

BACK TO ALEXANDRIA, TO THE OLD, OLD HOME

Home Coming of Those Who Left the Little Town and Have Taken Up Their Abode in Other Parts of the Country

LONG LIST OF FORMER RESIDENTS

Tears Trickle Down Wrinkled Faces of the Old- er Citizens When the Band Plays "Home Sweet Home".

[Special to The Gate City.]
ALEXANDRIA, Mo., July 11.—Alexandria citizens demonstrated that they could come back. The first day of the Old Home Celebration was a complete success. The pretty little park with its natural canopy of oaks and elms formed the background for this unique celebration. Amidst the strains of the old time songs, "Home, Sweet Home," "Auld Lang Syne," and "The Old Oaken Bucket," not to mention "Dixie," and "America," hands clasped hands and tongues wagged, telling the stories of the old days.

Almost a hundred of Alexandria's old citizens came back on the first day of the homecoming and more are expected for the second day. Friends of long standing in the early days were seen to gather in groups and meet the newer sons and daughters of Alexandria who had left the old home more recently, but all felt the same and expressed themselves, the same. They were all of them "at home," and next to "coming home" being "at home" is the best. Long bearded men who fought in the rebellion recounted harrowing experiences of the war and the years following. Prosperous farmers and merchants told of the various high water marks the river had established on the old landmarks of the town, while the honking of numerous automobile horns proclaimed that the younger generation who had gone forth to work in other places than the old home town were returning prosperous and happy. Gray haired matrons, with hair as white as the driven snow, smiled happily upon the children clustering around them, welcoming "mother" and "grandmother" back to the home-coming.

The Old Home Coming had its inception in the fertile brain of Mr. J. W. Murphy, editor of the Burlington Saturday Evening Post. A year ago this March, Mr. Murphy was waiting in Alexandria for railroad connection to carry him to the funeral of a brother.

er. While waiting he met many of the old "boys and girls" with whom he had been associated. The greetings were all so cordial and friendly that immediately Mr. Murphy thought himself of a homecoming. He put his plan into action and sent out circulars asking many of the old citizens and native sons and daughters of the Missouri town if they would join him in a grand home-coming. The answers being eminently satisfactory he set to work at once to formulate plans with the result that hundreds of Alexandria's citizens are being brought together and the old is meeting the new and past times are being recounted while present history is not neglected.

And right here one must not forget to speak of the music which is being played by the Citizens' Band of Keokuk, under the leadership of Mr. W. C. Kummer. All the old music was played today and it brought back its memories. "Home, Sweet Home," and "Auld Lang Syne" brought tears to the dim old eyes, and fond memories to the hearts of many.

Tuesday's program commenced at two o'clock and the meeting was called to order by Mr. Roy Sharts of Gorin, who presided in the place of Judge Callihan of Kahoka. Mr. Sharts introduced the Rev. Seymour of Alexandria, who offered a prayer, which was listened to reverently by the crowd. Music by the band came next and then Mr. Sharts introduced Mr. Rebo, who welcomed the gathering.

C. L. Becker and the War.
Mr. C. L. Becker of Keokuk, was the first speaker, his subject being "Alexandria During the War." Mr. Becker spoke at some length and was given a goodly amount of attention. He had with him several interesting souvenirs in the shape of photographs and circulars which he passed through the audience at the close of his speech. Mr. Becker told of the feeling that existed between the people of Keokuk and the people of Alexandria during the war, the latter being rebels at heart for the most part. Mr. Becker said:

"I have been requested to give some of my experiences during the war. In 1861, when there was talk of war, the people of Alexandria began to organize a home company. Dave Moore, of Union, ran for office, but was beaten by Pater Johnson. Moore went back, bitterly disappointed. Most of the company deserted later to the southern cause.

"At the time of the battle of Athens, Ben Stanley, of where Wayland now is, went to Keokuk, saying the rebels were going to burn the town. People objected and rang the bells, and all the citizens turned out armed to the teeth, and took the ferry to Alexandria. But lo and behold no rebels were found!"

Here Mr. Becker related the experiences the citizens suffered, many being arrested for various "drum head" reasons. "The late J. Fred Kiedalsch," he stated, "told him he was deterred from joining the army by the thought of arresting innocent people." Mr. Becker inserted some humor into his address when he said the soldiers from Keokuk cleaned out his stock of knives and razors and that was the reason he hadn't shaved for fifty years. Of all the prisoners at this time, Mr. Becker is the only one left. In conclusion Mr. Becker related one or two humorous incidents of the time that he had witnessed.

