

[Forey, John H.]

JOHN H. FOREY PASSES AWAY AT HOME HERE

War Veteran Was Former Auditor's Cashier

PLEAD WITH LINCOLN

Notable Career of Esteemed Man of Syracuse is Terminated.

John H. Forey, noted Civil War veteran, business man and for nearly three-score years a resident of Syracuse, died at 4:30 o'clock Saturday morning at his home, 133 Wood av. He was in his 78th year and had been abstract cashier in the county clerk's office until last Sept. 1, when he retired and went on the pension list. With him at the time of his death was his daughter, Miss Jennie Spinks Forey.

Mr. Forey's life was an unusual example of activity. Up to his 77th year he had known scarcely any sickness and it was not until shortly after his retirement this last fall that he was stricken with the illness from which he did not recover. Born at Bennington, Vt., Dec. 9, 1844, he came to Syracuse with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. David H. [and Joan Wilbur] Forey, when he was 10 years old.

At the age of 17 years he enlisted in Company K, New York Heavy Artillery, Aug. 20, 1862, inducing 30 of his boy companions to do likewise. He went through many engagements, among them being the battle of Cold Harbor, the siege of Petersburg, the battle of Winchester, the battle of Cedar Creek and his last engagement, the battle of Bermuda Heights.

Saved Comrade's Life

One incident of his life that showed his indomitable spirit and gave him an experience that he held as one of the most prized things of his life was his plea to President Lincoln for the life of a comrade unjustly sentenced to death on a charge of desertion.

Although others tried to discourage Forey, still a youth in his teens, from seeing the President, he persisted until he gained an audience. When he spoke with Lincoln, young Forey presented his comrade's case so forcibly and with such directness that Lincoln was impressed to the extent of pardoning the condemned man and having him restored to service.

After leaving the army Mr. Forey assisted Capt. F. O. Sherman, commissary of the army post at Petersburg and later became secretary to James P. Prince, chief medical officer of the district of Nottoway.

Lived in Gifford st.

In his boyhood days Mr. Forey's parents lived in Gifford st. and he attended the old public school No. 9, now Seymour School. For a time his parents lived in Ilion and during the war in Watertown, where his father and another man procured a contract for the manufacture of Springfield rifles.

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For 35 years after leaving the army Mr. Forey was traveling salesman for several New York houses dealing in railway supplies. His retirement as abstract cashier in the county clerk's office was made under the provision of the law permitting any veteran who has reached the age of 70 years to retire on half pay after having held his position for ten consecutive years.

Mr. Forey's wife died in 1914. In May, 1918, Miss Jennie Spinks Forey, who had made her home with them for 26 years, was legally adopted by Mr. Forey.

In addition to being a member of the G.A.R., Mr. Forey was a member of the Syracuse Lodge No. 50, F. and A.M., and the Citizens' Club. He was also honorary president of the Syracuse Memorial Association and was formerly a manager of the Women's Relief Corps Home, Oxford.

He is survived by his adopted daughter, Miss Forey, and two sisters, Mrs. George Chamberlain of Brookline, Mass., and Mrs. E. F. Hewitt of New York City.

Funeral services will be held at his late home Tuesday afternoon at 2 o'clock by the Rev. Frederick W. Betts [minister of the First Universalist Church]. Interment will be in Oakwood Cemetery.

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