engaged in the hardware and implement business, is an active and energetic citizen. He is a member of Stone River post and draws a pension of \$1 per month.

John Mulvaney is another Indian who has a good record as a soldier. He enlisted at Corydon, Harrison county, Ind., August 13, 1862, in Company C, Sixty-third infantry, went to Richmond, Ky., and took part in the engagements had in and around that place; was in the fight at Lexington, Ky., where the union forces were routed by Kirby Smith, in which battle Major Sherman's Band of Corps was taken prisoners by the rebels. The remnant of his regiment was taken back to New Albany and reinforced by new recruits, and was then sent to Corinth, Miss.; from there was sent to join Sherman at Chattanooga and participated in the campaigns of Atlanta and Savannah. Mr. Mulvaney was present at the grand review in that city. He was not wounded, but had many narrow escapes. He settled a half-mile east of where the city now stands in 1879, has a fine farm of 320 acres, and a comfortable home in his old age.

A. W. Haines, a farmer who resides four miles west of Mason City, on a fine homestead, is an old Iowa veteran, who followed the fortunes and misfortunes of the Twenty-third Iowa infantry, being a member of Company A. He enlisted at Des Moines, August 15, 1862, was with Grant in the campaign in and around Vicksburg, and participated in all the battles during that famous siege. On May 1, 1863, the 132 survivors of the Twenty-third engaged 2,500 rebels under General Dick Taylor, in battle, and retreated leaving 292 of the men in the field, while the union forces lost but twenty-six men. He was with Banks in Texas during a part of the Red river campaign, and was at Mobile, Ala., when Lee surrendered. After the war Mr. Haines settled in Texas, where he was of Dallas county, Iowa. He came to Nebraska and settled where he now resides in 1884. He is a member of Steadman post No. 180, at Ausley. He is a sufferer from heart disease and rheumatism, and draws a pension of \$10 per month.

A Role of the War. I have in my possession the sword which I carried from Dr. Johnson when we made the raid at the "Second Petersburg" fight and I was one of the men that was with the force that was going to liberate the Libby prisoners. I captured this sword at his house about two or three miles from Richmond in the fall of 1864. I will send the sword to the World's fair and he or any of his friends can see it as a relic and have a chance to identify it.

The blade of the sword is 31 1/2 inches long and the hilt ivory with a gilt ferrule and a wreath of gilt flowers for the protection of the hand. It belonged to Barker's cavalry, private, company C, first District Columbia cavalry. Colonel Pierce commanded the squad. Valley, Douglas Co., Neb.

The Best of Monuments. A Grand Army post in Iowa, says the Chicago Herald, has adopted a resolution against putting into graveyard or other monumental pile the state's portion of the direct war tax, which it recommends shall be invested in soldiers' homes, where their widows and orphans may be sheltered.

John Culp enlisted in Pennock's Missouri militia, and was also in the expedition on the Potomac river.

SAW LIGHT WITH THE CENTURY

A California Veteran's Long and Stirring Life.

REMINISCENCES OF THE EARLY DAYS.

Interesting Tales Told by Colonel J. D. Stevenson at His Birthday Reception.

Colonel Jonathan D. Stevenson, pioneer among pioneers, was 92 years of age January 1, and the announcement that he would hold a New Year's reception in the Pioneer building, says the San Francisco Examiner, was sufficient to carry many a gray head and bowed form thither, together with not a few representatives of later generations.

The reception was to have lasted from 11 until 2 o'clock, but it was considerably after 3 before the visitors ceased dropping in and the time worn soldier was allowed to depart.

The colonel was in a reminiscent mood, and those of his callers who had time to linger awhile in his company heard many interesting incidents and episodes of his long life. The majority related to the circumstances under which he brought his famous regiment to California and the incidents of the voyage.

Early in the day a chance remark about Chile, and the South American governments generally recalled to the colonel an experience at Rio de Janeiro, the capital of Brazil, at which port he stopped a few days with three vessels, the Thomas H. Perkins, S. S. Dredg, and the Thomas H. Perkins, S. S. Dredg, came to the Pacific coast.

"The fact is," said the colonel, "I came never having a war on my hands there than I did in California. It blew over finally, but it was a close thing."

"When I arrived in port I found Commodore Rosseau of the United States navy there with his vessel, and I immediately gave orders on board my own craft to salute him by firing the regular number of guns. Shortly afterward the captain of the port came on board and asked if my salute was intended for the Brazilian authorities. I said, 'No, sir; I was saluting my country's flag, that I see lying yonder.'"