J. W. Murphy.
In introducing Mr. Murphy, the chairman said, "We will listen to an address by the man to whom a great part of the success of this meeting is due." Mr. Murphy was greeted with applause and listened to very attentively.

Mr. Murphy recounted the various attempts made to establish a paper here, the first one being published in 1847. "The Old Commercial" was established in 1849. "The North Missourian" was the next paper to be published, the first issue appearing in November, 1853. In 1856 it ceased to appear and the "Delta" came into being.

Eulogizes Sam Clark.
In 1865 N. D. Rutherford was pub-

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lisher of the Delta and Dr. J. J. Reburn's editorial work forms an important era in the community. He belongs in a class with such masters of our beloved profession as Sam Clark of the Keokuk Gate City, Cy Jameson of the Memphis Revue, and Sam B. Evans of the Ottumwa Democrat.

"Other Alexandria newspapers of the Civil war era were the 'Reveille,' by S. R. Raymond, 'The True Flag,' and 'The Blade.' Among the editors were Dr. Morris Frazee, Noble P. Prentiss, and Wm. H. Resor.

"In 1874, while the Commercial was at Kahoka, the author of these lines became associated as office boy. In March the paper was moved to Alexandria, and we rode in the box car with press and types on Henry Hill's M. I. & N. R. R. A. L. Griffin was conductor, and Geo. O'Bannon brakeman. When we reached our destination we found a big freshet going down the river, and most of the town was under water. Front street and some high walks were above, most of the town below. The people were remarkably cheerful. Venice with her grand canal and Bridge of Sighs held no more romance to those of an unimpressionable age than dear old Alexandria.

"The vicissitudes of the press in Alexandria have been many and at periods without such a useful adjunct as a newspaper. The progress, however, has been in the main, upward and onward until Alexandria has now in Mr. Shoemaker's Delta Sun the most creditable little newspaper in all her history."

Mr. Roy Sharts.
President of the Day Sharts was introduced by Mr. J. W. Murphy. Mr. Sharts had not intended to speak until Wednesday, but owing to the absence of another speaker, was shifted to today's program. He paid a glowing tribute to Alexandria's early schools. In part he said:

"I don't remember a day when I have enjoyed myself as I have today. Alexandria is my home and over yonder I was born. I have met many people here today and expect to meet more tomorrow."

Mr. Sharts then went on to speak of the schools of Alexandria back in the 60's and 70's. He spoke of the corporation being formed to back a higher school than was there established. In 1870 it was opened as the Alexandria college, when the flood of '71 came and caused it to be closed. The building was sold to the Baptist church and still stands.

"If we had such a school here today our town would be better," thundered Mr. Sharts, amidst applause.

"We can estimate the good it did by the results shown in our young people scattered over the country. And the man who was responsible was Thomas J. Musgrove."

The Roll of Honor.
Editor Shoemaker of the Delta Sun had charge of the register of visitors which was brought to the speaker's stand and all the visitors registered. The roll follows:

Name, Address and Year of Leaving

Alexandria.
Roy Sharts, Gorin, Mo., 1881.
C. L. Becker, Keokuk, Iowa, 1881.
J. W. Murphy, Burlington, Iowa, 1880.
F. C. Sullivan, Tecumseh, Neb., 1882.
Wm. Gratz, Cosby, Mo., 1887.
Miss Lizzie Palmer, Moberly, Mo., 1902.
Miss Flora Palmer, Moberly, Mo., 1902.

Texas Woman Near Death
Wills Point, Tex.—In a letter from Wills Point, Mrs. Victoria Stallings says: "I was afflicted with womanly troubles, had a dreadful cough, and suffered awful pains. I certainly would have died, if I had not been relieved by taking Cardui. Now I am stronger, and in better health than I ever was in my life. I can't say half enough for this great medicine." Do you need relief? Try Cardui for your womanly troubles. Its long record of successful use is your guarantee. Thousands of ladies have been helped to health and happiness by Cardui. It will surely help you. Try a bottle today.

