

FREDERICKSBURG NEWS

Thursday, March 16, 1939

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PIONEER CITIZEN AND LAST CIVIL WAR VETERAN OF CHICKASAW COUNTY PASSED AWAY TUESDAY, MARCH 7TH

If it be true that each of us has a certain influence upon the people we meet and the communities we live in as we travel the highway of life, then it must be equally true that the longer we live and the more widely we travel, the greater must be the sphere of influence we exert. This fact being true how great must have been the influence and impact of the life of John N. Coleman upon the world in which he was most intimately associated for he first saw the light of day in Ontario, Canada then lived in Illinois and finally in our own state of Iowa where that life ended in Fredericksburg.

Beginning as his life did on June 29, 1844 and ending on March 7, 1939, he was privileged to live over a span of 94 years, 8 months, and 7 days or nearly a century with the most of it in our own Chickasaw County of which he was a pioneer settler and resident for the past 63 years. Surely he could not have lived here so long and so well without leaving the impress of his personality and character upon all.

At the immature age of 16, he entered the service of the Northern Army as a member of the 44th regiment of Illinois Infantry and thus began a phase

of his life, which was not only to influence his own existence but also to play a very important part in the solidarity and development of the whole country. Being discharged from his regiment, while it was in Missouri on account of measles, he might have given up his purpose of army life but, as soon as he was again able, he re-enlisted in the 95th Illinois Infantry as a member of Company K and marched, fought, and suffered with his fellows while they traveled a total of almost 10,000 miles in the remaining three years of the war and then, forsook the field of carnage for the fields of grain and became as energetic in the peace-time activities as he had been in the war-time ones.

In 1868 on July 29th, he was married to Jennie Sandercock at Greeley, Iowa, and for the following 63 years until her death on May 12, 1931, they lived and loved and lost together.

Eight children were born to this union and five of them still survive together with 17 grandchildren, 8 great-grandchildren, and two great great grandchildren to honor the memory and revere the name of a loving father: Mrs. Phoebe King who lives in Rice Lake, Wisconsin; Clyde whose home is in

Haugen, Montana; Frank who resides in Calmar, Iowa; Leo living in Westgate, Iowa; and Lela Richardson residing in our own city whose kind and loving hands made the last years of her father comfortable and in whose home he passed away last Tuesday at a ripe old age.

At the time of his passing, Brother Coleman had the distinction of being the last Civil War veteran in Chickasaw County and his death breaks the last tangible bond binding the old to the new. The army of the Blue is going down the valley one by one and our reverence mounts as they pass because we realize more fully what it must mean to us in our day of union and national solidarity that they did live and did sacrifice to sustain the ideals of democracy.

This occasion is peculiarly the cause of sorrow and grief to those children and grandchildren who survive the passing of our friend and brother but their grief must be shared and is shared by the whole community in which he lived so long for all have felt the impress of his life and his personal part in our community life and history, therefore, we extend to the bereaved ones our sympathy in their hour of grief. May the God of our universe add His loving effort to you in your hour of sadness and with you thru the dreary days ahead.

Funeral services were held at the home of Mrs. Lela Richardson Friday afternoon at 2:00 o'clock, in charge of Rev. H. M. Tiffany of the Methodist church and burial was made at Rose Hill cemetery.

As a deserved and fitting honor to the memory of Mr. Coleman, the American Legion had charge of the services at the grave.

Out of Town Relatives

Mr. And Mrs. Frank Coleman, Calmar, Iowa, Mrs. Phoebe King, Rice Lake, Wisconsin, Mr. And Mrs. Leo Coleman and two sons, Rollis and Leneigh and daughter, Onalie, Westgate, Iowa, Mr. And Mrs. Harold Milright, West Union, Iowa, Mr. Leo Coleman, Oelwein, Iowa, Mr. And Mrs. Frank Bell and daughter Frances, Earlville, Iowa, Rev. Maynard Bell, Riceville, Iowa and Mr. And Mrs. Glew and daughter, Maynard, Iowa.

CARD OF THANKS

Words fail to express our gratitude to the friends, neighbors and Protheon Sunday School class who so kindly remembered our father in so many ways during his declining years and after his death. We also thank the American Legion.

His Children