"Then he asked if I had any objection to exchanging views with him, to which I would do so on the following day."

"But when I saw Commodore Rosseau he told me that the relations between the imperial government and the American legation, and himself also, were so strained that all communication had for the time ceased, though as I had an independent command he did not seek to forbid my giving the salute if I saw fit. But I hunted up the port captain and told him that, under the circumstances, I could not exchange salutes."

"That made the feeling worse than ever, and shortly after an English merchant of Valparaiso told me the authorities had decided to order all American vessels away from the port."

"I do not know," I said, "that if such an order is issued I'll land 1,000 men in this town—and you'd better have 1,000 devils—and I'll blow that palace and your town to town."

"When I went to my men, a lot of whom I was about going ashore on leave, 'Boys, I said, 'I must stop you now, for the chances are that when you land here again it will be with bayonets fixed. They say they are going to drive us out of the harbor.'"

FRESHENED IN CALIFORNIA. "Well, the boys went wild. I had never heard through such cheers before. The next ship took it up, and the next, and if I had wanted to learn what sort of spirit my men were possessed of, I knew it now."

An English merchant went ashore and spread the news, and that settled it. Nothing more was heard of that order."

Nathaniel Holland, United States supervisor of elections and whose own home is in California, said to him: "How are you, my young friend?" said the colonel, with a comical emphasis on the adjective.

"Pretty well, colonel, considering I'm only twelve years younger than yourself. And how are you?"

"I have never felt better since I was 21 years old," replied Colonel Stevenson, and he manifestly meant just what he said.

"I do honestly believe," he added, "that the man who has spent his 70 years in New York is at 60 as old as a Californian at 80."

"Probably it's the California wine that braces us up here," suggested a bystander.

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

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Dr. Cullimore, oculist, Bee building

He Did Not Know His Wife.

In the diaries of the late Mr. Copo, R. A., says the London News, the following story is given as told by his sister-in-law: "She met a farmer friend and said to him, 'I hear, John, that you're lately married. Who is your wife?'"

"Well, Miss Gunning, I don't quite know."

"How so? Where did you meet her?"

"Aweel, ye see, miss, I went to market, and she was going to see a cunny lass, walking along the road, and I says, 'Will ye git up and ride?'"

"Aye, says she. So she got up and I asked her, 'Are ye ganing to go to market?'"

"Aye, says she. 'What for?' says I. 'To git a place,' says she. 'So I set her down 't' the market and left her; and as I came back 't' the evening here was this same lass walking 't' some way off hill. So I spak' to her again, and axed her, 'ha' ye gotten your place?'"

"'Nay, says she, 'I hanna. 'Cause ye git up and ride?'"

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"'Why, to be pice is that?' says she. 'What, by the way, says I. 'I don't mind,' says she. 'So we got wed, and she's a rare wife, but she's a perfect stranger to me.'"

The Point of Resemblance.

There was a gang of minstrels in the dressing room busy washing off the grease and paint, after the night's performance was over, says the St. Joe News.

"'You know,' said one of the end men, as he scrubbed the last speck of black from his pale face, 'that I remind myself of an open bottle of champagne.'"

"'No, sir; because I'm uncorked.'"

As he ducked his head to elude a sponge that showed a tendency to come his way, somebody else remarked: "You remind me more of the champagne."

"'No, not that. You're full of gas.'"

When the room was swept out next morning the janitor wondered whether it was a bull fight or a mask ball that had taken place there the night before.

Dr. Birney cures catarrh. Bee bldg.

A Bright Witness.

An eminent judge who was trying a right-of-way case in England, had before him a witness—an old farmer—who was proceeding to tell the jury that he had "knocked the path for sixty year, and my feather told I say he heeded me, 'cause the way was—"

"Stop!" said the judge, "we can't have any hearsay evidence here."

"Not?" exclaimed Farmer Giles. "Then how dost know who thy feather was, 'cept by hearsay the judge said: 'Aye, the feather told me, 'cause the way was—'"

"In courts of law we can only be guided with what you have seen with your own eyes, nothing more or less."

"Oh, that be blowed for a tale," replied the farmer. "I ha' a bile on the back of my neck, and I never smell um, but I be ready to swear that he's there, I do."

Oiling the Glass.

It is complained by go-mounds that the famous Little Neck claims now have a decided flavor of kerosene, owing to the proximity of an oil refinery to their happy hunting grounds. This business of casing up on the outside waters in the vicinity of a clammy should be frowned upon.

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