Mrs. Virginia Ritchey, Des Moines, Iowa, 1899.
Mrs. Clara Powell, Centerville, Iowa, 1896.
Mrs. W. N. Sage, Keokuk, 1905
Mr. W. N. Sage, Keokuk, 1905.
Mrs. Mary Rose, Sapulpa, Okla., 1900.
Mrs. B. F. Martin, 1854.
Mrs. Grummon Schee, Kahoka, Mo., 1849.
Mrs. Mattie Duncan Hayes, Chicago, 1888.
Mrs. Charles Duncan, Chicago, 1888.
Anna Sodosky Raymond, Cherryvale, Kan., 1881.
Etta O'Bannon, St. Louis, 1880.
Mrs. Alice Huston, Omaha, 1882.
Mrs. Louise Hagan Curley, 1896.
Mrs. Addie Wilson, Keokuk, 1881.
Mrs. John J. Kimbrough, Hannibal, 1861.
Mrs. Myrtle Ressler Cooley, Milton, Iowa, 1899.
Mrs. Bess Ressler Cooley, Keokuk, 1899.
Joe M. Morgan, Warsaw, 1880.
L. F. Breitenbacher, Centerville, 1881.
Mrs. T. L. Washburn, Keokuk, 1910.
Ida Virginia Surry, Houston, Texas.
J. Taggart Latta, Montrose, 1889.
Mrs. R. L. Jones, Kansas City, 1877.
Mrs. H. Childers, Kahoka, 1882.
Mrs. W. M. Rader, Keokuk, 1881.
Mrs. Fannie Sitton, Annada, Mo., 1903.
Mrs. Edna Deckson, Farmington, 1906.
Mrs. Lizette Childers Caldwell, Luray, Mo., 1892.
Henry Wood, St. Louis, 1906.
E. F. Childers, Kahoka, 1892.
Miss Ella Childers, Keokuk, 1892.
Mrs. L. J. Corder, Keokuk, 1906.
Mrs. S. E. Phillips, Keokuk, 1906.
Guy U. Young, Chicago, 1884.
Henry Auhege, 1868.
H. M. Young, Chicago, 1881.
H. L. Wilsey, Keokuk, 1846.
E. T. Aldrich, Keokuk, 1905.
Chas. Maxwell, Kahoka.
L. R. Foster.
J. W. Dienst, 1882.
Harvey Layport, Keokuk, 1900.
E. B. Woodward, came to Clark county May 17, 1856.
Wood Wilsey, came to Clark county, 1846.
Jasper Blines, came to Clark county in 1862; been a newspaper writer for forty years. Contributed to thirty different publications.
Mrs. Joe Morgan, Warsaw, 1881.
J. W. Powell, Centerville, Iowa, 1883.
Harry B. Huston, Omaha, 1881.
Dr. V. B. Ochiltree, Keokuk, 1879.
Mrs. Carrie Hagan Gray, Keokuk, 1896.
Alice Davies Wilson, St. Louis, 1900.
Ella Rebo Fannin Foley Oertel, Keokuk, 1896.
Cena Alberta Rebo, Canton, 1900.
Mrs. S. C. Fairbrother, nee Alice Skervin, Kahoka, 1880.
Mrs. P. J. Starr, nee Laura Sherwin, Kahoka, 1880.
Mrs. Nannie Childers Carpenter, Keokuk, 1885.
Mrs. Libbie Sage Miller, Keokuk, 1905.
Margaret Aldrich, Keokuk, 1905.
Dorothy Aldrich, Keokuk, 1905.
Grace Merritt Gredell, Bowen III, 1902.

Notes Here and There.
Patrick Gibbons of Albuquerque, N. M., was credited with being the oldest home comer, being 98 years old. He came to Alexandria in 1853.
Mrs. Duncan Leslie of Arkansas was honored as the oldest woman on the grounds.
A rather amusing incident occurred early Tuesday morning. One of the younger homecomers was told that people were coming across the river in skiff loads to be present at the reunion. She immediately rushed the household—five thirty a. m.—to get ready to greet the supposed visitors, but the calm bosom of the big river remained untroubled, the report being only a hoax.
It was indeed a home coming minus all ceremony. The great heat caused coats to disappear. The band men shed theirs early and just to show that it was homecoming without formality, Mr. Sharts presided minus his coat. On the speaker's stand coats were as rare as diamonds.
H. M. Young of Chicago, a former Keokuk newspaper man, and later of St. Louis, was present.
Keokuk sent a goodly delegation to the homecoming, the register showing that many of the Missouri's former citizens had come to the Water Power city to cast their fortunes.
Hugh L. Cooper was to speak at eleven o'clock Wednesday and everyone was planning to greet Mr. Cooper.

