

MEMORIAL EXERCISES

Sketches From History---Reno Post, Ladies' Relief Corps, Sons and Daughters of Veterans and Associate Members.

VETERANS AND OUR FLAG

The Post and Its Auxiliaries as Guests of the Congregational Society in the Town Hall on Sunday. Address by Rev. A. J. Rackliffe. Music by Congregational Choir.

ELOQUENT ORATION BY HON. A. S. ROE OF WORCESTER

Exercises by the Lower Grades of Schools on Monday in Lower Town Hall in the Afternoon, and the Higher Grades in the Town Hall in the Evening. March of Post 9, Sons of Veterans, Ladies' Society and Associate Members to the Different Cemeteries on Tuesday.

THE SWEEP of years since the close of the War of the Rebellion has brought us to the last Memorial Day of this century. Our fathers and grandfathers, looking backward, beheld the sacrifices, sufferings, sorrows, glorious deeds and grand victories of the Revolution, and they revered the memory of the men engaged in that war.

Those now living, who have the spirit of patriotism in their souls, stand as it were, with uncovered heads, as the gray haired and tottering remnant of the grand army of veterans of the Rebellion, pass by, to lay floral tributes on the green mounds that mark the resting places of their dead comrades.

Although thousands of monuments mark these places, our country has no actual need of granite shaft, gilded banner, tender ballad or solemn anthem, to keep green and fragrant the deeds of her dead and living heroes, as long as there exists a fragment of a shell, a tattered battle flag, an empty sleeve, an anguished heart, or a veteran soldier, so long will these be suggestive of deadly fever in Southern swamps, of physical collapse, of prison pens, of long and exhaustive marches, of tempests, of iron and leaden hail, and the cause that made these things inevitable.

Our Flag.

Artistically a gem. Every stripe significant of well defined paths of national progress. Every star in the cluster a becoming sun, shining with ever increasing lustre. Beneath its folds, liberty, learning, religion and the highest good of the lowliest citizen, was intended. Wherever it waves, over land or sea, it is the strongest guarantee of human rights and privileges. For the defense and honor of this flag, the veterans of the rebellion and of the Spanish-American war, risked health, limb and life. For this the people, schools and church, have this week paid them special honors.

Reno Post, No. 9, G. A. R.

From a paper called "Reno's Advance" published in February, 1880, we clip the following extracts from the pen of J. F. Doan, in regard to the early days of Post 9, Dept. of Mass., G. A. R.:

In April 1866, a movement was set on foot to organize an association of the citizens of Hudson who had served their country in the army or navy, during the late rebellion, for the purpose set forth in their declaration of principles:—Of perpetuating the pleasant relations heretofore existing between us as comrades in arms; to assist each other and those of our fellow citizens who may hereafter return from the hardships of the service, to procure employment, also to be instrumental in assisting the disabled and the families of those that have fallen; to

place on record for the use of posterity, any facts that may come to our knowledge concerning the patriotic service of any of our comrades during the late rebellion.

This movement met with a ready response from the soldiers of Hudson, and on the first day of June, the by-laws of the "Hudson Army and Navy Union" were adopted, and the new society started on its mission under the most favorable auspices. The Union was not intended to be in any sense a machine, nor was it secret, the meetings being open and any question was considered in order and debatable, and many, who could not become members, attended the meetings. For a short time the Union was successful, but ere long two disturbing elements arose to cloud the brightness of our dreams. There were too few officers to go round and too much politics for peace, and the longer the Union lived, the less union existed among the members. In the following spring, having learned that an effort was being made to unite the soldiers and sailors of the Union Army and Navy, in one grand National brotherhood, Jas. S. Bailey succeeded in obtaining a copy of the constitution, and consulted with the writer and others, with a view to securing a charter. It was finely decided to advocate a transfer of the Army and Navy Union into a Post of the "Grand Army of the Republic;" the task proved an easy one, for, with very few exceptions, the members cried, "Eureka! here is what we want, Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty, and no discussion of political or religious subjects permitted under any circumstances." On the 16th of March, a committee of ten was chosen to apply for a charter, and on the evening of the 10th day of April, the following comrades were duly mustered and enrolled in the Grand Army of the Republic:

Jas. S. Bailey, A. S. Trowbridge, H. S. Moore, Joseph A. Rand, Luther E. Stuart, C. G. Brigham, Ira B. Goodrich, Calvin M. Carter, J. W. Pedrick, C. H. Williams, C. H. Brown, J. F. Dolan, A. A. Powers, S. E. Hunt, C. A. Howe, J. F. Burgess, Chas. Fairbanks, J. L. Bruce, J. H. Longenecker, J. Russell, C. E. Roe, W. H. Strong, Proctor Pingrey, E. A. Rich, M. V. Tripp, S. O. Lancy, N. R. Wheeler, L. T. Howe, A. W. Morse, Geo. W. Edson, H. F. Watkins, W. B. Rice, Benj. Barnard, S. B. Ring, E. F. Phelps, S. Arnold, Stephen Smith, Chas. Langdon, A. R. Brigham, D. W. Warner, Parkman Nourse, C. G. Brett, E. L. Tobey, A. R. Sumner, C. F. Kimball, H. A. Thomas, H. N. Randall, R. B. Lewis, R. G. Stowell, H. E. Moore, G. A. Hunt, Oliver Sawyer, S. O. Howe, D. B. Whitcomb, I. F. Carter, Donald Ross, J. Bullard, C. M. Farnsworth and E. P. White.

At this time the G. A. R. was a new idea in Massachusetts, and the first general order received gave information that

ours was the ninth Post in the state, and was known as Post No. 9, Dist. No. 7, Dept. Mass., G. A. R.

When it was determined to give each Post a name in connection with their number, it was left to those of our boys who had represented our village in the struggle for the Union, to select the name, and as Co. F, 13th Massachusetts, was composed principally of citizens of Hudson, it was decided to name it "Reno," in honor of the gallant commander of the First Corps, in which the 13th served, and who gave his life as a willing sacrifice for his country's good, at South Mountain, in Maryland, September 14, 1862.

In its 30 years of life, through the liberality of the citizens of Hudson, it has raised several thousands of dollars, which have been judiciously expended in relieving comrades in want and sickness, and in giving honored burial to all who died. It has ever been a power for good and from its ranks several have been elevated to the highest positions in the gift of the people of Hudson.

Reno Independent Relief Corps.

Soon after the breaking out of the Rebellion, the patriotic women of Feltonville, catching the spirit of solicitude and sacrifice that glowed on every village altar for dear ones in the field, barracks or hospital, organized the Soldiers Aid Society, and commenced to forward supplies, at first directly to the army, but subsequently through the aid of the Sanitary commission. This commission was a voluntary and unpaid bureau of the war department. Every camp and military hospital from the Atlantic to the plains, was visited, its needs ascertained, and as far as possible supplied by the commission.

Long and weary months of labor, added to the consuming suspense and solicitude for absent dear ones, made up a record of usefulness, love and patriotism, which entitle them to the honor and admiration of the present and succeeding generations.

Directly after the close of the war, the business of the society was closed up and an unexpended balance of \$178 devoted as a nucleus to a monumental fund. This was largely added to by fairs and balls, and a sum total secured which at interest would now amount to more than \$4,000. However not more than \$1,200 of this sum is now available.

On February 12th 1872, a society was formed and christened "Ladies Relief Society." A few years ago the Grand Army ladies reorganized under the name of "Reno Independent Relief Corps." All these societies have been honored and loved handmaids of Reno Post, joined in the spirit of fraternity, actuated by the same warm, broad charity for the needy and suffering survivors of the war

and for the orphans and widows of departed comrades and stimulated by the spirit of loyalty, to fulfill to the letter the sacred promises made while war raged.

Hand in hand, these companion societies will struggle on, until all the "boys in blue" and the "girls in white," shall have passed beyond the red and gold of life's western horizon.

Major A. A. Powers, Camp No. 5, Sons of Veterans.

The following are facts gleaned from a brief outline of the history of the camp, prepared and read by George A. Derby, a member of the camp, on its 15th anniversary:

"The initiatory step towards forming the camp, was taken by a committee of three, of Reno Post 9, G. A. R., in April, 1882. T. J. Burkill was the first captain. The first recruit of the camp was Edward L. Powers, son of Major Powers, for whom the camp was named, and a member of Reno Post. The first death in the camp was that of W. F. Worcester, June 4, 1883. Charles E. Bennet was elected vice division commander in 1895. The camp has, up to date, mustered about 150 members and is one of the most influential in the division."

