

The Giles Avenue Dedicatory Exercises and the Unveiling of the Bronze Tablet, at the Eighth Regiment Armory Last Saturday Afternoon, in Honor of the Memory of the Late Lieutenant, George L. Giles, and One Hundred and Forty One Other Members Belonging to the Eighth Regiment, Who Lost Their Lives on the Battlefields of France, Was a History Making Event.

MAYOR WILLIAM HALE THOMPSON, MAJOR GENERAL MILTON J. FOREMAN, GENERAL CARLOS E. BLACK, ADJUTANT GENERAL STATE OF ILLINOIS; THOMAS H. CANNON, HIGH CHIEF RANGER OF THE CATHOLIC ORDER OF FORESTERS; REV. FATHER JOSEPH ECKARDT, PASTOR OF ST. MONICA ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, AND COL. OTIS B. DUNCAN, COMMANDING THE EIGHTH REGIMENT ILLINOIS NATIONAL GUARD, WERE THE LEADING SPEAKERS.

HON. EDWARD H. WRIGHT ABLY AND BRILLIANTLY SERVED AS MASTER OF CEREMONIES, AND MRS. CARRIE WARNER, WITH BECOMING MODESTY AND DIGNITY, REMOVED THE VEIL FROM THE BRONZE TABLET CONSTRUCTED TO THE MEMORY OF THE LATE LIEUT. GEORGE L. GILES.

On last Saturday afternoon thousands of people attended the Giles Avenue Dedicatory Exercises and the unveiling of the bronze tablet constructed on the side of the Eighth Regiment Armory in honor of the memories of the late Lieutenant George L. Giles and the other one hundred and forty-one members of the Eighth Regiment who lost their lives on the bloody battlefields of France and to further honor the memory of Lieutenant Giles for all time to come, who was the first and only officer of the old Eighth Regiment to offer up his bright and promising young life in far away France for his country. Forest avenue has been changed from 31st street to 39th street to Giles avenue, and a row of beautiful trees was recently planted which will also redound to his memory, and if we mistake not, it was the very first time in the history of this country that the city officials in any part of it have changed the name of any street in order to honor the name of any colored man; but Chicago being one of the greatest cities in the world, and the vast majority of its citizens being fair minded and progressive, she always does things on a large and lasting scale and this was not the first or only time that she has honored the memory of a colored man, for many

years ago she named the John Jones School in honor of the memory of John Jones, who was the first colored man to be elected one of the commissioners of Cook County, and at that time he was the most progressive and representative colored business man residing in this city. Prior to the speaking from the platform, which had been constructed at the north end of the Armory for the occasion and the unveiling of the bronze tablet, a parade was formed which wended its way north on Giles avenue to 31st street, east on that street to Calumet avenue, south on that avenue to 39th street, west on 39th to Giles avenue, north on that avenue to the Eighth Regiment Armory. It was headed by Col. Otis B. Duncan, commanding the Eighth Regiment, and Col. H. H. Biggs, head of Knights of Pythias throughout the State of Illinois, and staff officers of the Regiment, including Lieut. Col. John H. Patton, Major J. R. White, Captain and Chaplain W. S. Braddan, Captain R. A. J. Shaw, Captain C. Spencer Dickerson and others who were followed by the famous Eighth Regiment Band, by two companies of soldiers by the K. P. Band Uniform Rank, Knights of Pythias, and Odd Fellows and by a number of ladies representing those and other orders. They were costumed in pure white from head to foot and with their beautiful rich flowing capes they made a fine impression as they proudly and gracefully marched through the streets and played their part well in assisting to honor the memory of the late Lieutenant George L. Giles. The following was the order of the exercises at the Eighth Regiment Armory:



DEDICATORY EXERCISES AND UNVEILING OF THE BRONZE TABLET AT THE EIGHTH REGIMENT ARMORY LAST SATURDAY AFTERNOON WAS WITNESSED BY MANY THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE, AS THE ABOVE ILLUSTRATION INDICATES.

