

TUESDAY, APRIL 2, 1929.

Honored Life Reaches Close

**Captain J. W. Carr, Distinguished
Civil War Veteran, Dies in
Montezuma**

**HAS BEEN ONE OF COUNTY'S
MOST INFLUENTIAL MEN**

**Would Have Been 91 Years Old If
He Had Lived Until
April 26**

If Captain Carr had lived until the 26th day of this month he would have been 91 years old. He was born on the day in 1838 which is celebrated in this country as the birthday of American Oddfellowship. Before his death he was the oldest of all the earlier settlers of this county except one.

J. W. Carr came to Poweshiek county from Illinois in 1847 at the age of nine years. His first home was in Union township with his relatives there. Only one other man is living who dates back to this early period in the history of Poweshiek county. That is J. W. Hatchell who was born in 1843 and who was brought as a baby by his parents to Union township in the early spring of 1844.

When Captain Carr came to this county he was old enough to know and see and to remember the early story of his home township in the '40's. He was tall, straight, striking in appearance and it was no wonder when the 28th regiment was mustered into service that he was elected as captain of one of its companies.

He was wounded in the service and the close of the war was brevetted major by the president of the United States. He served with the 28th through all the hard battles in which that regiment took part in: Champion Hill, the siege of Vicksburg and Jackson, Miss., and many other engagements in the year '63. He took part in service in southern Louisiana and Mississippi and he went with his regiment in 1864 to Shenandoah Valley where he was in Sheridan's famous campaign. At Winchester where the famous ride of Sheridan took place he was wounded and sent home for a long time. He came to Montezuma the day that the Marshalls were in Sugar Creek township and was much interested in the events of the following few days. He re-

turned to the war after his full recovery and assumed command of the regiment for a short period before the war closed and received the rank of major at that time.

He returned to Montezuma and went into the retail business but in 1869 was elected clerk, an office which he filled for three terms. He studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1877. Practically all of his practice was done in Montezuma and we heard it once said of him that instead of trying to make money out of the law by encouraging law suits he spent the better part of his time as an arbitrator between men who had engaged in suits thus losing to himself a large amount of fees which he might have made if he had been a promoter of strife among his fellow men. He served as county attorney during the period of Chet Rowe's defalcation. The latter part of his life he was one of the organizers of the Montezuma Savings Bank.

In 1866 Captain Carr married Miss Lottie Frick of New York state. She was a sister of Mrs. M. E. Cutts. Mr. Cutts was formerly district attorney in this district and she made her acquaintance with Captain Carr while visiting her sister in Montezuma. Two children were born to this union, Fred who still lives in Montezuma and Clifford, a dentist, at Los Angeles.

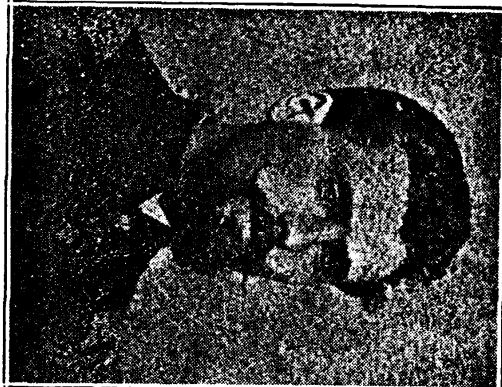
In politics Captain Carr has been one of the most active and enthusiastic members of the republican party and had a powerful influence in shaping the political policies of this district and state. He was a member of Wisner Post, Montezuma, and was also a member of Lafayette Lodge of Masons and a member of Royal Arch at Malcom. He was also a Knight of Pythias.

In the death of Captain Carr Poweshiek county loses one of its most eminent citizens. It loses a man generous to the extreme—a member of the legal profession who was born to prevent legal strife and whose legal powers were used to cement men in friendship rather than to promote hostility growing out of suits at law. Captain Carr knew the game of politics and was for a long time one of Poweshiek's most powerful politicians. He used his power, however, to promote the better principles which grow up out of political activity. He probably made fewer enemies than any other man who has lived in this county for a period of 82 years. He knew more men, and he knew more of the early facts in history than any other man and he had lived longer and better and happier than most of the others who have been long time residents of the county.