While this organization is fraternal in its character, drawing and welding together the sons of veteran soldiers of the rebellion, its one grand purpose is to assist their parent association, the G. A. R., and to be in a position to continue the work of their fathers, when from advanced age and steadily decreasing numbers, they are no longer able to do so themselves.

Upon them will fall duties and privileges more sacred and glorious than ever before felt to noble sons of noble sires. They will care for the last remnant of the grandest army this world ever saw. They will watch with bated breath for the last pulse beat of the last Union soldier of the rebellion. They will close his eyes in death, and bury him where buttercups and daisies will bloom above his grave; and as often as Memorial Day comes round, will silently march to the cities of the nation's dead, and strew the veterans' graves with choicest flowers. They and their children will tell to coming generations the story of the heroic past in which their fathers had a part.

Daughters of Veterans.

Almost contemporaneously with the organization of the Sons of Veterans, the Daughters of Veterans came into existence, and for the few years they existed as an organized body, they did efficient work. For the last few years they have been merged in the Ladies' Relief Corps. The reorganization of the daughters is contemplated and should be accomplished, as the sons will soon be called upon to take up the work of the Post, so will the daughters be called upon to take up the work of the Ladies' Relief.

Associate Members.

Associate members are those citizens who affiliate with the Post and contribute a certain sum of money to the treasury of the Post. This association has been very helpful in other than financial ways. It has been in existence several years.

MEMORIAL EXERCISES.

Three Consecutive Days, Sunday Monday and Tuesday, Appropriately Spent in Honor of the Dead.

Never until now in the life of the Grand Army has memorial exercises extended over three consecutive days.

Sunday.

The first of these days was last Sunday in the town hall, on which occasion the Post and its auxiliary societies were the guests of the Congregational society, the invitation having been extended by Rev. A. J. Rackliffe.

The services were held in town hall, because Temple hall, the regular meeting place of the society, was not large enough to accommodate the congregation that was thought sure to gather.

A broad band of bunting decorated the front of the platform and another the walls of the platform alcove. Potted plants and ferns along the front and top of the platform, added beauty to the decorations.

The Post, Sons of Veterans and associate members, gathered at Post hall, at 10.15 o'clock, and proceeded to the town hall, where they were joined by the ladies of the Post, the waiting people filling that portion of the hall not occupied by the invited guests. There were 52 members of the Post, led by Commander O. W. Holt. Among this number were past commanders, John F. Dolan, E. P. Miles, W. C. Waterhouse, H. P. Bean, Charles G. Brigham and J. P. Clate. The Ladies Relief, numbered 25, the Sons of Veterans commanded by Capt. Lyman Grant, 28, and the associate members 15.

The exercises were opened with an anthem by W. P. Kelly, Miss Bertha Sawyer, Mrs. H. E. French and Thomas Taylor Jr., accompanied by Mrs. L. V. Randall. During the services a second anthem was finely rendered. "The Lord's prayer" sung in response to a prayer by Rev. Mr. Rackliffe was beautifully and impressively given.

The scripture lessons were from Psalms 2d chapter, Isaiah 43d chapter, and II Timothy 2d chapter.

The address by Rev. Mr. Rackliffe has never been surpassed by any in the memory of the comrades. His deliberate, terse and impressive style enabled all to clearly grasp his strong, tender, bold, and effective points. His text was the 2d and 4th verses, 2d chapter II Timothy:

his theme "The soldier as a type of christian manhood."

The present dangers which threaten the nation, such as "bossism," and the tendency to use public office for individual or partisan advantage, were emphasized. The battlefield incidents cited and the thoughts suggested, were choice and touching. He called upon the Grand Army and others to see to it that government is administered, "by the people" and "for the people." His most impressive expression when referring to the diminishing ranks of the veterans, was, "The Great Commander says, 'steady men; close up!'"

The services ended by the choir and audience singing "America."

Abstract of Sermon by Rev. A. J. Rackliffe.

Following is a very brief abstract of the sermon by Rev. A. J. Rackliffe.

"The greatest preacher of the early church chose a soldier as his most impressive illustration of the type of manhood needed in this and every other age. By this illustration we see that life is something more than comedy or tragedy; that there is something worthy to be achieved; something worth living, fighting, dying for; something to be gained by sacrifice and suffering."

