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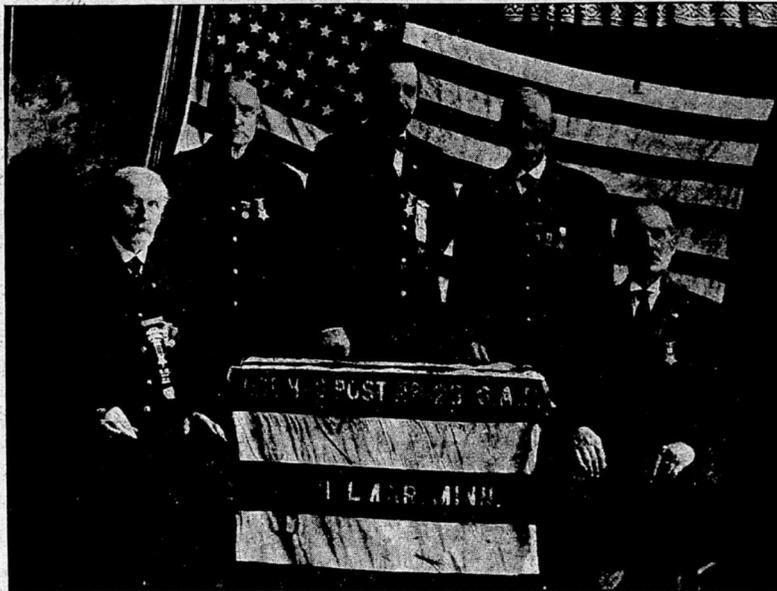
Col. HEG POST NO. 125 G. A. R.



THE THINNING RANKS

- Chris. Hennings, Willmar
John Boyd, Willmar
E. G. Bloomfield, Old Soldiers Home, Minnehaha Falls
Carl Glader, Atwater
C. K. Lund, New London
John Costello, Willmar
Andrew Larson, Willmar
O. Z. Johnston, Willmar
A. E. Anderson, Willmar

FIVE OF THE "BOYS IN BLUE"



Christ Hennings (Present Post Commander) John Costello, Andrew Larson, John Boyd, O. Z. Johnston

POST ORGANIZED 1884

The Col. Heg Post of the Grand Army of the Republic was organized on Sept. 18, 1884, in Willmar, Minnesota, and constituted No. 125 in the Minnesota State Department. Fifteen veterans of the war of the Rebellion were the charter members and organizers. These were: A. E. Rice, M. D. Manning, J. B. Boyd, M. Jorgenson, A. H. Sperry, E. G. Bloomfield, John A. Berg, Ole Engabretson, J. A. Bonstad, Tollef Torgerson, W. H. Harris, Ole Paulson, Osmund Lunde, Halvor Sanderson and Solomon Porter.

two are now members of the Post: John B. Boyd, Willmar, E. G. Bloomfield, Minneapolis. The total number of veterans admitted into the Post during its thirty-seven years of existence is forty-seven. Many of the old soldiers allowed their membership to lapse and a number have left the city and county. The Post has each year decorated the graves of comrades in local cemeteries. At burials of departed soldiers they have officiated as pall bearers or as escorts. Decoration Day has been observed by them and of late years together with the Spanish American War Veterans and the Veterans of the World War. The Post thru its donations have aided in many ways charitable works done among veterans of the Civil War at other places. They have sent delegates to the National and State encampments. All honor, respect and reverence to the old veterans.

ONE FLAG ONE LAND ONE HEART ONE HAND ONE NATION EVERMORE

CHRIS. HENNING

Christ Hennings was born on April 28, 1841, and has now reached the respected age of eighty-one years. His home is on Nelson Avenue where he is passing the twilight of life amidst a garden and orchard beautiful to view.

jury. The boys held their post for two days. Then the wheel of good fortune turned and at the very critical moment General Sibley arrived with the troops from Fort Ridgely and drove the Indians into a rout. Later on the battle of Wood Lake was fought. At breakfast time the Redskins attacked the camp. There were hordes against a small American force. The force of General Sibley seemed doomed to annihilation. Then the 3rd Minnesota paroled from the Southern campaign after a surrender there arrived and saved the day.