He leaves an honored memory and in his death this county loses an earnest, worthy and successful citizen.

John W. Carr

Captain J. W. Carr as he looked in Civil War days, and as his friends remember him in later years.



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CAPTAIN JOHN W. CARR.

There was one house in Montezuma when Captain John W. Carr came to Poweshiek county. He was then a lad of eight years and has therefore been a witness of the entire growth of the county seat and practically of the entire development and progress of the county and has himself borne an important part in its upbuilding, especially through his connection with the legal profession and with banking interests. His name is indelibly impressed upon the pages of its history.

His birth occurred in Logan county, Illinois, near Mount Pulaski, on the 26th of April, 1839, his parents being William and Catharine (Moore) Carr, natives of Virginia and Ohio respectively. The former was the son of a planter and in early manhood became a resident of Logan county, Illinois, where he developed and improved a farm, meeting the usual experiences and hardships of pioneer life during the early period of his residence there. When the war cry of the savages was heard and the Indians under the leadership of Black Hawk marched against the white settlers he did active duty as a soldier. His wife was born near Columbus, Ohio, and went to Logan county, Illinois, with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Moore, who became farming people of the locality. Later Mr. Moore came to Poweshiek county, Iowa, in 1845, his death occurring here the following year. His widow, who bore the maiden name of Sarah Downing, resided near Montezuma for a number of years and was one of the well known pioneer women of this part of the state. Her death occurred in 1875, her daughter, Mrs. Carr, passed away in Illinois in 1843 and William Carr died in 1845. They were the

parents of four children. Sarah, who was born in 1832, became the wife of Jacob Deardorf, who died in Oklahoma about 1900. Kate, born in 1834, became the wife of Pleasant Deardorf, the brother of her sister's husband, and passed away in Madison county, Iowa, about 1899. Nicholas, born in 1836, was for about eighteen months a soldier of the Tenth Iowa Infantry during the Civil war. He was afterward sheriff of Poweshiek county, Iowa, for four years and later special examiner of tillable land in Nebraska under President Cleveland. He afterward became justice of the peace at Neligh, Nebraska, and died in that state in 1898.

Captain John W. Carr was the youngest of the family and was only six years of age when left an orphan. He lived with an uncle, William Moore, in Illinois until 1847, when with his brother and sisters he started for Iowa to make his home with his maternal grandmother, near Montezuma. They reached their destination on the 23d of December, after crossing the river at Warsaw because of the blockade at Fort Madison. Montezuma had not been platted at that time and contained but one house. The county was largely an unsettled and undeveloped region, the home of Mrs. Moore being in Union township, near Forest Home. Hers was the best house in the county and was a log structure eighteen by twenty feet. Religious services were there held whenever a preacher would visit the neighborhood. When but a young man Captain Carr became inured to the arduous task of developing a new farm, driving oxen to the breaking plow, dropping the corn into the furrows and afterward cultivating the fields until crops were harvested. When school was in session he pursued his education, being a pupil in the first log schoolhouse of the county. It was a primitive structure, having a puncheon floor and seats with windows made of greased paper. The school boys supplied the fuel which was burned in a huge fireplace. The methods of instruction, too, were most crude and it was only at intervals that Captain Carr could attend, as his services were needed upon the home farm. He was ambitious, however, to make advancement along educational lines and utilized his evening

hours for study. Later he had the advantage of instruction in the preparatory department of Grinnell College and the following year recited his lessons in the first college building there erected. As opportunity offered he continued his studies until after the outbreak of the Civil war save for the summer of 1857 spent in Missouri.