"The soldierly qualities referred to in the text were illustrated in our civil war, in which the American soldier demonstrated the highest type of the men and women needed today. There was absolute abandonment of self interest, such as giving up private business and personal interest, absolute devotion to the cause which led him to enlist and his purpose to fight to win; absolute obedience to those in command, which leads a soldier to go forward although he knows the order is a blunder."

By graphic word pictures the speaker then proceeded to show how the soldierly qualities were conspicuously manifested in the soldiers of our civil war, and that the recent war with Spain shows that the same spirit is alive today. After some reference to the new problems that have been thrust upon us by the recent war, he said: "These soldierly qualities represent the type of men we need today. Your work is not yet done. The nation you have saved must be preserved. Its very life may be in danger from other causes than war. You became soldiers in order that a government of the people, for the people, by the people, might not perish from the earth. A government of the people means that people are to be governed. A government for the people is opposed to government in the interests of office-holders, and of legislation in favor of classes. A government by the people is opposed to that by political bosses and that by the minority."

"These soldierly qualities are especially needed in that larger conflict between right and wrong. Self sacrifice, devotion and conscientious obedience to right would drive out strongly entrenched evils. Wrong is prolonged because so many openly sympathize with it."

"Comrades in this larger conflict God is calling for volunteers. Will you enlist? When the struggle is over can it be said of us that we have done a soldier's duty? May God grant that the victories we may win in the battle of life may be victories for truth and God."

Monday.

The assembling of all the schools into two divisions, grades 1, 2, 3, 4, in the afternoon, and the higher grades in the evening, in the town hall, and inviting the Grand Army to be present, for the purpose of paying tributes of respect to the dead and living veterans of our country's wars and for an object lesson to the children, is a far better arrangement than that in vogue a few years since, when each grade held exercises in their own school rooms.

The broad bands of bunting which ornamented the platform and walls of the town hall alcove on Sunday still remained and in addition to this decoration, were a glory of flags at the rear of the alcove and a bark of flowers at the front of the platform. Just before two o'clock, companies of children from the north, south, east and west, approached the hall and entering filled two-thirds of the seats on the floor of the hall. There were fully 500 of them. The remainder of the hall and the gallery were filled with spectators. At 2.20 o'clock a delegation of Reno Post, led by Commander Holt, entered and took seats reserved for them. The girls were dressed in white with here and there a dainty bit of color, which relieved the whiteness of their attire. Some of them wore tiny flags while others, including the boys, carried flags and flowers.

Exercises opened with a song by all the grades, "Bring forth the flowers." Rev. A. J. Rackliffe led in prayer. Other songs were "Decoration Day" and "Our Flag" by grades 1 and 2; "Old Glory is Waving" and "Our Native Land" by grades 3 and 4; "Apple Blossoms," by High street grade 2. There were other songs by Leona LaFrance and by Hazel Jenkins and Albert Burgess. Exercises by the different grades and recitations by Ella Neal, Anna Connors, Doretha Atwood, Mary Morgan, Stanley Freeborn, Mary Shortleaves, Clara Amet, Blanche Giasson, Bertie Seymour, Ethel Burgess and Lewis Stone, completed a most interesting program.

The children were splendidly drilled and otherwise prepared for their parts. Not a single instance of any particular hesitation or embarrassment was noticeable. They were smiling, free and at home in the performance of their duties. The number that called forth the most

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Commonwealth of Massachusetts,
MIDDLESEX, SS.

PROBATE COURT.

To the heirs at law, next of kin and all other persons interested in the estate of Hannah Cannon, otherwise known as Hannah Burke, late of Hudson, in said County, deceased.

WHEREAS a certain instrument purporting to be the last will and testament of said deceased has been presented to said Court, for probate, by Mary Kiddy, who prays that letters testamentary may be issued to her, the executrix to be named, without giving a surety on her official bond.

And said petitioner is hereby directed to give public notice thereof, by publishing this citation once in each week, for three successive weeks, in the Hudson News, a newspaper published in Hudson, the last publication to be one day at least, before said Court, and by mailing, post-paid, or delivering a copy of this citation to all known persons interested in the estate, seven days at least before said Court.

Witness, CHARLES J. M'INTIRE, Esquire, Judge of said Court, this twenty-fifth day of May in the year one thousand eight hundred and ninety-nine.

S. H. FOLSOM, Register.

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