Giles Ave. Dedicatory Exercises and Unveiling of Bronze Tablet Illinois Division, Band; Master of Ceremonies, Hon. Edward H. Wright; Invocation, Capt. William S. Braddan; Chaplain; Unveiling of Tablet, Mrs. Carrie Warner; "Nearer My God to Thee," Band; "Decoration Day," A. S. Frazier Anderson; Chicago, Hon. William Hale Thompson; "City Council," Ald. L. B. Anderson; Illinois National Guard, Gen. Carlos E. Black, Adj. Gen. State of Illinois; "Illinois," Band; The Division, Major Gen. Milton J. Foreman; "My Country 'Tis of Thee," Band; "The Eighth Regiment," Col. John R. Marshall; "Marseillaise," Band; "Lieutenant George L. Giles," Col. Franklin A. Denison; "Giles American Legion Post," Lt. Earl Dickerson; "Giles Avenue," Major Robert R. Jackson; "National Emblem," Band; "Patriotism," Father Joseph Eckhardt; "Catholic Order of Foresters," Thomas H. Cannon, Chief Ranger; Dedicatory Remarks, Col. Otis B. Duncan; Star Spangled Banner, Band. Metropolitan Community Center Choir rendered selections as the parade passed the Metropolitan Community House, 3118-20-22 Giles Ave. General Carlos E. Black, Adj.-General State of Illinois, delivered the following oration which is full of solid facts or thoughts: "I am greatly honored in being given the privilege to be present at these dedicatory ceremonies. "Today, we do honor to those who made the supreme sacrifice upon the altar of their country, and by so doing, we demonstrate our appreciation of their service and the services of their comrades. "Others here today, whose command of the language is much greater than mine, will speak more ably on that subject.

"The deeds, however, of the officers and men of the Eighth Infantry are already, indelibly written on the pages of history. For bravery in action in the face of the enemy, the United States has taken official cognizance and even foreign countries have recognized the gallantry of its members by awarding their decorations. "These are traditions upon which the organization of today may well be built. "Their service in time of peace, previous to the great conflict was the basis of their efficient services when the great call came and such is their service today. "I feel that I would be remiss in my duty if I did not take advantage of this opportunity to place before you just what the National Guard is today. "The National Guard is an Insurance. It is as old a form as the Constitution of the United States where it is first and most wisely provided for. "The National Guard is an organization that encourages and fosters the upbuilding of the young man in your community, not only physically but morally, and by so doing makes him a better citizen to live in the community and to enjoy the manifold blessings of citizenship which is guaranteed by the flag that he follows. "Look about you and note the contrast between the man with service and other chaps their own age. They look healthier, they think more quickly, and while there are a few who have not increased in value and character, but the majority of them have a far better knowledge of their fellowman and, although, knaki may come a long ways from producing a perfect man, it improves the value of a large per cent. The ex-service men as a rule are courteous, straightforward, upstanding and considerate.

"The National Guard organization is an institution legally created and accepted by the Government and State, and is a fixed and important part of a large comprehensive scheme of National and community defense and protection at a minimum of cost. "It provides a sizeable citizen soldier for domestic and other needs sufficient for any first emergency demands, at a minimum cost to the taxpayers. It keeps down to minimum numbers and cost of the Regular Army. This National Guard movement is a great big serious National affair. It is a serious effort for the most inexpensive National preparation possible under present sentiment and conditions. "It involves a great degree of training and study on the part of the officers and men and has nothing to do with what is sometimes a local idea of a military company being a bunch of tin soldiers and roistersers, always ready for "fun," "frolic," or a "trip" at somebody's else expense. On the contrary, there is involved rigid training, instruction, and discipline supervised by experienced officers. "All cost of equipment, uniforms, clothing, arms and all that a soldier needs, is defrayed by the Federal Government. "The small amount of time demanded for drills and field training namely: once a week armory drill and two weeks annually for field training, is also paid for by the Federal Government. "All that is required of the community is to provide a suitable armory and a storage place for the company for which rent will be paid, and to give a generous amount of moral support, friendliness and encouragement. "In order that the local organization be a success, a community interest in all quarters must be main-