He was then eighteen years of age and saw for the first time the practices and abuses of slavery, and the opinion which he formed of the system led him later to espouse the abolitionist cause. His attendance at college was alternated by periods of school-teaching, but after the outbreak of the Civil war he put aside all personal considerations and responded to the country's call for aid, enlisting on the 5th of July, 1861, at Iowa City, as a member of Company F, Tenth Iowa Infantry. He was elected second lieutenant and with his command went south, serving with that regiment until February, 1862, when a relapse after an attack of measles forced him to resign and he returned to Montezuma. He then purchased a drug store and began the study of medicine, thinking to become a physician. But on the 5th of July, 1862, following the call for three hundred thousand men, he began raising the company that was attached to the Twenty-eighth Iowa Infantry as Company C. He was commissioned its captain and served until

the close of the war. During his previous enlistment he had held the rank of second lieutenant. The succeeding winter was passed in Arkansas and Mississippi, after which the command entered upon active campaigning, taking part in the battles of Port Gibson, Edwards Station, Champion's Hill, Black River Bridge and the siege of Vicksburg, followed by the battle of Jackson, Mississippi. Later the command returned to Vicksburg and subsequently with the Department of the Gulf went to New Orleans in August, 1863. The year following Captain Carr participated in the engagements at Carrion Crow Bayou and Chaffelisle Bayou in Louisiana. In the spring of 1864 he took part in the Red River expedition under Banks and in July of that year was sent to Washington and afterward participated in the campaign in the Shenandoah valley under Sheridan in the battles of Berryville, Virginia; and of Winchester. At the last named he was wounded, a minie ball piercing his right leg which rendered him unfit for service for six weeks, during which time he was at Harpers Ferry until September 25, when he obtained leave of absence and returned home. On his recovery he rejoined his regiment, with which he remained until the close of the war. Owing to the wounds sustained by his colonel, lieutenant colonel and major he assumed command of the regiment and following his return at the close of the war was brevetted major. After Sheridan's campaign the regiment went to Savannah to return with Sherman and participated in the engagement at Newberne, North Carolina, and subsequently went to Augusta and assisted in paroling Johnston's army. The muster out came at Savannah, July 31, 1865, and later the command proceeded to Davenport, where the troops were honorably discharged and dispersed. That the service was arduous is indicated by the fact that out of the one hundred men of his company originally mustered in and twenty recruits, but forty-five came home together.

Following his return to Montezuma, Captain Carr engaged in general merchandising until 1869, when he was elected clerk of the district court, which position he filled by reelection for three terms, or six years. During that period he studied law and was admitted to the bar in February, 1877. He has since practiced his profession in Montezuma with the exception of a year spent in Des Moines, and for three terms, or six years, he filled the office of county attorney. He was for a time a member of the firm of Redman & Carr, the senior partner becoming subsequently speaker of the Iowa house of representatives. From the beginning of his practice Captain Carr has been accorded a large and distinctively representative clientele and has been associated with much of the important litigation tried in the courts of this district. He prepares his cases thoroughly and his arguments are strongly logical and convincing. He is also well known in financial circles in Poweshiek county, having been president of the Montezuma Savings Bank since its organization in 1893. He was also at one time a director of the First National Bank, which he aided in establishing. He was the owner of considerable farm property in Poweshiek county together with a fine home in Montezuma, but has recently sold his farm property.

On the 10th of January, 1866, in this city Captain Carr was married to Miss Lottie Frick, who was born in Erie, New York, April 30, 1844, and was reared in Sheboygan, Wisconsin. While visiting her sister, Mrs. M. E. Cutts, she formed the acquaintance of Captain Carr, who sought her hand in marriage. Their chil-

dren are: Fred, who for fifteen years has been associated with his father in the practice of law; and Clifford W., a dentist of Los Angeles, California.

In his political views Captain Carr has always been a stalwart republican and in addition to the offices already mentioned he has served as a member of the city council at Montezuma and as a member of the school board. He belongs to Wisconsin Post, No. 127, G. A. R., of which he has been commander, and holds membership with Lafayette Lodge No. 52, A. F. & A. M., of Montezuma, and the Royal Arch Chapter at Malcolm, Iowa. He is likewise a member of the Knights of Pythias fraternity at Montezuma and of the State Bar Association. His activities have been most varied and in every relation of life he seems to have had a regard for the duties and obligations of citizenship and to have labored at all times for the progress and upbuilding of the community in which he has so long lived. No man in Montezuma is held in higher regard or more justly deserves the respect and honor accorded him.

J. W. CARR