The savages were driven to Redwood Falls and Yellow Medicine county and scattered. Two hundred white women and children held captives were freed by the Indians, who suddenly turned friendly to the whites and released the prisoners. The hostile Indians went West and Gen. Sibley in October 1862 returned to Mankato. Forty Indians were taken back in chains. Some of these were hung later.

Hundreds of refugees (Indians) were taken along to Fort Snelling. These were abused and tortured by the settlers enraged because of the cruel massacres.

Co. I of which Mr. Hennings was a member spent the winter of 1862 and 1863 at Glencoe. In the spring of 1863 he was discharged because of physical disability.

In August of the same year however Mr. Hennings re-enlisted at Prescott in the 12th Wisconsin Infantry in Company A and was sent direct to Vicksburg with Grant in that campaign. Hennings also partook in the military activities at Chattanooga under General Rosencrans and when General Sherman was called to take command in that war territory. This was in 1864. The 12th Wisconsin then went on a



E. G. Bloomfield

Christ Hennings came to America in the year 1861. He first arrived in Wisconsin, and from LaCrosse hiked across country to Winona and from there to Rochester and Mankato. His father was a cabinet maker by trade. Christ enlisted the following year in August just at the time of the Sioux outbreak and massacres. He enlisted in Company I of the 6th Minnesota Infantry. His first duty was to help recruit and from Linden some nine recruits were secured. The regiment was commanded by Col. Brooks.

The campaign against the Indians began from Fort Ridgely, Northwest of Mankato and the Indians were driven before them. Some thirty massacred settlers were buried by the regiment. At one time however the Indians were securing the upper hand and had the camp containing 130 men surrounded. The hand of fate rested heavy on the small group of men encircled by 900 savages. It was the morning of August 3, 1862. The Indians were on their way to St. Peter to burn the city. All had been killed but thirty-two and the horses were either stolen or shot to death. Mr. Hennings fortunately escaped any in-



C. K. Lund from an old wartime photo

long march thru the states of Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia, and joined Sherman at Kingston, Georgia. From there the march was made to the sea. From Atlanta to Savannah railroads were destroyed and all provisions collected. The army suffered greatly as the country had been cleaned of food by the rebels. At Savannah however the boys captured a British ship which had docked there with a full cargo of food for the rebels. The 64th Illinois was known and popularly called "First Battalion, Yate's Sharpshooters," and was known for its expert marksmanship.

burned by an accidental fire and a high wind was blowing at the time, and was witnessed by the veterans. One could read a newspaper at midnight many miles from the city. At Raleigh, N. C., the news of Pres. Lincoln's assassination struck a terrific blow to the men, greater than that of any battle, they declared. The men saw how Sherman kept Johnston away from Lee who was being trimmed by Grant. Johnston finally surrendered to Sherman.

Then the great parade was held in Washington, down Pennsylvania avenue. From Washington Mr. Hennings went to Louisville, Ky., where he was discharged in July 16, 1865. Mr. Hennings then went to Wisconsin at Sauk Centre where his father resided. Later he went to Prescott and engaged in the paper hanging and painting occupation.

In the spring of 1870 he came to Willmar and worked at his trade for a period of twenty years. He also had a homestead southwest of Willmar. Selling nursery stock has and is now a business in which Mr. Hennings finds pleasure.

Mr. Hennings joined the Col. Heg Post, Grand Army of the Republic, on April 5, 1889.

J. B. BOYD

One of the charter members of the Col. Heg Post, G. A. R., is John B. Boyd of this city who resides on 7th Street North. Mr. Boyd who marched with Sherman's host thru the southern states has an interesting tale to tell of the battles of the Civil War.

John B. Boyd was born in Bergenstift, Norway, on March 9, 1847. Two years after his birth the family emigrated to America and settled in Kendall County some short distance from Chicago. Here the family went into farming. John was raised on the good soil of Illinois.

At the age of sixteen and contrary to the wishes of his parents, John with several others enlisted in the military service during the Civil War. He enlisted on August 13, 1864, and was assigned to Co. G, 64th Illinois Infantry. He was mustered out on July 11, 1865.