tained that there will be permanently established a moral support and constant atmosphere of encouragement and public interest. The organization must be an acknowledged, accepted, desirable and fixed feature in the community. "It really ranks among the most potent factors for the preservation of law and order and the protection of life and property in the country at large and in the states, counties, cities and towns. "The National Guard personnel represents 100 per cent young American patriotic blood of the community and all that stands for. It stands for good morals, health, exercises and useful training. It is a tangible, concrete and practical expression of patriotic citizenship and fits the young man to render service of incalculable value when law and order are violated in the country and the state needs them. "With a reasonable amount of moral and very little financial support, the armory of a properly conducted military organization can be made an attractive, homelike, clublike, social and entertainment community center and thereby an agency for decent and refined associations, good morals and a desirable rendezvous for soldiers and citizens. "An agency which is properly conducted will equal in this good moral results any already established in the community. It is a moral agency with physical and military training, that in time of trouble, can turn out an organized body for the protection of the community. "In time of flood, or other calamity, the armory immediately becomes available as the proper center for organizing and conducting the many civic military activities necessary for the relief of a stricken community,

i. e., establishing military guard, distribution of food and shelter, rescue work, preservation of health, community sanitation and matters generally pertaining to a quick recovery, and restoration to normal. What other established agency, moral or otherwise can do this? "The young men composing the National Guard units have a greater right to consider their organization a proper protegee of the community than many other organizations, associations and clubs, fostered and supported by the community at a vastly greater cost. They are equally citizens, representative young men taxpayers. They are a strong moral influence against lawlessness. "The moral effect alone of a well ordered National Guard organization in a community may prevent the loss of life of men, women and children, to say nothing of the loss of hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of property. It is in many ways a splendid insurance to the community at a very small premium cost. It is against no association, organization, or union, but for law, order and protection only. "And knowing the National Guard as I do, with all of its wonderful traditions in all wars from the time of the Revolution to the last great World War, and the many services it has rendered in times of peace, under equally distressing circumstances, with all these behind it and that same spirit of service permeating its ranks as I know it is, I feel that you can safely rely on the Eighth Infantry of the Illinois National Guard to protect that flag and to act as nobly in the future in an emergency as it has in the past." Col. Franklin A. Denison, who as commander of the Eighth Regiment at the time it departed for the battlefields of France and trained or drilled his men so well that they were able to join the Thirty-third Division six weeks ahead of any of the other units and by reason of the fact they were the first American troops to be showed or rushed to the front in double quick time as soon as they landed on French soil and lead off in the thickest of the fighting. Read the following sketch of the life of Lieutenant George L. Giles, at the same time paying a glowing tribute to his memory: "George L. Giles was born in Chicago, September 21, 1895. He attended the St. Brendon School until he reached the age of 13 years. He was graduated from the John P. Altgeld School, 1371 W. 71st St., Chicago, in 1910. He enlisted in the Eighth Infantry, Illinois National Guard, June 19, 1916. He was appointed Corporal June 26, 1916. He was appointed Sergeant July 15, 1916, was afterward appointed Battalion Sergeant Major and served in this capacity throughout the Mexican border service in 1916. He was commissioned Second Lieutenant of Infantry January 9, 1918, and assigned to Company G. He was killed in action with his company at Grand-ecup-et-Fay, France, October 29, 1918. He was buried with full military honors at Chambray, France. He left a father and a host of friends to mourn his loss." Mr. Giles, the aged father of Lieutenant Giles, was honored with a seat on the platform, and Miss Florence Deneen, sister of Hon. Charles S. Deneen, who was his teacher at the time he graduated from the Altgeld School, also occupied a seat on the platform and felt greatly pleased at the way in which the memory of one of his pupils was being honored. All in all it was a history-making event among the white and colored citizens residing within the broad walls of the great city of Chicago.