

Obituary

Jonas Hoffhines was born in a log house near Ashville, Ohio, on July 10, 1840. He was the seventh of eight children born from typical sturdy parents who endured life's hardships and struggles with patience. His father lived to be ninety-nine years of age, and his grandfather fought in the War of 1812. Jonas was the last G. A. R. member left in Leon and Decatur County. He attended school in Ashville, Ohio and made the most out of the short period of education, which was afforded him. Necessity caused him to close his short schooling during the latter half of the third grade, but he continued his education by practical observation, reading and conversation with his many friends in the world of experience and practice. He spent his youth on a farm working faithfully at the performance of any task placed before him. He was a member of Company C, 88th Ohio Volunteers, serving from August 24, 1862 to July 3, 1865. And was one of the men who stood guard over the body of Abraham Lincoln while it lay in state.

He married Alice Frazier on Easter Sunday, April 1, 1866 at Lima, Ohio. Two girls were born to them, Mrs. Aimee Truesdell, his daughter who has patiently and kindly cared for him since the death of his wife, April 17, 1933, and Mrs. Nellie Simmons of Harlingen, Texas. There are two grandchildren, Charles Simmons Jr. and Genevieve Simmons Fordham. He has one great-

grandchild and one great great grandchild. The family moved from Ohio to southern Iowa, where Jonas engaged in business for many years. He was greatly interested in building the town of Leon and contributed most generously to its growth and progress. He made financial gifts to all the churches erected in Leon during his active days and donated \$1,900 to railroad construction through this city. He served for thirteen years as a member of the Leon Board of Education. He joined the Masonic Lodge on Nov. 30, 1869 and is the holder of a fifty-year membership certificate. He was made an honorary member of the Leon Rotary Club on his ninety-ninth birthday on July 10, 1939. He was always active as a citizen and most friendly as a neighbor and companion, and cherished the confidence and trust of all who knew him. Last summer, July 10, 1940, we celebrated his one-hundredth birthday with an honorable ceremony and deepest respect for his noble and worthy career. Life was sweet because of the friends he had made, and the things, which in common he shared with them.

His circuit of life ended on Tuesday morning, at 7:30 in his beautiful home which he had loved very dearly. He was one hundred years, three months, and twelve days. He had not been ill but was very tired physically and therefore life vanished, to be more gloriously and richly continued on the other shore. He

was laid to rest in the Leon cemetery where his wife also is resting. His departure means a loss of a Civil War Veteran, a friend of all mankind, an honored character that leaves behind a pleasant memory and worthy example to all of us.

“For Jonas the way of life led up one hill and down another, o’er rough or smooth, his journey was a joy; still seeking what he sought but when a boy, new friendships, high adventure, and a crown. His heart kept to the courage of the quest and hoped the road’s last turn would be the best.”

*“Pure was his life, its final close,
Has placed him with the sons of right.
Among the noble host of those
Who struggled for the cause of right.”*

His life has been woven forever into the memories and the impressions of earnestness, and devotion toward his fellowmen never will be forgotten.

Funeral services were held at the Stewart Funeral Home on Sunday afternoon, October 27, with Rev. Moore of the Leon Methodist church officiating. Services at the grave, in the Leon cemetery, were conducted by the American Legion.