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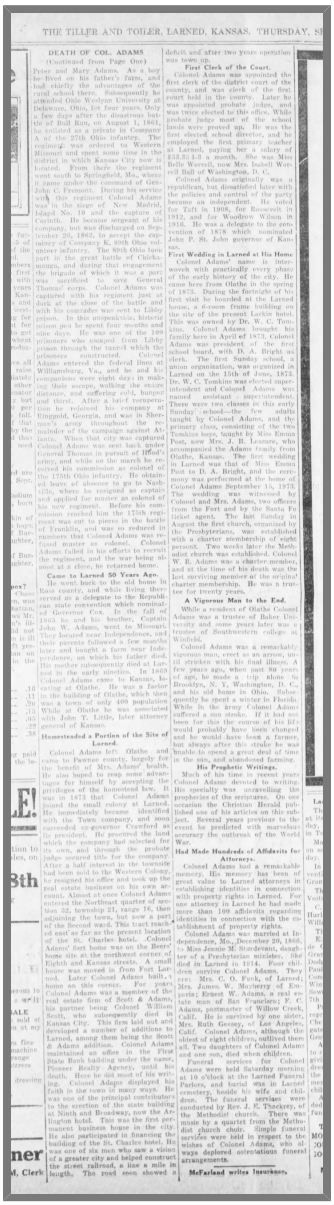

THE TILLER AND TOILER, LARNED, KANSAS, THURSDAY, SE

DEATH OF COL. ADAMS

(Continued from Page One)

Peter and Mary Adams. As a boy he lived on his father's farm, and had chiefly the advantages of the rural school there. Subsequently he attended Ohio Wesleyan University at Delaware, Ohio, for four years. Only a few days after the disastrous battle of Bull Run, on August 1, 1861, he enlisted as a private in Company A of the 27th Ohio infantry. The regiment was ordered to Western Missouri and spent some time in the district in which Kansas City now is located. From there the regiment went south to Springfield, Mo., where it came under the command of General John C. Fremont. During his service with this regiment Colonel Adams was in the siege of New Madrid, leaped No. 10 and the capture of Corinth. He became sergeant of his company, but was discharged on September 26, 1862, to accept the commission of Company K, 45th Ohio volunteer infantry. The 80th Ohio took part in the great battle of Chickamauga, and during that engagement the brigade of which it was a part was sacrificed to save General Thomas' corps. Colonel Adams was captured with his regiment just at dusk at the close of the battle and with his comrades was sent to Libby prison. In this unspeakable, historic prison pen he spent four months and nine days. He was one of the 109 prisoners who escaped from Libby prison through the tunnel which the prisoners constructed. Colonel Adams entered the federal lines at Williamsburg, Va., and he and his companions were eight days in making their escape, walking the entire distance, and suffering cold, hunger and thirst. After a brief recuperation he rejoined his company at Ringgold, Georgia, and was in Sherman's army throughout the remainder of the campaign against Atlanta. When that city was captured Colonel Adams was sent back under General Thomas in pursuit of Hood's army, and while on the march he received his commission as colonel of the 175th Ohio infantry. He obtained leave of absence to go to Nashville, where he resigned as captain and applied for muster as colonel of his new regiment. Before his commission reached him the 175th regiment was cut to pieces in the battle of Franklin, and was so reduced in numbers that Colonel Adams was refused muster as colonel. Colonel Adams failed in his efforts to recruit the regiment, and the war being ended at a close, he returned home.

Came to Larned 50 Years Ago.

He went back to the old home in Ross county, and while living there served as a delegate to the Republican state convention which nominated Governor Cox. In the fall of 1865 he and his brother, Captain John W. Adams, went to Missouri. They located near Independence, and their parents followed a few months later and bought a farm near Independence, on which his father died. His mother subsequently died at Larned in the early nineties. In 1865 Colonel Adams came to Kansas, locating at Olathe. He was a factor in the building of Olathe, which then was a town of only 400 population. While at Olathe he was associated with John T. Little, later attorney general of Kansas.

Homesteaded a Portion of the Site of Larned.

Colonel Adams left Olathe and came to Pawnee county, largely for the benefit of Mrs. Adams' health. He also hoped to reap some advantages for himself by accepting the privileges of the homestead law. It was in 1872 that Colonel Adams joined the small colony at Larned. He immediately became identified with the Town company, and soon succeeded ex-governor Crawford as its president. He procured the land which the company had selected for its own, and through the probate judge secured title for the company. After a half interest in the townsite had been sold to the Western Colony, he resigned his office and took up the real estate business on his own account. Almost at once Colonel Adams entered the Northeast quarter of section 32, township 21, range 16, then adjoining the town, but now a part of the Second ward. This tract reached east as far as the present location of the St. Charles hotel. Colonel Adams' first home was on the Beers' home site at the northwest corner of Eighth and Kansas streets. A small house was moved in from Fort Larned. Later Colonel Adams built a home on this corner. For years Colonel Adams was a member of the real estate firm of Scott & Adams, his partner being Colonel William Scott, who subsequently died in Kansas City. This firm laid out and developed a number of additions to Larned, among them being the Scott & Adams addition. Colonel Adams maintained an office in the First State Bank building under the name, Pioneer Realty Agency, until his death. Here he did most of his writing. Colonel Adams displayed his faith in the town in many ways. He was one of the principal contributors to the erection of the state building at Ninth and Broadway, now the Arlington hotel. This was the first permanent business house in the city. He also participated in financing the building of the St. Charles hotel. He was one of six men who saw a vision of a greater city and helped construct the street railroad, a line a mile in length. The road soon showed a deficit and after two years' operation was torn up.