The Wednesday Program.
From early in the morning to the time of exercises in the afternoon the trains entering Alexandria brought scores of "Home Comers." The park was filled early and today was by far the biggest of the two days of the home-coming. Old acquaintances were renewed and those who failed to greet old friends yesterday had that pleasure today. The weather was ideal, the cool breeze being welcomed and many of the older home-comers were able to come who would otherwise have been kept at home. Taking everything into consideration, today was a great success.
Mr. J. W. Murphy, the leading spirit in the home-coming, said this morning the meeting reminded him yesterday of the old time "camp meetings" when the spirit began to work over the benches. From all sides come remarks indicative of the deep feeling and emotions that were stirred yesterday and today by this renewal of old acquaintances. Mr. Roy Sharts of the Gorin Argus, expressed the feeling of everyone when he said this morning that he wasn't going home

without shaking hands with everyone he used to know." This spirit of brotherhood, friendship and "auld lang syne" was predominate throughout both sessions.

Cooper This Afternoon.
One of the disappointments of the day was the news that Engineer Hugh L. Cooper of Keokuk, would not be able to be present to deliver his address this morning. A party from the east coming to inspect the water power works was the reason for not coming this morning. However, the disappointment was somewhat mitigated by the news that the engineer would come down later in the day to speak. Mr. Cooper will speak on the "Water Power Works." The trip down here is to be made by auto in order that the man at the head of Keokuk's big project will not disappoint the big crowd of Alexandria home-comers.

The Afternoon Program.
The afternoon program commenced at one thirty o'clock, with the Hon. Nathaniel T. Cherry, circuit clerk of Clark county, in the president's chair. J. H. Best of Quincy was to have presided, but was unable to come.

The Letters From Absentees.
As is always the case there were some of the old citizens who either from one cause or another were unable to be present, but who sent reminders in the shape of letters. These letters contained messages of interest and all of them sent greetings to the assembled home-comers, regretting that they were not among "those present." These letters were read by Mr. T. W. Murphy to whom they had been sent. Next to seeing the authors of these interesting epistles, listening to their heart spoken words was a good substitute.

Mrs. George Harrison.
Mrs. George Harrison, of Nortonville, Hopkins Co., Ky., one of the very prominent women of the era of the 30's in Alexandria, wrote as follows:

"The extreme heat and the feebleness it has brought or Mr. Harrison convinces me we cannot come to the home-coming. The disappointment is very great, the prospect of again meeting some of the friends of our earlier years has been very alluring and has been the theme of our conversation almost every evening since your letter came.

"You know I have always been so proud of our Alexandria people; when misfortune came with the floods they were so loyal to each other, no calling on the public for help. How loyal we were to each other, and how real the kindness extended, none but those friends of earlier years can ever know how sad it seems that so many of those warm hearts are forever stilled—but I think will come and understand even now we pay tribute to their kindness.

"We extend cordial greetings to all our old friends and while we regret our inability to be with them now, will look forward to that "other home-coming," where we hope to meet with all those we loved and have lost for a time."

Mr. J. B. Pollock.
J. B. Pollock, who is now a contractor in Karnes City, Texas, but who was one of the well known citizens of Alexandria regretted his inability to be present. He writes:

"I regret that I cannot come to Missouri at this time. I am not an old settler farther back than '62, not being much more than a 45 year old boy. All the names on the program are familiar by acquaintance or hearsay. I hope for you a big crowd and a full report so we who cannot be there will enjoy reading what others got to hear. I have a deeper regard for the old pioneer fathers and mothers than for any people of my rank in the world. About half of my life was spent along the old Bloomfield road at a time when there was still some hardships to be endured, even after the old M. I. & N. Ry. was built—the balance of my days out here in the southwest, that was until recent years a very new country.

"I have heard from the first settlers of both sections the truthful hardships endured. Stories that should put to same the lives of many idle, pleasure-loving, non-producing men and women of today if they have any real conception of the leaderships of the pioneer life that their parents and grandparents endured. Some people smile at the founders of the west with their uncouth language and uncultured ways, but those people had a manhood and womanhood far above graft and dishonesty and to west began many years ago at the Allegheny mountains an only ended recently at the shores of the Pacific."

Stamboats on the Des Moines.
Capt. C. H. Patten of Fort Madison was to have spoken on the subject of "Early Steamboating on the Des Moines River." Owing to the heat and various other circumstances he was unable to come, but sent his speech in the shape of a letter.