Here is a brief history of the 64th Illinois of which Mr. Boyd was a good fighter: Six companies of the 64th Illinois Infantry were organized at Camp Butler in 1861. Later in 1864 in February and March four companies were added. In one of these four companies was commanded by Col. David E. Williams and later by Col. John Morrill. The regiment lost 109 in wounded and 133 from disease. Company G of which Mr. Boyd was a member lost the greatest number of men of all the companies in the 64th. The total number lost by the company was 27, twenty-two of whom were killed and 5 died from wounds. The 64th Illinois was known and popularly called "First Battalion, Yate's Sharpshooters," and was known for its expert marksmanship.

The 64th was part of Sherman's victorious army thru its big campaign thru the South to Atlanta and then to the sea. Mr. Boyd was in that monster and inspiring parade which passed in review down Pennsylvania Avenue, ragged, tired but happy that the war had ended and ended with a victory.

Mr. Boyd with the 64th Illinois was mustered-out on July 11, 1865. He immediately returned to Illinois to the farm of his parents where he worked for one year. In 1867 he came to Dakota County in this state, farmed for one year and in 1868 came to Kandiyohi County as one of our early pioneers. Here he farmed on a homestead in the township of Whitefield. He remained there 3 years. In 1871 he came to the city of Willmar, clerked in a store for three years and in 1874 moved to Renville where he spent three years. He returned however to Willmar and engaged in mercantile business. He retired sixteen years ago but keeps an active interest in the affairs of the community and is one of our respected citizens.

He was an organizer of the Post during the year 1891 and was the first adjutant of the Post in the years 1884 and 1885.

E. G. BLOOMFIELD

Mr. E. G. Bloomfield now at the Old Soldiers Home at Minnehaha Falls has written us this very interesting story of his life and his experiences in the Civil War:

He was born October 8, 1839, at Newburg, N. Y. Moved to New York City in 1845, then moved to Marietta, Ohio, March 1st, 1854, with my mother, my father having preceded her. On April 19th, 1861, at the call of the President for 75,000 volunteers I answered but there being no arms or clothing I could not go into the Regiment and Company "B" 13th Ohio Infantry, but on the second call which was at St. Cloud, Minn., I enlisted in the 2nd Battalion of Minnesota Light Artillery. We went to Anoka, Minn., and were sworn in on August 13, 1862. Were mustered in September 8, 1862, just two days before the Indian war broke out. We left for St. Louis, Mo., Sept. 9, 1862, by boat. We were taken to Benton Barracks, and from there to Columbus, Ky., by boat, we then participated in the first battle of Corinth, later we went back to Louisville, Ky., where an army of three hundred thousand formed. We were then ready under the name of the 14th Army Corps for the Army of the Cumberland. This was Oct. 1st, 1862. After driving the enemy back to a place Crab Orchard, at Perryville, Ky. Here we were obliged to fight for the possession of a creek about as large as the Minnehaha. This creek was worth fighting for because we had not had a drink of good water for many days. We then arrived at Edgewise, Tenn., and found that Nashville, Tenn., had been surrounded by the southern forces for three months. They had now evacuated the city. The northern forces had now taken charge of the city. Gen-

al Buell succeeded General Rosencrans in command at Nashville. On or about Dec. 1st, 1862, the army, after clearing the country of all guerrillas, moved on, and on the 25th of Dec. of that year the battle of Stone River was fought. Our brigade on that day was in advance. Both armies met at the river which was the only source of water supply. In this battle I was shot through the left side of the chest about one and one half inch above my shoulder blade. The bullet emerged below my left lung. Together with the wounded I was carried thirty miles to a hospital at Nashville, Tenn. I remained in the hospital until I was discharged in July, 1865. During this time in the hospital I took care of the wounded, and did other duties I was called upon to do. I was Chief Clerk in the hospital. I returned home to Marietta, Ohio, where my parents were living. I came to Minnesota in March, 1868, and have been a resident of this state ever since. I moved to Willmar in March, 1880, and was a member of the Colonel Heg Post since it organized.

I was post commander during the year 1889. I was Post Adjutant 1886 and 1887. I am now at the Old Soldiers Minnesota Home at Minneapolis, Minn. I send greetings to all acquaintances and friends in Willmar.