First Clerk of the Court.

Colonel Adams was appointed the first clerk of the district court of the county, and was clerk of the first court held in the county. Later he was appointed probate judge, and was twice elected to this office. While probate judge most of the school lands were proved up. He was the first elected school director, and he employed the first primary teacher at Larned, paying her a salary of $32.31 1-3 a month. She was Miss Belle Worrell, now Mrs. Isabell Worrell Hall of Washington, D. C.

Colonel Adams originally was a republican, but dissatisfied later with the policies and control of the party became an independent. He voted for Taft in 1908, for Roosevelt in 1912, and for Woodrow Wilson in 1916. He was a delegate to the convention of 1878 which nominated John P. St. John governor of Kansas.

First Wedding in Larned at His Home.

Colonel Adams' name is interwoven with practically every phase of the early history of the city. He came here from Olathe in the spring of 1873. During the fortnight of his first visit he boarded at the Larned house, a 6-room frame building on the site of the present Larkin hotel. This was owned by Dr. W. C. Tomkins. Colonel Adams brought his family here in April of 1873. Colonel Adams was president of the first school board, with D. A. Bright as clerk. The first Sunday school, a union organization, was organized in Larned on the 15th of June, 1873. Dr. W. C. Tomkins was elected superintendent and Colonel Adams was named assistant superintendent. There were two classes in this early Sunday school—the few adults taught by Colonel Adams, and the primary class, consisting of the two Tomkins boys, taught by Miss Emma Post, now Mrs. J. B. Lennox, who accompanied the Adams family from Olathe, Kansas. The first wedding in Larned was that of Miss Emma Post to D. A. Bright, and the ceremony was performed at the home of Colonel Adams September 15, 1873. The wedding was witnessed by Colonel and Mrs. Adams, two officers from the Fort and by the Santa Fe ticket agent. The last Sunday in August the first church, organized by the Presbyterians, was established with a charter membership of eight persons. Two weeks later the Methodist church was established. Colonel W. R. Adams was a charter member, and at the time of his death was the last surviving member of the original charter membership. He was a trustee for twenty years.

A Vigorous Man to the End.

While a resident of Olathe Colonel Adams was a trustee of Baker University and some years later was a trustee of Southwestern college at Winfield.

Colonel Adams was a remarkably vigorous man, erect as an arrow, until stricken with his final illness. A few years ago, when past 80 years of age, he made a trip alone to Brooklyn, N. Y., Washington, D. C., and his old home in Ohio. Subsequently he spent a winter in Florida. While in the Army Colonel Adams suffered a sun stroke. If it had not been for this the course of his life would probably have been changed and he would have been a farmer, but always after this stroke he was unable to spend a great deal of time in the sun, and abandoned farming.

His Prophetic Writings.

Much of his time in recent years Colonel Adams devoted to writing. His specialty was unraveling the prophecies of the scriptures. On one occasion the Christian Herald published one of his articles on this subject. Several years previous to the event he predicted with marvelous accuracy the outbreak of the World War.

Had Made Hundreds of Affidavits for Attorneys.

Colonel Adams had a remarkable memory. His memory has been of great value to Larned attorneys in establishing identities in connection with property rights in Larned. For one attorney in Larned he had made more than 100 affidavits regarding identities in connection with the establishment of property rights.

Colonel Adams was married at Independence, Mo., December 20, 1866, to Miss Jennie M. Sturdevant, daughter of a Presbyterian minister. She died in Larned in 1914. Four children survive Colonel Adams. They are: Mrs. C. O. Funk, of Larned; Mrs. James W. Mowberry of Eureka; Ernest W. Adams, a real estate man of San Francisco; P. C. Adams, postmaster of Willow Creek, Calif. He is survived by one sister, Mrs. Ruth Gormley, of Los Angeles, Calif. Colonel Adams, although the oldest of eight children, outlived them all. Two daughters of Colonel Adams and one son, died when children.

Funeral services for Colonel Adams were held Saturday morning at 10 o'clock at the Larned Funeral Parlors, and burial was in Larned cemetery, beside his wife and children. The funeral services were conducted by Rev. J. E. Thackrey, of the Methodist church. There was music by a quartet from the Methodist church choir. Simple funeral services were held in respect to the wishes of Colonel Adams, who always deplored ostentatious funeral arrangements.

McFarland writes Insurance.

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