"I was 12 years old when I was on the "Badger State" on the Des Moines river as cabin boy. I will be 70 years young on the twenty-ninth of June 1911. I will write of some of my recollections of the Des Moines river in the early fifties. My advent on the Des Moines river was on the steamboat Badger State in the spring of 1853. The boat foundered on the Ottumwa rapids but was later raised. Dan Hawkins was the captain, Doc Cransten the clerk, Chas. and Ed. Stewart pilots. My father, H. M. Patten, was carpenter and watchman. "My next steamboating on the Des

Molnes was on the "Clara Hine." She ran to Eddyville with a freight barge and then on up the Des Moines with the balance of the cargo and passengers. On the down trip the boat would take a barge in tow, run to Keokuk and transfer the freight to St. Louis.

"The boats plying the Des Moines were: Badger State, Defiance, Skipper, Emma, Hannon, Col. Morgan, Alice J. B., Gordon, No. 1; Gordon No. 2; Michigan City, Globe, Des Moines Belle, Financier, Chas. Rodgers, Flora Temple, Nevada and Des Moines City.

"Capt. Farris tells me that the "Chas. Rodgers" unloaded her cargo of salt and then gave the people a free ride to Fort Dodge and back. Uncle Junny Hayes tells of a Mr. John J. Gately, a carpenter, saying he heard Mrs. Gately relating about the Farris brothers owning the steamer Allice. There were three brothers, William, Robert and Joe. The two first named were the sole owners of the Allice, Robert sold his interest to William who afterwards built the hull of the Flora Temple at St. Francisville, Mo., and put the boiler and engine of the Clara Hine, which was never passed by the "Skipper" nor any other boat on the Des Moines river."

Dr. C. E. Wortmuston.
Dr. Wortmuston, a son of one of the earliest settlers, and who studied medicine in the office of Dr. Hagan of Alexandria and later of Keokuk in the years '70 to '75, writes from Ross Lake, Idaho:

"It is with the most sincere regret that I feel circumstances will prevent me being one of those who will celebrate, and my heart goes out to those more fortunate. In a former letter I referred to my father as being one of the oldest if not actually the oldest settler of Clark county, he having lived in Alexandria in 1874-75.

"In 1847 my father helped to make and burn brick for the court house and jail. In 1883 the population of Clark county consisted of a dozen families, my father being among these early settlers. My father is 86 1/2 years old and while very feeble has a wonderful retentive memory, and says he would enjoy being present at the celebration if he was able. He sends his regrets and desires to be remembered to all his old time acquaintances.

"I suggest a register be kept of the names of all those who attend the "Home coming," and also those who cannot attend. I wish the celebration every success and one and all the happy meeting I feel you will have."

James A. Jenkins.
Jas. A. Jenkins, a brother of Dr. Geo. F. Jenkins of Keokuk, for many years a business man here, but now of Cheyenne Wells, Colo., wrote a letter regretting his inability to be present. Mr. Jenkins has an 800 acre farm in Cheyenne Wells and is farming it by the dry farming system. His letter was a very interesting one and told of his experiences in the western country.

Judge Hughes and the M. I. & N.
Judge Hughes was on the program for a talk on the old M. I. & N. R. R., but owing to the fact that he was busy with a law case in the district court he was unable to come. Mr. J. W. Murphy spoke to the audience concerning his long time work with the railroad.

Mr. Murphy said that Judge Hughes went with the road in 1870 when they

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had about two miles of track out from Alexandria, and continuously associated with the company until the absorption by the C., B. & Q. During that period he developed great ability as corporation attorney and the responsibilities undertaken developed other traits such as great tenacity of purpose. For instance, the great number of years he worked in the effort to collect the bonds voted by Scotland county for the road. He had a son, born and who was graduated from Yale college in the interval between bringing the suit and final collection of bonds, a period of twenty-three years.

"The M. I. & N. road took the place of the old Alexandria & Bloomfield wagon road which was the Santa Fe trail of northeast Missouri. The story of the wagon traffic along that old road would make an interesting book, and we want Jasper Blines or James Fore to write it before it's too late. The building of the M. I. & N. road was a great feat for financing and construction in those days. Henry Hill built the road. Gen. F. M. Drake of Centerville and the banking house of Hill, Knox Co. of Warsaw, financed it. Henry Hill was a great builder and left a worthy monument to his memory. Few outside of this little group of good business men ever knew by what a slender thread was suspended the life of this important enterprise at various times. These old railroad builders rendered an important service to society and a service of especial importance and value to all people of northeast Missouri. We honor their memory."

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