JOHN COSTELLO

Our Civil War and railroad veteran John Costello, co-operating with the Tribune in preparing this account, gave us some very interesting material regarding the famous 10th Minnesota Infantry. He lives across the tracks opposite the G. N. depot and is a respected citizen of the community. John Costello was born on May 13, 1846, in Ireland. Settlement in Canada was first made when John was but a few years of age. This occurred in the year previous to 1854 when the family came to St. Paul. Settlements had been made prior to that date in the state of Ohio, at Chicago, and finally at St. Paul. Mr. Costello recalls his boyhood days at St. Paul. He grew up at St. Paul and attended school there.

At the age of seventeen years he enlisted on August 13, 1862, in Company K of the 10th Minnesota Infantry. This regiment made a notable record during the war. Costello enlisted at St. Paul when as one of thirteen he was sworn in by the Adjutant General. He had been engaged in teaming before his enlistment.

The 10th Minnesota first engaged in Indian battles. The Sioux outbreak in 62 occurred at the time. The regiment participated in the battles of Fort Ridgely, New Ulm, Birch Copple and Wood Lake. Under General Sibley in the spring of 1863, an army of three thousand removed the Winnabagoes from the state to Fort Randall on the Missouri. The regiment then started on its 1200 miles march thru the Dakotas after the Sioux and took part in the engagements at Big Mound, Buffalo Lake and Stony Lake and the last shot was fired at the routed Indians across the Missouri river.

Earlier during the campaign some 400 Indians were captured and some 90 white prisoners rescued. Thirty-eight of these Indians after trial were hung at one time from one gallows on the 26th day of December, 1862, at Mankato.

Returning to St. Paul and Ft. Snelling the regiment was sent to St. Louis where it performed guard duty during the severe winter of '63. It was under the command of General Thomas and part of the Army of the Tennessee. From St. Louis the regiment was sent to Columbus, Ky. and later to Memphis and participated in all the subsequent engagements under General A. J. Smith until the close of the war. The following battles are noteworthy: Big Blue, Red River expedition, Tupelo, Nashville, Fort Blakely and smaller engagements. The regiment as part of the 16th army corps was transferred over 1365 miles of territory in eleven days, this being one of the remarkable features of war movements at the time. Later Mobile surrendered and various forts yielded to their advance.

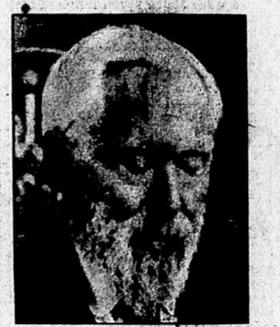
Towards the close of the campaign the corps arrived at Montgomery. On the way it learned of the surrender of General Lee and Johnston and also the assassination of President Lincoln. The war ended with the 16th army corps in the very heart of the Confederacy.



Andrew E. Anderson of Willmar

Mr. Costello was discharged on August 18, 1865, at Fort Snelling. Mr. Costello immediately went into the employ of the Great-Northern Railway. He began work on Sept. 10, 1866, in the track department. He was employed by the G. N. at Elk River for one year, at Minneapolis in 1869 until 1879 when he came to this city and where he has since made his home. Mr. Costello was in the employ of the Great Northern for 51 years and three months and claims that is a record that cannot be beaten. He retired some four years ago. John Costello joined the local Col. Heg Post, G. A. R., on August 3, 1906.

A. E. ANDERSON We called on Mr. Anderson on his sick bed at his home near the Chau-tauqua Park and despite his ailments enjoyed his conversation and story greatly. Besides being a staunch Republican he showed that during the war his experiences were both broad and interesting. The following story is what we secured from him:



Carl Glader

A. E. Anderson was born in Norway on March 25, 1847. Up to the age of sixteen years he was brought up as a fisherman. School was not thought of. There were none for youngsters like Anders. The family left their native land in 1863 and came to Montreal as the first settlement. On July 4, 1863, the family came to Chicago but continued on to St. Peter in Nicollet County in this state. Three months was the duration of residence and then the family came to Lake Lillian in this county.

Mr. Anderson enlisted in November, 1863, in Co. B of the 2nd Minnesota Cavalry. He was mustered in at Fort Snelling and trained at Ft. Ripley. In the spring he was sent to Ft. Ridgely. In 1864 a big expedition was made against the Indians under Col. Thompson. During that summer the troops marched fighting the Indians in South Dakota. A four day battle was fought near the Missouri river. Co. G lost many men. 5000 Indians were killed during the summer which greatly out-

